Not Red or Blue, But Green: How to Unlock Billions for Conservation



Not Red or Blue, But Green

- National, NJ, and PA Trends
- Ballot Measure Basics
- Measure Components
- Case Study



Where Does Public Funding for Land Conservation Come From?



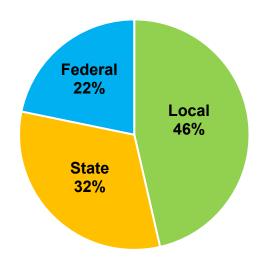
Public Funding for Land Conservation

Public Funding for Land Conservation in the United States
(1998-2015)

	•			
	Amount	Annual Average		
Local	\$25,829,049,100	\$1,434,947,172		
State	\$17,715,694,051	\$984,205,225		
Federal	\$12,121,644,312	\$673,424,684		
Total	\$55,666,387,462	\$3,092,577,081		

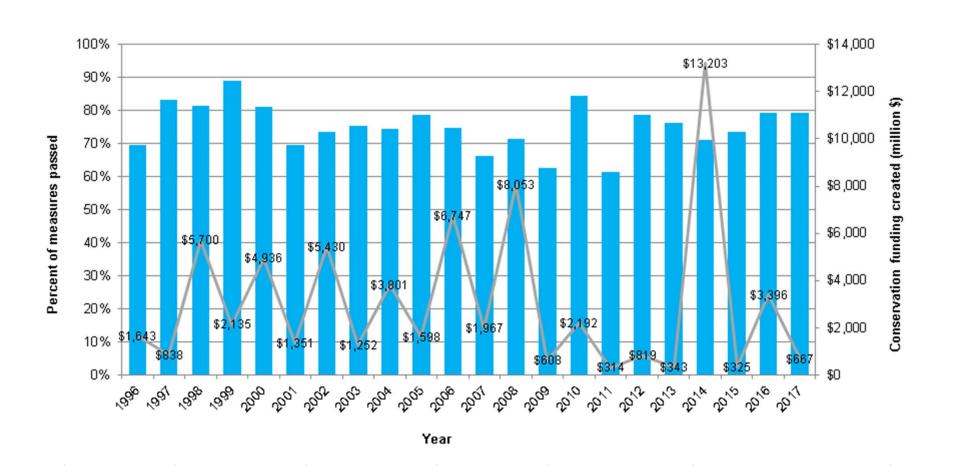
Local: Spending authorizations via local ballot measures. Source: TPL's LandVote Database

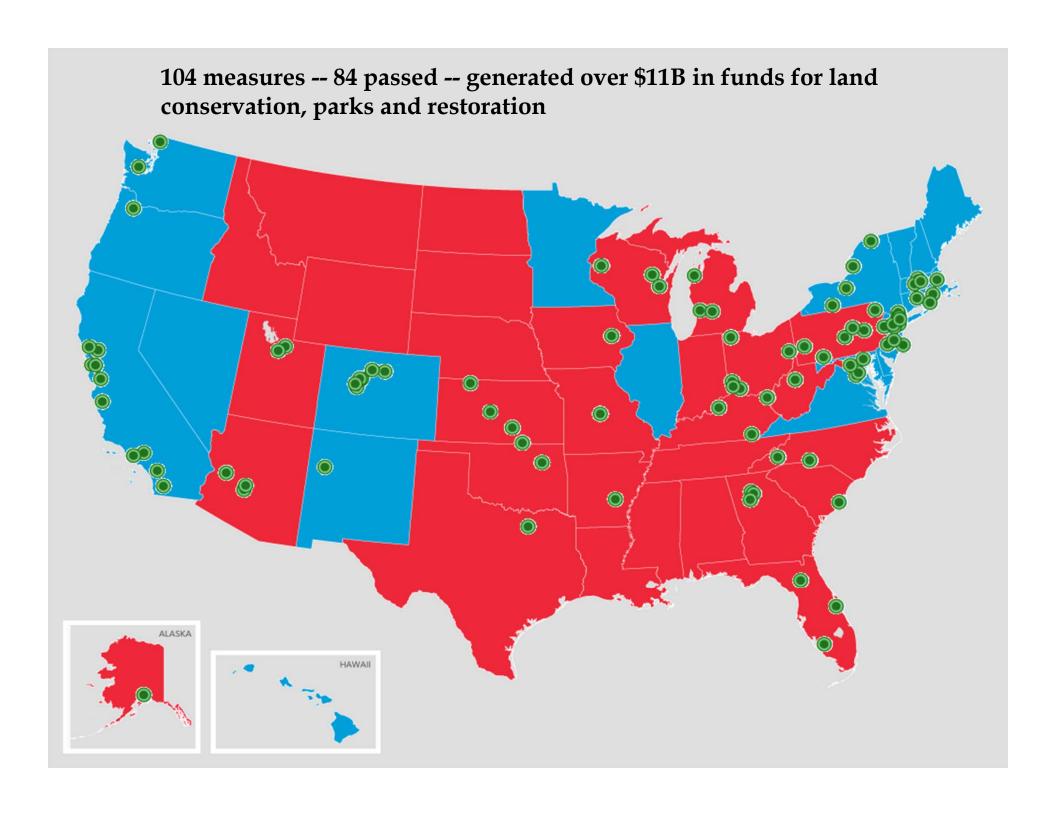
State and Federal: Actual spending. Data not complete for all 50 states. Source: TPL's Conservation Almanac Database



