

# Public Opinion on Open Space Protection in York County, Pennsylvania

## Introduction

In the spring of 2019, the York County Land Protection Committee commissioned the Arthur J. Glatfelter Institute for Public Policy to better understand the perspectives of York County residents towards protecting open space, as well as residents' desire to establish a dedicated, sustainable source of funding for open space protection. The Arthur J. Glatfelter Institute for Public Policy presented four main research objectives to better understand the issue:

- The importance of land preservation to York County residents;
- The value of the County's work in preserving agricultural and natural lands and parks and recreation areas;
- If York County's current efforts should increase, decrease, or stay the same regarding land protection and preservation; and,
- If York County residents would be willing to support the establishment of a dedicated and sustainable funding source for open space protection.

For the purpose of this survey, the Land Protection Committee defines open space as publicly or privately owned land and water that is:

- Predominately in a natural state;
- Dedicated to providing areas for passive or active public recreation (Parks and Trails);
- Agricultural lands privately owned and managed for food & fiber production;
- Lands protecting natural (water, air, soil, minerals, forests, wildlife) or historic resources; or
- Lands preserving scenic quality and maintaining community character.

## Methodology

The Arthur J. Glatfelter Institute for Public Policy initiated a two-tiered approach to conducting this research. The first tier to data collection was a randomized sample of York County addresses. The second tier to data collection was an open-access survey that was available online through the York County Land Protection Committee's website, [www.yorkopenspace.org](http://www.yorkopenspace.org).

Types of Results Reported		
Format	Explanation	Margin of Error
Overall	Both tier-one random sample respondent households and tier-two voluntary open-access respondents	N/A
Tier-One Respondents	Only respondents from tier-one random sampled respondent households	4.51%
Super Voter Respondents	Only respondents from tier-one random sampled respondent households that have also voted in the past four consecutive elections	5.59%

