

Fact Check #8

Let the people vote!

By Dr Bill Ullery

Is that relentless Dr Bill getting aggressive?

Would it be political to give the electorate a real say...like a vote...in some very important issues facing our town? How about doing it in the November 2014 general election?

But, will the city as it did with my two voter initiatives last month, hire Phoenix attorneys to stop me? The answer is yes. In a letter dated 10-23-13 from the city, "*This office has no choice but to refuse to accept the applications submitted for initiative petition serial numbers.*" In short, the city won't allow me to take these issues (#2 & #3 below) directly to the voters!

And, just who is the city? It's mayor Nexsen who rules city hall with total dominance. And, city manager Cassens who is completely under Nexsen's thumb. And, it's Cassens who supervises the city attorney who instructed the city clerk to write the letter. Yup...they made a clerk write the letter!

But, I have an exceptional attorney right here in Havasu. And, we did expect city challenges with the following voter initiatives. And yes, we do expect to duke it out in court to get these issues on the ballot for November 2014. I'll need a small army of volunteers to help get it done.

#1 An initiative measure to prohibit tax incentives for big corporations

It's about the over **\$25 million** our city gave in corporate tax incentives for big-box stores and shopping centers. Research proves that corporate retail tax subsidies distort competition and undermine locally owned small businesses, which are rarely given any sort of tax break. There are studies that prove subsidizing retail development does more economic harm than good! Just look at the shuttered stores about Havasu.

Following a huge uproar in the Valley over such practices, the legislature in 2007 outlawed retail tax incentives for Maricopa County; see [A.R.S. § 42-6010](#). I have filed a similar initiative and it is on my website, www.BillUllery.com

#2 An initiative to force the city to restore \$5 million annually to the sewer fund

Leading up to the 2001 sewer bond, the city promised a \$5 million annual contribution to the wastewater project from the general property tax levy and water enterprise fund. Somehow, it disappeared recently in the budgeting process! Where did the money go? What about the nearly \$1/4 million no-bid contract recently awarded by the mayor to a Phoenix contractor to sift stones from Rotary Park beach dirt? What about the over **\$25 million** by the city in corporate tax incentives for big-box stores and shopping centers? What about the Mesquite property recently purchased for parking that might be need sometime in the future?

I want that \$5 million restored. But, it will take a lawsuit to get this issue before the voters in November 2014.

#3 An initiative to force the city to stop the stupid sewer fee tied to water usage

The city's Phoenix attorneys stopped my previous attempt at this change. But, my attorney Harvey Jackson may have a different way to attack this road-block. His letter of response is on my website and has been given to the media.

This is crazy...the hottest city in the country in the middle of the desert and the city wants to keep sewer rates tied to water usage? And, they like it to a point of thinking a sewer rate increase is justified?

And there's more crazy stuff...like Nexsen wants to refinance your current 20-year bonds...some of which are 2% interest...with 40-year 3% bonds? A \$60 million hike in the debt?

What can you do?

With my attorney, I'll go to court to get my initiatives #2 and #3 on the November ballot. But, I can't do this alone.

Each of these three initiatives must have petitions with over 6,000 valid signatures of Lake Havasu City registered voters. It'll take a small army of volunteers to get it done.

I need your help with a **stop the corruption** effort.

To volunteer, please contact me: Email dbu@dbuhomes.com Cell 928.716.3014