

Voters should reject Akron sewer lease

Posted by [kevobrie](#) October 26, 2008 04:43AM

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Privatizing public utilities is a bad idea. Therefore, Akron residents should vote "no" on Issue 8 and "yes" on Issue 9.

Selling or leasing public utilities to private corporations has been a failure. Food and Water Watch, a national group, has issued a report showing skyrocketing rates, sewage-flooded basements, bad water quality, loss of public jobs and corruption -- and these were for communities that Mayor Don Plusquellic has pointed to as "successes."

The financial adviser to the Issue 8 sewer plan is Morgan Stanley -- the same banking outfit that was part of the Wall Street meltdown that our tax dollars are now paying for.

Finally, the educational "scholarship" part of the plan must be paid back if the recipient doesn't live or work in Akron for 30 years. So much for indentured servitude being a thing of the past.

Citizens can vote against Issue 8 (as opposed to it being enacted by City Council) because of a grass-roots citizen initiative, Issue 9, calling for any proposal to privatize any public utility to be first voted on by the public.

Issue 9 deserves public support. Issue 8 deserves to be flushed.

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Footer