

Letters to the Editors
(Preserving Water Fluoridation)

Dear editor,

People are entitled to their own opinions but not to their own facts. The small group of activists in [your city] that is attacking water fluoridation relies on claims that come from inaccurate websites and other discredited sources. With all of the real problems we face, it is disturbing that some group would try to manufacture a new “problem” by making lots of unsupported claims about fluoridated water. I urge my fellow citizens to contact their city council members and tell them they support water fluoridation.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has called fluoridated water one of 10 “great public health achievements” of the 20th century. If opponents have their way, they will take us back to the 19th century.

Dear editor,

At the meeting of our city commission in April, several residents made claims about water fluoridation that were based on their personal suspicion, not on any hard evidence. After being unable to persuade our commissioners, these anti-fluoride activists are now hoping they can pull the wool over the voters’ eyes. They are circulating a petition to try to end water fluoridation. If they get their way, they will end a health practice that is thoroughly documented to reduce tooth decay in both children and adults.

I sincerely hope the people of in [your city] will join me in speaking out and urging our city to continue fluoridating.

Dear editor,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Dental Association, and American Academy of Pediatrics have something in common. They are among the many leading health and medical organizations that endorse the safety and effectiveness of water fluoridation. That speaks volumes to me.

So why is a small group of activists circulating a petition to end fluoridation in [your city]? It is sad to see them trying to turn back the clock in our community. They are spreading false fears about fluoridated water—claims that are not backed up by the science. If the claims they made had even a shred of truth to them, I would be at death’s door because I have been drinking [your city] tap water for many years.

If they want to drink bottled water without fluoride, they should do so. They should not be allowed to deny the children and adults in our community the proven protection that fluoridated water offers.

Dear editor,

Everything the government does costs money. It is rare to find a program anywhere that actually returns money to a community. But water fluoridation is one of those rare examples. I went to the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and I learned that every \$1 invested in fluoridation saves \$38 by avoiding the need for fillings and more costly dental treatments. Unfortunately, there is a small group of misguided residents who want to end water fluoridation in [your city]. They are seeking this change even though fluoridation promotes good health and, therefore, saves us money.

The anti-fluoride crowd may have money to burn, but I do not. I strongly believe we should continue to fluoridated water.

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Dear editor,

I almost dropped the newspaper right out of my hand when I read that our city council would be debating the issue of water fluoridation. It was as if I traveled back in time. Most American cities have been fluoridated for decades. These cities reviewed the research from leading health officials and decided to start fluoridating their water.

With all of the important issues [your city] is facing, why would we allow a small group of anti-fluoride activists to divert our attention to this topic? Will our next debate be on whether the earth is flat?

Let's place science above hearsay by trusting the dental and medical experts who have studied this issue and informed us that fluoridation is a safe, effective policy. If our city council continues to waste its time on issues that have already been settled, there are many voters like me who will send them a wakeup call in the next election.

Dear editor,

When I want to fix a leaking pipe, I contact a plumber. When it comes to an issue like fluoride, it is the opinion of dentists that matters most to me. My dentist says that brushing with fluoride toothpaste is good, but it doesn't provide maximum protection.

The American Dental Association strongly endorses fluoridated water as a way to help prevent cavities. I trust what the experts say over the claims that are made on a handful of websites. Our city should continue water fluoridation. [Your city] should not second-guess what the experts are advising us to do.

Dear editor,

It really bothers me that [your city] is playing politics with the health of my children. As a mother, I want to live in a forward-thinking community that provides fluoridated water to its residents. Our children deserve to have all of the same tools that other cities use to protect their health.

Brushing with fluoride toothpaste alone doesn't provide maximum protection against tooth decay. Recent studies continue to show that fluoridated water reduces cavities. I found several of these studies at a website called www.ilikemyteeth.org. Why would our city want to move backward?

Dear editor,

These are tough times. Many people are unemployed, and many of those who are working have jobs that do not include dental insurance. I know people who are putting off dentist appointments until they can better afford it. For all of these reasons, this is a terrible time for [your city] to even consider ending water fluoridation.

Many adults may think they don't need fluoridated water, but my dentist informed me that it also benefits older Americans. As they live longer than previous generations, many seniors are at risk of something called exposed root decay, and fluoridated water helps to reduce that risk.

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I hope our city's leaders wake up and realize that all of the wild claims being made by the anti-fluoride crowd are based on speculation and fear. If fluoridated water were not safe, then I would know because I have been drinking it for nearly all of my life.

Dear editor,

Water fluoridation is only “controversial” among the vocal minority opposed to it. Some of the individuals attacking fluoridation in [your city] may be well-intentioned. But no matter what their motives are, their effort is misguided. Ending fluoridation of our community's drinking water would have a highly negative impact. As a dentist, I can tell you what I've heard other dentists say when they left our city and moved to non-fluoridated areas. They have told me they see so much more tooth decay.

I urge our city's officials not to turn back the clock by ending water fluoridation. The people who will be hurt the most are the ones who are still too young to write letters to a newspaper.

Dear editor,

I have a cousin who grew up in [different city], and he has had a lot of problems with his teeth. Her water was not fluoridated. As a [your city] resident, I have been blessed with healthy teeth. Our local water supply is fluoridated to reduce the risk of tooth decay.

Why is a small group of activists pushing to end water fluoridation? They have offered some crazy reasons for doing this. An independent fact-checking group called PolitiFact has examined several of these anti-fluoride arguments and found them to be deceptive.

Don't be fooled by the fear-based arguments that these activists are making. Trust your dentist and the other medical officials who continue to recommend water fluoridation.

Dear editor,

I think it is good for all people to get involved in the political process and make their voices heard. But I don't believe that the dental health of children and adults should become a political football. Unfortunately, that is what I see happening in [your city].

There was a time when sensible people would turn to the experts — dentists, pediatricians and others — to learn what the best health practices are. It bothers me that our city council would try to take on the role of medical scientists by considering a proposal to end water fluoridation.

The handful of activists who are pushing for an end to fluoridation have made a variety of claims that — pardon the pun — simply don't hold water. Our city officials should stop second-guessing a policy that is endorsed by dentists, the Mayo Clinic and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.