

American Friends Service Committee

Northeast Ohio Office

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9 REASONS WHY 9 IS FINE

Here are 9 reasons to vote YES on Issue 9.

1. The initiative itself, which asserts, Any action by the Mayor or Council of the City of Akron to sell, transfer, or lease any part of any interest in any City owned utility shall be without force and effect unless and until it is approved by a majority of votes cast by the electors of the City of Akron at the next general election occurring at least 90 days after such action."
2. Issue 9 forced the Mayor to place Issue 8 on the ballot. Minus Issue 9, the Mayor would have pushed through city council the concept of leasing, if not selling, Akron's sewers to fund his student loan program
3. Issue 9 is endorsed by a wide range of groups: AFSCME Ohio Council, Ohio AFL-CIO, Progressive Democrats of America – Ohio, Portage-Summit UAW-CAP Council, Summit County Progressive Democrats, Northeast Ohio American Friends Service Committee, Food and Water Watch, Sierra Club – Portage Trail Group, Women's International League for Peace & Freedom Water Team, Communication Workers of America, Local 4302, Akron African United Front, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 7. Even Mayor Plusquellic, City Service Director Richard Merolla, and Advisory Committee Member William Considine have all said they don't care if Issue 9 passes.
4. Issue 9 is a citizen initiative. Voters in Akron who signed the petition are the reason why it's on the ballot. As a formal citizen initiative, it's binding. If passed it becomes part of the city charter, which is the city constitution.
5. The fate of public utilities is too important to be decided by the Mayor and city council. Let the people decide! It's direct democracy.
6. It's proactive. Citizens took the issue of future privatization of

public utilities into their own hands.

7. Issue 9 is comprehensive. It covers all public utilities operated now or in the future – sewers, water, energy, wi-fi, etc.

8. It's short, clear, to the point, written so that non-lawyers can understand it. While short, it's complete without the loopholes and vagueness of Issue 8.

9. Issue 9 is a model for other communities. Citizens everywhere need to be more directly in charge of deciding the laws, rules and constitutions that effect their lives, families, community, and environment.

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