

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Upper Arlington seeks to stop residents from vote on trash issue

In a serious breach of trust and disregard for the constitutional rights of voters, Upper Arlington City officials and members of City Council filed a legal protest in an effort to stop residents from voting on an initiative issue, which has already been approved by the Franklin County Board of Elections.

This initiative is in response to the city's outsourcing of the trash collection system, which was passed against the recommendations of a city-appointed task force and over the objections of hundreds of residents. It seeks to restore the system that served the community successfully for many years.

Just before close of business on Friday and without notice to the initiative's legal counsel, Upper Arlington city officials filed the protest asking the Board of Elections to declare petition signatures invalid and remove it from the November ballot ... a move which has never happened before in Franklin County.

"We appreciate the work the Board of Elections has already done on this issue," said organizer Michael Schadek. "After a thorough review, they certified the petitions under Ohio law and assigned the matter ballot issue number 52 for the November 4th election. In certifying the petitions, the board praised organizers stating that the petitions 'were among the best' they had ever processed."

Schadek went on to say that the protest is a direct effort to prevent UA voters from voting on the delivery of an essential service. Moreover, the use of tax dollars to attempt to block a constitutionally protected right to vote, with no legal basis whatsoever, is wrong.

"It's a sad day for Upper Arlington residents, and residents in any community, when elected officials seek to stop a vote of the people," said Schadek. "Upper Arlington residents are capable of deciding for themselves which trash system they prefer and they don't want city officials blocking their right to vote."

Upper Arlington residents are urged to contact the City Manger's Office at (614) 583-5040 and tell city officials to drop its protest before the Board of Elections. We also advise all interested parties to visit www.uatrash.org for a complete accounting of the solid waste initiative.

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