Track Record of the Concept:

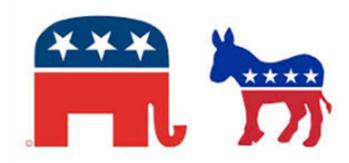
76% long-term approval rate, good times and bad





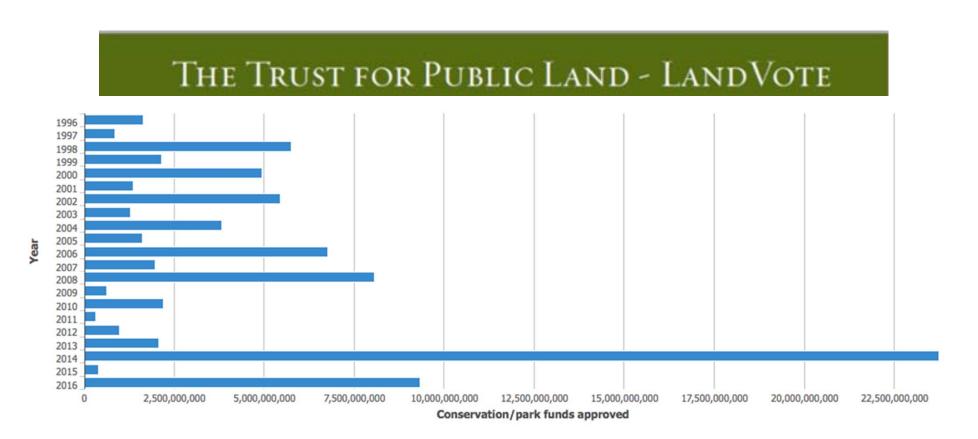
Not Red or Blue, But Green - November 8, 2016

- 21 county measures 16 passed (76%)
- Clinton counties: 12 of 16 (75%)
- Trump counties: 4 of 5 (80%)



