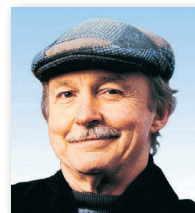


The Fluoridation of Albuquerque

By Bill Wolfe, DDS



Bill Wolfe DDS

On September 20th, water utility board members voted 5-2 to approve a \$250,000 appropriation that will allow the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority to buy the equipment needed to resume supplemental drinking water fluoridation, which the utility halted in 2011. (Where is the equipment that was used in 2011?) Albuquerque began supplemental fluoridation in 1972, but ended the practice in 2011, while federal officials considered new recommendations about fluoridation levels. In 2015, the U.S. Public Health Service updated the federal drinking water standards, saying that fluoridation is a local community decision, and recommending that community water systems add fluoride to 0.7 milligrams per liter.



According to the *Albuquerque Journal*, there was a public vote on fluoridation in November 1970, and 57% of Albuquerque voters supported an ordinance to fluoridate Albuquerque's water supply. This statistic also means that 43% of the voters did not support fluoridation!

So why now was the Water Authority Board so determined to rule on the fluoridation of Albuquerque's water supply and not give Albuquerque citizens a chance to vote? Also, why were my letters to the editor in contradiction to the *Albuquerque Journal's* editorials supporting fluoridation not published?

I had strongly encouraged the Board to organize a public vote on the fluoridation issue again, and board member Pat Davis had agreed to initiate such action. However, the citizens of Albuquerque were not given a chance to vote and decide for themselves whether they wanted their water to be fluoridated (or not). Why were Albuquerque citizens allowed to vote in 1970, but not now? Certainly, people are more informed now than back in 1970, and should have a right to choose whether or not they want the addition of fluoride to their drinking water. Could it be that the Water Board was concerned that in turning over the fluoridation decision to Albuquerque citizens, that water fluoridation might have been rejected?

The *Albuquerque Journal* reported that "Davis withdrew his proposal for an advisory question on the 2018 general election ballot that would have asked Bernalillo County voters whether they support or oppose supplemental fluoridation". The final result was that "board member and Albuquerque City Councilor Pat Davis (who will be running for U.S. Congress) voted in favor of resuming fluoridation."

Voting against the appropriation were Albuquerque Councilors Klarissa Peña and Trudy Jones. Joining Davis in support were Bernalillo County Commissioners Debbie O'Malley, Wayne Johnson and Maggie Hart Stebbins and Albuquerque's Chief Administrative Officer Rob Perry, who represents Mayor Richard Berry on the board. "Utility officials estimate they can resume supplemental fluoridation in six to eight months."

Question: Does the Water Board exist to represent the will

of the people, or instead, to exert its will onto the people? With regard to the fluoridation of Albuquerque, the answer is obvious.

As Emmy Award winning actress, Kate McKinnon stated on *Saturday Night Live*, the Saturday after the Presidential Election, "I'm not giving up, and neither should you".

Want to do something? You could join the Fluoride Action Network: www.fluoridealert.org and support their national lawsuit, referenced at: www.drwolfe.com/fluoride/lawsuit

Also, you could email the water utility board members directly:

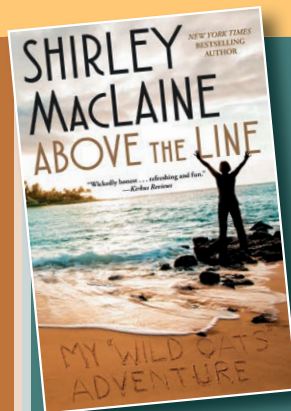
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Thank you for your support of non-fluoridation of Albuquerque's water. There is more than enough evidence to support non-fluoridation of all water supplies worldwide and your participation is greatly appreciated.

Dr. Bill Wolfe DDS, 505-299-6950, www.drwolfe.com.

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