

KEY FACTS ABOUT PROPOSAL 1

VOTE YES
FOR MI WATER,
WILDLIFE & PARKS

FACT:

PROPOSAL 1 CONTINUES THE CRITICAL WORK OF THE MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND (MNRTF).



For decades, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) has been protecting our drinking water sources, wildlife habitats and outdoor spaces by receiving oil and gas royalties and directing them towards land acquisition and public recreation projects in all 83 counties across Michigan. This November 3rd, Michigan voters have a historic opportunity to update and expand the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund so that it can continue supporting the places that make Michigan unique – from Great Lakes beaches and public lands to our trails, paths, parks and playgrounds. Best of all, it achieves this as it always has, without tax dollars from Michigan families.

FACT:

PROP 1 MAINTAINS THE LEVEL OF MNRTF FUNDING REQUIRED TO GO TO LAND ACQUISITION.



The Constitution currently requires no less than 25% of Trust Fund spending to go to land acquisition. This has been the case since the MNRTF was put in the Constitution in 1984 and would remain the same should Prop 1 pass.

As is, the MNRTF board could recommend exactly 25% go to land acquisition and the remaining 75% to fund administration and payments in lieu of taxes on the land acquired. If passed, Prop 1 will require at least 25% go towards land acquisition (as is currently the case) and at least 25% go towards recreation (changing it from maximum 25% to minimum 25%), doubling the guaranteed amount going directly to benefit our natural spaces.

FACT:

PROP 1 WILL ALLOW THE OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST MORE IN ACCESS TO OUR OUTDOORS FOR ALL MICHIGANDERS.



Currently, spending on public recreation is capped at 25%. This includes work like trails, parks, green space in our cities, redeveloping our urban riverfronts, and much more. Prop 1 will for the first time allow redevelopment of existing public recreational facilities – which is often a more cost-effective way to provide public access than building new facilities – and increases the requirement to ensure the Trust Fund spends at least 25% on these public recreation purposes. These changes will allow us to increase access to our outdoor spaces in our urban centers and across the state. More access to our outdoors is good for our environment, beneficial for public health, and critical for fostering the next generation of environmental stewards.

FACT:

PROP 1 LIFTS THE CAP ON THE MNRTF AND DOES NOT CHANGE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT WOULD GO TO THE STATE PARK ENDOWMENT FUND.

The MNRTF reached its cap in 2011 and has not been able to receive new royalties since then. The Constitution currently dictates that all new royalties must go to the SPEF until the SPEF reaches its \$800,000,000 cap. Once that cap is reached, all new royalties “shall be distributed as provided by law” - which currently would mean the dollars would go to the general fund and no longer to a Constitutionally protected fund for conservation and recreation.

Prop 1 maintains that these royalties will continue going to the SPEF until it reaches its \$800,000,00 cap (as is currently constitutionally required - no change here), and once the SPEF cap is reached, the MNRTF cap will be lifted and these royalties will be directed back to the MNRTF (THIS is the change).

FACT:

WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THE SPEF WILL REACH ITS CAP – BUT IT COULD BE SOONER THAN EXPECTED.



We can't know for sure how the volume or price of oil, gas and minerals will change, and as a result it's impossible to accurately predict how long it will take for the SPEF to reach its cap. For example, in the 2007 – 2009 time period there was a significant spike in energy prices leading to both a higher bid price for mineral leases and increased royalty income, as royalties are based on a percentage of the price received for the mineral at the time of sale. As a result the MNRTF reached its cap much earlier than projected. We cannot know for certain when the SPEF will reach its cap, but it is critical that we act to proactively ensure that these royalties – regardless of how much they amount to or when the SPEF cap is reached – continue to be reinvested in our natural resources, conservation and recreation for future generations.

FACT:

MORE THAN 30 ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF PROPOSAL 1, IN ADDITION TO BUSINESS, LABOR AND COMMUNITY LEADERS AND THE MICHIGAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

SEE THE WHOLE LIST HERE!

Michigan Environmental Council

The Nature Conservancy

Heart of the Lakes

Michigan League of Conservation Voters

Environment Michigan

Alliance for the Great Lakes

National Wildlife Federation

Natural Resources Defense Council

Michigan NAACP Environmental & Climate Justice Committee

Michigan Audubon

Ecology Center

West Michigan Environmental Action Council

Huron Pines

Legacy Land Conservancy

Six Rivers Land Conservancy

Land Conservancy of West Michigan

Belle Isle Conservancy

Huron River Watershed Council

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)

Michigan Recreation and Park Association (mParks)

Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance

Friends of the Shiawassee River

Upper Black River Council

Detroit Riverfront Conservancy

TART Trails

Top of Michigan Trails Council

Detroit Greenways Coalition

Ducks Unlimited

Michigan Trout Unlimited

Michigan Pheasants Forever

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Ruffed Grouse Society and American Woodcock Society

Anglers of the Au Sable

Izaak Walton League of America Dwight Lydell Chapter

AFFEW – A Few Friends for the Environment of the World

Michigan Waterfront Alliance

Michigan Resource Stewards