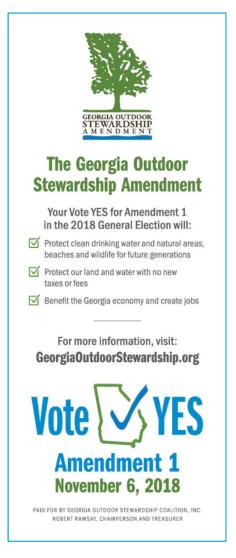


Track Record of the Concept: Tens of Billions of \$ for Land Conservation

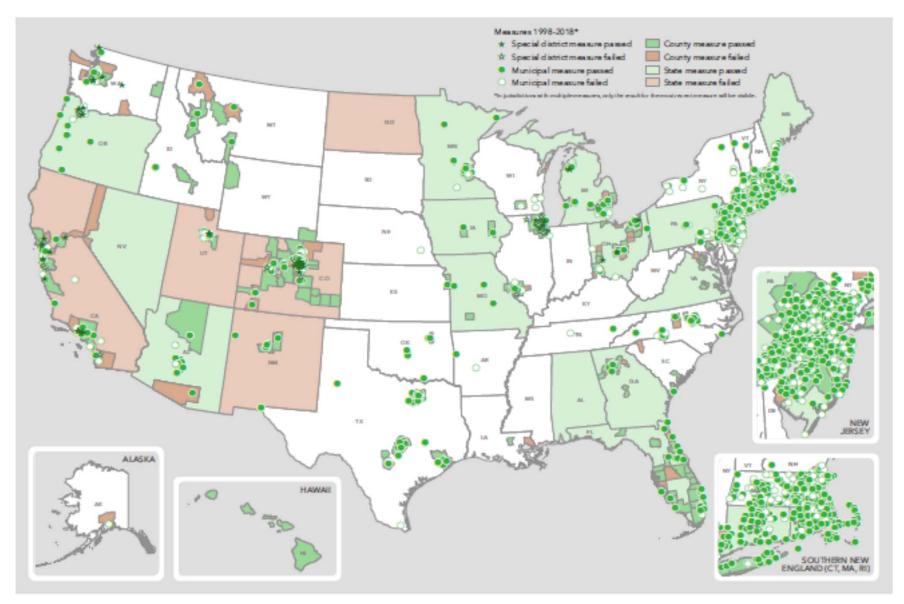


November 6, 2018 Election — **All** Park and Conservation Ballot Measures

- 54 measures in 21 states
- 46 were approved by the voters
- 85 percent passage rate
- \$2.86 billion in funds for parks and conservation







LandVote

STATE, COUNTY, MUNICIPAL, AND SPECIAL DISTRICT MEASURES 1998-2018





New Jersey Local Conservation Ballot Measures (2004-2017) -- **67% Passage Rate**

Year	Total # of Measures	Passed	Passage Rate	Conservation Funds Approved	
2004	40	32	80%	\$229 million	
2005	31	22	71%	\$144 million	
2006	26	16	62%	\$771 million	
2007	28	14	50%	\$362 million	
2008	22	14	64%	\$189 million	
2009	7	3	43%	\$3.4 million	
2010	5	3	60%	\$1.7 million	
2011	8	4	50%	\$10.1 million	
2012	9	7 77%		\$68 million	
2013	8	6	75%	\$28 million	
2014	2	1	50%	\$2.6 million	
2015	4	4	100%	\$6 million	
2016	17	14	82%	\$121 million	
2017	13	10	77%	\$342 million	



Pennsylvania Local Conservation Ballot Measures (2004-2017) -- 79% **Passage Rate**

Year	Total # of Measures	Passed	Passage Rate	Conservation Funds Approved	
2004	8	7	88%	\$34.6 million	
2005	20	15	75%	\$117.5 million	
2006	22	20	90%	\$119.9 million	
2007	7	6	86%	\$122.7 million	
2008	8	6	75%	\$108.6 million	
2009	2	2	100%	\$9.5 million	
2010	1	1	100%	\$7.7 million	
2011	4	1	25%	\$4.1 million	
2012	3	1	33%	\$3 million	
2013	1	1	100%	\$4.8 million	
2014	2	1	50%	\$3.5 million	
2015	1	1	100%	\$14 million	
2016	6	5	83%	\$16.2 million	
2017	1	1	100%	\$22 million	
2018	-	-	-	-	



www.landvote.org



What is the Trust for Public Land's Conservation Finance Program?

We create new and protect public funding for land conservation, parks, and restoration through the research, design, and passage of ballot measures and legislation and serve as thought leaders in the field.

