

## Letters

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### **Letter: Trash fight is over, but residents will stay alert**

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To the Editor:

Last week, the Ohio Supreme Court granted the city's "writ of prohibition," pulling Issue 52, the Solid Waste Initiative, from the November ballot.

I started the initiative effort back in January because I was appalled at the way our city government had passed both the wholesale change in service and the \$30 annual fee (in essence, a new tax) as emergencies, without giving us, the taxpayers and recipients of the service, the opportunity to vote on either one. Truly a 21st-Century version of taxation without representation.

Support for this effort grew as residents came to realize the extent to which our rights -- specifically, our right to vote -- had been violated by the persons whom we had elected to represent us. Nearly 60 circulators donated their time to secure thousands of residents' signatures. Other residents donated funds and their time to assist the campaign. Over 50 letters supporting the initiative were written by residents and printed in local papers. Countless hours were donated by professionals within the community to advise us, and we got hundreds of e-mails and telephone calls expressing disgust with the way our city leaders had handled the trash issue.

Although this ends the initiative, it's only the beginning of a new era here in UA in which we, as resident taxpayers, recognize the need to stay alert in identifying abuses of power by our elected leaders, and to hold them accountable. The rezoning of the two Tremont Road properties (which is on the Nov. 4 ballot as Issue 51), the 2002 rezoning of properties throughout the city from residential to planned mixed-use district without notification to the surrounding Brandon Road and Chester Road homeowners (you'd better check your property's current zoning classification!), the 2005 Sky Bank rezoning from residential to commercial, the relining of Redding Road (a costly mistake), and the attempted purchases of the Christian Apostolic Church and Kingsdale (both at well above market value) are all cases in which our city sacrificed our rights and ignored our voices to pursue its own agenda.

While we can't change our current trash delivery system, we have the ability to prevent abuses of power by city staff and council in the future. We will have the opportunity to effect change when we elect new council members in 2009.

Thanks again to all who helped with the trash initiative. I've met some amazing people, and this has reaffirmed my belief that because of its residents, Upper Arlington truly is a special place to call home.

Mike Schadek

