

I was stunned when I read that Akron's school board "resolved to urge a no vote on Issue 9." (Beacon Journal, 9-23-08)

Contrary to the Beacon Journal report that Issue 9 is a "competing city charter amendment" to Issue 8, the fact is Issue 9 is the only reason that citizens will have a chance to vote on Issue 8. Without this Issue 9 citizen initiative, it is probable that the mayor and city council would have bypassed a vote of the people altogether on this issue of privatizing our sewer system.

We know that when the mayor introduced this plan in February, he promised to hold public hearings. He broke his promise. No public hearings were held. Issue 9 is the only guarantee that Akron citizens will have a vote in future proposals to sell, lease, or transfer any of our public utilities. If you want to preserve this right, you must vote yes on Issue 9.

If you do not want a multinational corporation to take control of our sewer system for 99 years with expected substantial cost increases, you must vote no on Issue 8.

Don't be fooled by the mayor's scholarship scheme. If a student would accept any funds under the mayor's plan, he/she would be bound to live or work in Akron for 30 years after graduation. That's an indentured servant proposal, not a scholarship plan!

Patti Longville
540 Stanton Ave.
Akron, OH 44301
330-724-9225