

**SAVE GREELEY'S WATER STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR BALLOT QUESTIONS 2G AND 2H
PREPARED FOR THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - GREELEY - WELD COUNTY
savegreelewater.com**

Charter Amendments 17-9 and 17-10 were verified by the City Clerk and placed on the November ballot.

**Charter Amendment 17-9 Equals Ballot Question 2G
Charter Amendment 17-10 Equals Ballot Question 2H**

**The Language in 17-9 and 17-10 is What Will Actually Appear in the City Charter Should
2G and 2H Pass, not the City's misleading description of them.**

Greeley Citizens have a constitutional right to petition their government. Greeley City Council seems to consider Citizens who have initiated the Charter Amendments to be a "Special Interest Group". The City Council has assigned deceptive ballot titles to 2G and 2H in an attempt to get the General Public to reject the Charter Amendments.

**A YES VOTE ON 2G AND 2H IS REQUIRED TO PASS THESE CHARTER AMENDMENTS AND
GIVE CITIZENS A VOTE ON CRITICAL WATER ISSUES**

SGW'S PROPOSED AMENDMENT 17-9 TO THE CITY OF GREELEY HOME RULE CHARTER:

17-9 Procedures for Sale of Water and/or Water Supply and Treatment Facilities

No water rights, shares, or allotment of the City of Greeley, which may be usable now or in the future through the City of Greeley's water treatment plants, nor any water supply and water treatment facilities, which are owned by the City of Greeley now or in the future, shall be sold or permanently disposed of through exchange, subrogation, trade, or lease for more than five (5) years, or otherwise permanently disposed of unless and until the question of whether to sell or permanently dispose of such water rights and/or water supply and treatment facilities has first been submitted to and approved by a majority vote of the registered electors of the City of Greeley.

CITY COUNCIL BALLOT TITLE FOR CHARTER AMENDMENT 17-9 IS AS FOLLOWS:

City of Greeley Ballot Question 2G

Shall the Greeley Home Rule Charter be amended to further restrict the City's power to sell or lease excess water or infrastructure, including limiting the normal practice of temporary leasing to agricultural or industrial users, and likely increasing water costs and affecting the quality of service, by requiring an outside engineering study for such action, then voter approval by a majority of all registered electors, regardless of turnout, in a special election?

Yes No

SGW's Statement of Support For Ballot Question 2G

- Selling Greeley's water rights should not be done lightly or as a routine Water Department management function. This water belongs to all citizens who should have a voice when their assets are sold, especially something as important and personal as their water.
- Agriculture rents water on a year to year basis and arrangements can be made for other users who want longer than five year term leases. We should not be renting out our facilities to other municipalities for the long term. Five years is adequate time to help out neighboring communities that may need short term help. This can always be renewed, if necessary. Until recently, Greeley was negotiating with Thornton to rent our water treatment facilities and pipelines to facilitate getting their Water Supply & Storage water to Thornton, since Larimer County denied access for a pipeline. During this same period, Greeley began considering the purchase of Terry Ranch ground water to deliver to Greeley citizens, in part, to make room in Greeley's pipelines to carry Thornton's water. Greeley has now purchased that contaminated ground water but claim it will only be used in drought conditions, which was not their original intent.
- This amendment will not increase water costs for customers and will help to maintain the quality of our drinking water by protecting and maintaining our best and highest priority water rights.
- Greeley owns conditional water rights to an additional 15,000 acre feet of high quality Poudre River water that it cannot store because Greeley stopped the permitting process on the Milton Seaman Reservoir Enlargement and took

the Terry Ranch ground water alternative. It may be tempting to sell this water since Greeley has no place to store it. However, diligence should be done to maintain these water rights, since this is the very surface water that could be used to recharge the Terry Ranch aquifer in the future.

- The issues brought forth by this amendment could be addressed through better management of the Water Department, and could be presented to the public at the regular municipal election which occurs every two years. **2G does not call for special elections** and the language in Amendment 17-9, “**approved by a majority vote of the registered electors of the City of Greeley**”, is standard language that does not indicate the necessity of a super majority of voters to approve, as is stated in the City’s misleading language, “voter approval by a majority of all registered electors, regardless of turnout, in a special election”.

SGW’S PROPOSED AMENDMENT 17-10 TO THE CITY OF GREELEY HOME RULE CHARTER:

17-10 Procedures for Acquisition and Provision of Ground Water and/or Recycled Wastewater

No ground water and/or recycled wastewater may be purchased/leased, and/or provided, either directly, through the City’s ownership of existing ground water rights, or indirectly, through ownership of shares in ditch and reservoir companies, through the City of Greeley’s water system, water treatment plants or other water infrastructure, to the registered electors of Greeley for their drinking water and/or non-potable use unless and until the question of whether to purchase/lease and/or provide such ground water or recycled wastewater has first been submitted to and approved by a majority vote of the registered electors of the City of Greeley.

CITY COUNCIL BALLOT TITLE FOR CHARTER AMENDMENT 17-10 IS AS FOLLOWS:

City of Greeley Ballot Question 2H

Shall the Greeley Home Rule Charter be amended to restrict the City’s acquisition and use of water and its responses to drought and other emergencies, likely increasing water costs and affecting the quality of service, by requiring that the purchase, lease or use of critical portions of Greeley’s existing and future water supply be subject to additional outside engineering analysis and then voter approval by a majority of all registered voters, regardless of turnout, in a special election?

Yes No

SGW’s Statement of Support For Ballot Question 2H

- This Charter Amendment **would not stop** the City of Greeley from **purchasing surface water**, which is Greeley’s primary water source, any day of the year. It only **requires voter approval** for the **purchase of groundwater or recycled wastewater**.
- This amendment **could restrict the ability of Greeley to provide ground water or recycled wastewater to the citizens without voter approval**. The Water & Sewer Board says Terry Ranch groundwater should not be needed for decades, since Greeley has a redundant system with much drought storage already in place. By the time Terry Ranch water is needed, perhaps the City Council will have put into the charter an amendment that will require them to treat the water to “non-detect” for uranium. If that happens, the citizens may be assured of the water’s safety, and vote to have the water delivered to them. However, there are other contamination risks that may assert themselves by that time, such as TCE from a missile silo in Wyoming, PFAS from organic waste or hydrocarbons from the drilling that will occur through the aquifer.
- Because of proper planning over past decades, Greeley has a redundant water supply which is adequate to respond to drought and other emergencies.
- This amendment will not increase water costs for customers. Greeley presently is using very high quality source water that requires little in the way of treatment to make it drinkable. What could increase the cost and quality of our water is the extra expense to treat contaminated water such as Terry Ranch ground water or recycled wastewater and the cost of building the infrastructure necessary to transport that water to Greeley.
- The issues brought forth by this amendment could be addressed through better management of the Water Department, and could be presented to the public at the regular municipal election which occurs every two years. **2H does not call for special elections** and the language in Amendment 17-10, “**approved by a majority vote of the registered electors of the City of Greeley**”, is standard language and does not indicate the necessity of a super majority of voters to approve, as is stated in the City’s language, “voter approval by a majority of all registered electors, regardless of turnout, in a special election”.