



UA sues to keep trash issue off ballot

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The Upper Arlington City Council has filed a lawsuit in the Ohio Supreme Court seeking to stop voters from weighing in on the suburb's privatized trash collection.

The Franklin County Board of Elections declined to remove an initiative petition that would restore municipal trash collection, so the city's lawyers went to court.

The city's appeal claims that Issue 52 on the November ballot is flawed because of imprecise wording and inadequate signatures.

Residents behind the issue see it differently.

"Our city is using our tax dollars to keep us from voting," initiative organizer Michael Schadek said.

Tom Lindsey, Upper Arlington's assistant city attorney, said the council wants to protect citizens: "The city is making sure that tax dollars are not spent for an election involving an initiative that doesn't meet legal standards."

If the suburb wins its appeal, Lindsey said citizens are free to redraft the initiative and put it on the ballot in the next election. That would likely be in November 2009.

-- Barbara Carmen

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