

# Township of West Milford

Passaic County, New Jersey

## ~ Resolution 2013 - 205 ~

### RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN OPPOSITION TO A SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION ON OCTOBER 16, 2013

**WHEREAS**, as of June 3, 2013, a vacancy exists in the representation of this State in the United States Senate due to the passing of the Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 4, 2013 New Jersey Governor Chris Christie issued a Writ of Election prescribing the dates for a Special Primary and a Special General Election for the purpose of filling such vacancy; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with said Writ of Election a Special General Election will be conducted on Wednesday, October 16, 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, the expense for holding this additional election is estimated to be \$12 million statewide for costs associated with ballot printing, board worker salaries, mailings of sample ballots and vote by mail applications, overtime for office staff, polling place rentals, publication of election notices, voting machine transportation costs; and

**WHEREAS**, holding the Special Election on Wednesday, October 16, 2013 causes both financial and logistical issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the expense for holding such an election regarding the aforementioned costs for the Township of West Milford are approximately \$8,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of West Milford's 2013 Fiscal Year Budget did not anticipate the costs associated with this Special General Election and therefore the necessary funds to cover said costs were not appropriated; and

**WHEREAS**, these costs represent an undue burden on the Township of West Milford, its finances, and its taxpayers. This additional cost could have been avoided by scheduling the Special Election on Tuesday, November 5, 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Elections would incur great difficulty in processing two election in less than three weeks; and

**WHEREAS**, given that Primary and General Elections are typically held on a Tuesday, holding a Special General Election on Wednesday, October 16, 2013 may cause confusion among voters. Additionally, by holding the Special General Election in October, major concerns have arisen over low voter participation.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the Township of West Milford, that it opposes Governor Chris Christie's Writ of Election directing a Special General Election for the purpose of filling such vacancy in the United States Senate created by the passing of the Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg and encourages Governor Chris Christie to reconsider his decision to hold the Special General Election on Wednesday, October 16, 2013, rather than holding the special General Election on the established Tuesday, November 5, 2013 General Election date; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Council of the Township of West Milford requests the State of New Jersey send a letter to each affected municipality providing written assurance for reimbursement of all costs associated with conducting the Special Primary and Special General Elections so each municipality may use said letter as the basis to amend its budget or to make an emergency appropriation for purposes not foreseen at the time of their budget adoption; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Council of the Township of West Milford directs for a copy of this Resolution to be sent to Governor Chris Christie, the appropriate legislative delegates and the New Jersey Association of Municipalities.

Adopted: July 17, 2013

Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013  
and certified as a true copy of an original.

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Antoinette Battaglia, Township Clerk