The **ARTHUR J. GLATFELTER**  
**INSTITUTE** *for*  
**PUBLIC POLICY**



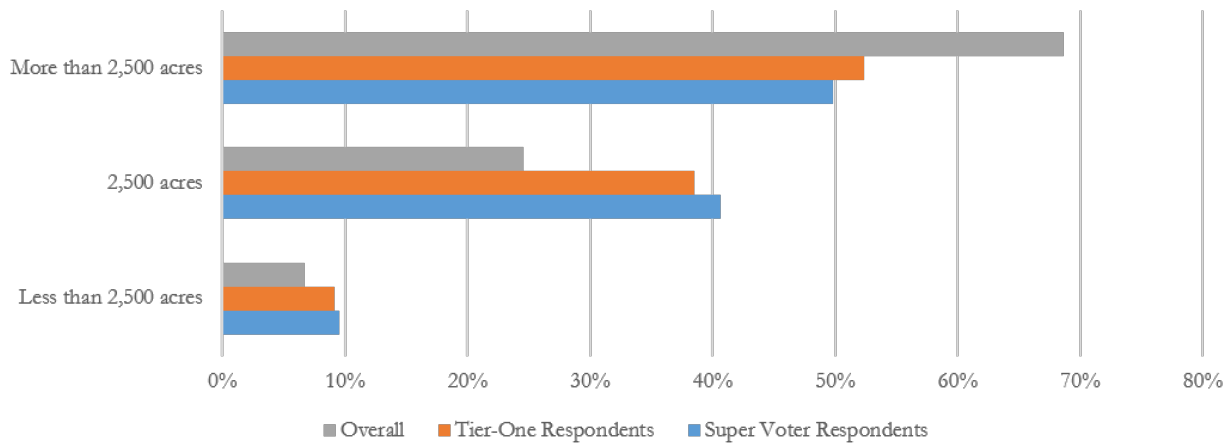
### Contact

Vinny Cannizzaro, MPP  
Director

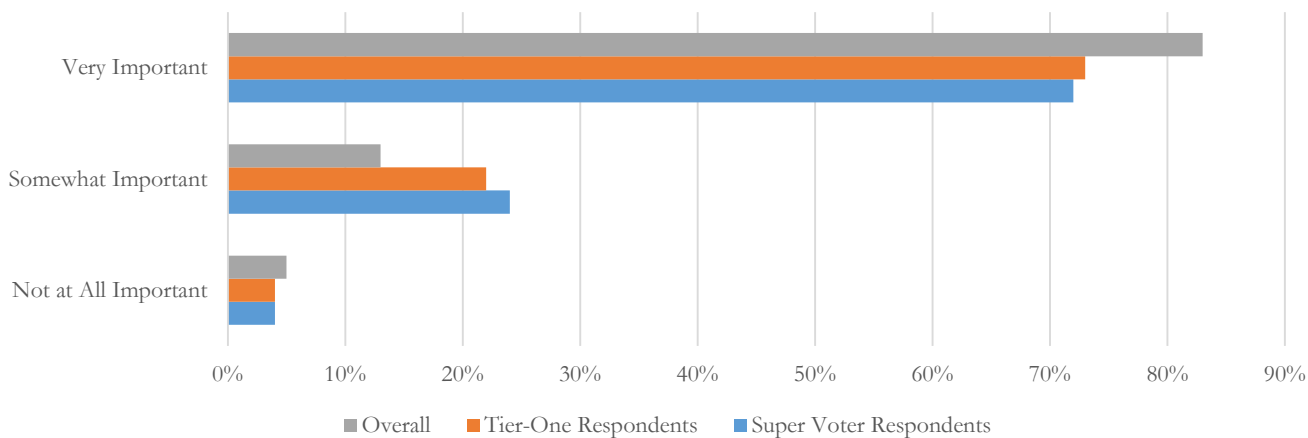
[vcannizzaro@ycp.edu](mailto:vcannizzaro@ycp.edu)  
717-815-1418

# Key Findings

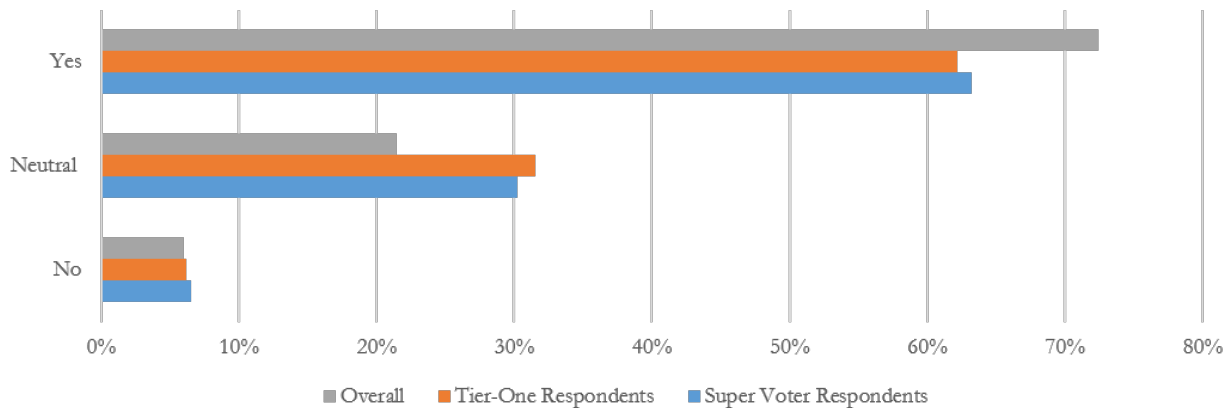
How much open space should York County continue to protect each year?



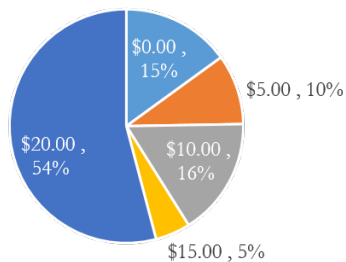
How important is the goal of protecting 85,000 acres of open space over the next 30 years, by protecting 2,500 acres of open space each year?



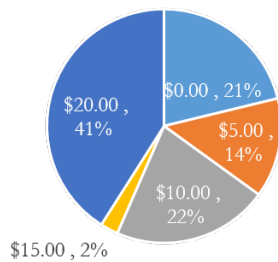
Should the York County Commissioners identify a dedicated and predictable funding stream for continued open space protection?



Overall Distribution of Willingness for Additional Tax



Super Voter Respondent Distribution of Willingness for Additional Tax



Tier-One Respondent Distribution of Willingness for Additional Tax

