

Agenda Item #: 8

**TOWNSHIP OF BERKELEY HEIGHTS
COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF A
NON-BINDING REFERENDUM ON THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024
GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT TO ASCERTAIN PUBLIC SENTIMENT
REGARDING MODIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY BOUNDARIES FOR
PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS LOWER COLUMBIA AND WHETHER
THE TOWNSHIP SHOULD ENTERTAIN A LEASE OF LOWER COLUMBIA
AND APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS WHICH HAS
BEEN MAINTAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP FOR MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A.19:37-1 allows the governing body of any municipality to ascertain the sentiment of the legal voters of the municipality upon any question of policy pertinent to the government; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Berkeley Heights desires to ascertain the sentiment of the voters of Berkeley Heights at the November 5, 2024 general election, upon the following Questions, with the following Interpretative Statement:

Question #1:

Do you support the property boundaries for Lower Columbia being adjusted and for the property to be transferred to the Township from the Berkeley Heights Board of Education and seek grant funding for improvements, not available to the Board of Education?

Interpretative Statement:

For more than fifty years, the Township has maintained and improved the property commonly known as "Lower Columbia." Adjusting the property boundaries and transferring the property to the Township from the Berkeley Heights Board of Education would allow the Township to apply for additional grant funding not available to the Board of Education. The Berkeley Heights Board of Education and Berkeley Heights Public Schools would have priority use of Lower Columbia.

A "Yes" vote for this proposal means that you would like the Berkeley Heights Board of Education to transfer the Lower Columbia property to the Township, so that the Township can seek grant funding for park improvements, not available to the Board of Education. The Township will give the Berkeley Heights Board of Education/Public Schools priority use of the property.

A “No” vote for this proposal means that you would not like the Berkeley Heights Board of Education to transfer the Lower Columbia property to the Township, nor for the Township to seek grants to improve the park otherwise not available to the Board of Education.

Question #2:

Do you support the Township’s efforts to pursue a long-term lease agreement with the Berkeley Heights Board of Education for property commonly known as Lower Columbia, which would allow the Township to obtain grant funding for park improvements not available to the Board of Education?

Interpretative Statement:

For more than fifty years, the Township has maintained and improved the property commonly known as Lower Columbia, and a long-term lease of the property to the Township by the Berkeley Heights Board of Education would allow the Township to apply for additional grant funding not available to the Berkeley Heights Board of Education. The Berkeley Heights Board of Education/Berkeley Heights Public Schools would have priority use of Lower Columbia.

A “Yes” vote for this proposal means that you would like the Township to pursue a long-term lease of Lower Columbia from the Berkeley Heights Board of Education and to seek grant funding for park improvements, not available to the Board of Education, while giving the Berkeley Heights Board of Education/Berkeley Heights Public Schools priority use of the property.

A “No” vote for this proposal means that you would not like the Township to pursue a long-term lease of Lower Columbia from the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, which would allow the Township to obtain grant funding for park improvements not available to the Board of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Berkeley Heights, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That a copy of this Resolution be delivered to the Clerk of the County of Union with a request that the Questions and Interpretative Statements be placed on the November 5, 2024 general election ballot.
2. That these Questions and Interpretative Statements be placed on the November 5, 2024 general election ballot.
3. That the Resolution shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED this 25th day of June, 2025.

ATTEST:

Ana Minkoff

Township Clerk

Approved as to form:

Daniel Antonelli, Township Attorney