

## Why Voters Support Open Space

- Concern for Growth:** Communities are growing and developing too fast and voters are very concerned that their communities will become as overdeveloped as those farther to the east and they will have similar traffic congestion and urban sprawl problems. Growth-related issues such as traffic, controlling development and preserving open space and natural lands are considered to be the most important problems facing voters at the present time.
- Urgency:** Land is being developed at an all-time high rate of speed with plans underway for even more. We must act now to preserve the last remaining open spaces and natural lands for our children and grandchildren before the land is too expensive or lost forever. The time to act is now.
- Cost, Property Taxes:** Supporting referenda now can keep property taxes from skyrocketing later. Development causes an influx of people requiring schools, roads and other services that raise taxes. The money for the referenda is a small price to pay and a good investment that protects the ones already made in homes and communities. Open space is the ultimate tax cap.
- Quality of Life:** Open space and natural lands play a very important role in preserving the quality of life. Voters expect their homes here to be good investments for their future. They value clean water, clean air and a healthy environment, and love to hike, bike, camp, fish and enjoy natural areas minutes from home. Homes located in esthetically pleasing settings have a higher value.
- Water Quality:** Open space can help protect our drinking water sources. It's much cheaper to protect watershed lands now than to pay to clean up polluted water later. Also, protecting lands along streams and rivers preserves water quality.
- Flooding:** Open space provides natural flood control. The more building and concrete there is, the more flooding and expense. Open space allows rain water to soak into the ground and provides natural flood detention.