November 6, 2018 Election – **Trust for Public Land** Park and Conservation Ballot Measures

- 18 measures in 10 states
- 17 were approved by the voters
- 94 percent passage rate
- Over \$1.8 billion in funds for parks and conservation



Our Track Record: 561 wins, 82% Yes, \$74 billion created, over 100 million Yes Votes



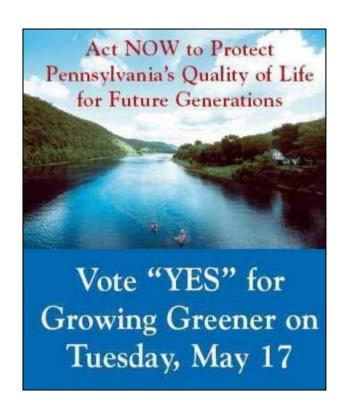
TPL Ballot Measures in Pennsylvania (2001-2016) -- **10 of 10 for a 100% Passage Rate**

Jurisdiction Name	Date	Mechan ism	Result	% Yes	Conservation Funds Approved
Smithfield Township	11/8/16	Bond	Pass	76%	\$2 million
Adams County	11/4/08	Bond	Pass	75%	\$10 million
Buckingham Township	4/22/08	Bond	Pass	82%	\$20 million
Bucks County	11/6/07	Bond	Pass	74%	\$87 million
Pike County	11/8/05	Bond	Pass	67%	\$10 million
Statewide	5/17/05	Bond	Pass	70%	\$625 million
Montgomery County	11/4/03	Bond	Pass	78%	\$150 billion
Northampton County	11/5/02	Bond	Pass	65%	\$37 million
Lehigh County	5/21/02	Bond	Pass	71%	\$30 million
Patton Township	11/6/01	Bond	Pass	63%	\$2.5 million



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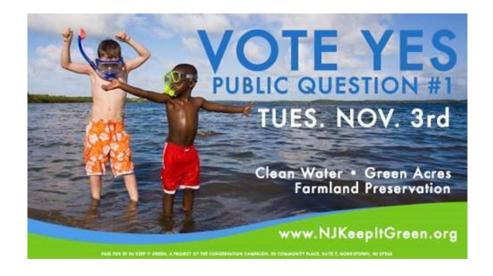


Key Variables in Measure Design

- Funding Mechanism
- Amount (and duration)
- Purposes/Uses of Funds
- Timing (choice of election date)
- Management/Accountability

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Key Steps for Successful Ballot Measures

Feasibility Research

Public Opinion Survey

Program Recommendations

Ballot Language

Campaign



Step 1 - Feasibility Research

CONSERVATION FINANCE FEASIBILITY STUDY I JANUARY 2016 PARK RIDGE, NEW JERSEY

Finance options
Conservation priorities
Fiscal capacity
Election requirements
Ballot language requirements
Pathways to ballot
Best practices
Election history

Step 2 – Public Opinion Survey

Methodology: random, sample, voters, telephone Why poll?

- reality test
- perspective
- messages and messengers

Polling goals

- affordable proposal
- compelling purposes
- accountability provisions

Step 3 - Program Recommendations

Funding source Amount (and duration) Purposes/Uses of funds Timing (choice of election date) Management/Accountability

Step 4 – Ballot Language

Legal constraints
Best practices
Integrate survey findings
Negotiate with public attorney, bond counsel
Interpretation/ballot pamphlet arguments

Step 5 - Campaign

Coalition building

Strategy/campaign plan

Campaign committee

Campaign finance registration and reporting

Fundraising

Endorsements

Communications (media)

- Earned media
- Paid media: TV, radio, direct mail, digital
- Phones

Grassroots/Field (GOTV)

Keys to County Referendum Success

- Use TPL resources advice, knowledge and funding
- Spend limited funds wisely
- Engage consulting firm to target communications
- Do not co-mingle lobbying and education messaging
- Run ads, write letters to editors
- Use all forms of social media
- Create and strategically place signage
- Seek local environmental nonprofit endorsements
- Hope for the best

Where can I go to learn more? TPL's Conservation Finance Program (www.tpl.org)

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