

May 16, 2023 Primary Election – Whitehall Township Charter Amendment Ballot Question

After more than a year of study and deliberation regarding the elected position of Township Tax Collector/Treasurer, the Board of Commissioners approved a ballot question that is up for vote in May. We encourage you to vote “YES”.

Whitehall Township became a Home Rule municipality in 1974 when the residents of the Township adopted our first Home Rule Charter. Since then, the residents have approved a number of amendments to the Charter to keep it current based on the times. The Board is recommending another change to the position of Tax Collector/Treasurer.

Today, the Township has a budget in excess of \$29 million per year and the Tax Office has four full time employees in addition to the Tax Collector/Treasurer providing numerous services to Township residents, including receiving, collecting, accounting for, and depositing into the Township treasury all taxes, fees, funds, assessments, or charges that are levied, established, or received by the Township. In short, the office of Tax Collector/Treasurer is substantially different today than it was in 1974 when the Charter was adopted. Based on the current Charter, however, the only qualifications for someone running for Tax Collector/Treasurer is being at least 25 years old and having been a resident of the Township for one year. We recommend a “YES” vote to eliminate the position of an elected Treasurer/Tax Collector and replace that position with a Finance Director who would be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Board of Commissioners.

After substantial study and deliberation on this matter, the Board believes it is in the Township’s best interest to hire a qualified Finance Director who is approved by the Board at a public meeting and who demonstrates the skill and experience necessary to handle this job. Doing so will provide Township Administration and the Board with oversight and authority to avoid future situations in the Tax Office like those that have happened in the past. If you vote “YES”, the current Treasurer/Tax Collector would serve through the end of her term (December 31, 2025) and a Finance Director would be hired and approved by the Township to assume the new role in January of 2026.