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Another landslide in Lafayette: Residents vote against permanent water rationing

September 21, 2010



One resident, Al LeMay, personally took a stand against the former [Council majority](#) last spring, and filed an initiative to allow citizens the opportunity to vote on an ordinance, that he believed, most citizens would not agree with.

Turns out, he was right.

With the final election results in, the unofficial (it will take a few days to certify) results show a landslide.

Seventy percent of Lafayette residents do not agree with the permanent odd/even water restrictions ordinance voted in by Lafayette's former council majority.

The final numbers from the County Clerk's office: 345 citizens voted "no" to forced rationing, 151 voted "yes."

LeMay, who is co-chair of the citizens Park Committee, has worked hard to protect citizens rights and citizen input in Lafayette. As part of the Parks Committee, LeMay was involved in surveying the residents last year to bring citizen input on park spending to City Hall.

The parks survey resulted in major improvements to existing parks instead of new park projects that were being pushed by some councilors.

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Whether you agree or disagree with the results, LeMay believed it should be up to the citizen majority.

After months of debate, LeMay had requested that the former leaders hold a water work session to listen to the residents on the issue, but his request went ignored. Some citizens, and councilors, did not believe the water rationing had been substantiated by those that supported it.

Once the former leadership approved the new [permanent rationing ordinance](#), LeMay decided to file the initiative, forcing it to go to ballot.

Councilor Bob Cullen, Dean Rhodes, Michael Roberts, and Nick Harris who fought hard for forced rationing, are no longer members of City Council. Two, Rhodes and Cullen, were recalled. Roberts and Harris resigned weeks later.

Though the citizen majority won in the long run, the cost of the election will ultimately be paid for by the taxpayers.

As the city's third special election in 18 months, all resulting in votes against the former council majority, perhaps this is a message to all city leaders that expenses could be spared by listening to the residents first.

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