

Editor
Voice of the People
Akron Beacon Journal

To the editor,

8 Reasons Why Voters Flushed Issue 8

Akron voters had serious reservations from the start about the proposal to lease the city's sewers to fund education. The decisive November 4 rejection of Issue 8 reflects 8 concerns heard from voters in the streets, in meetings, and over the phone.

1. Issue 8 was too vague and incomplete with too many unclear and undefined provisions.
2. Living or working in Akron for the next 30 years to avoid having to pay back the "scholarship" was unrealistic.
3. Other alternatives to fund education were not thoroughly explored.
4. Leasing the city sewers to a for-profit corporation would reduce public control – public utilities should remain public.
5. Rates would rise well beyond the stated annual 3.9% over the 99-year lease lifespan.
6. The sale or lease of city utilities to corporations in other communities led to serious problems for consumers and workers.
7. There were no public hearings to receive input before the proposal was developed, only public meetings to sell it afterwards.

8. Voters didn't trust the Mayor since the proposal from the onset was too vague and incomplete with too many unclear and undefined provisions.

These were clearly felt and articulated voter concerns. The people spoke. Hopefully Issue 8 advocates will listen.

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