

Vote no on ban - A Halloween scare tactic from - Denton Record-Chronicle (TX) - October 27, 2014 - page EDIT01

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Vote no on ban

A Halloween scare tactic from the **Frack Free Denton** mailer alleges that fracking is the reason **Denton** has the most unhealthy air in Texas.

The facts refute this myth: Since 2000, ozone levels have fallen while the number of gas wells has increased in the entire 10-county area of North Texas.

A study at Southern Methodist University concluded that there is no clear relationship between Barnett Shale natural gas production activities and the highest average ozone levels.

Most Barnett Shale natural gas wells produce dry gas, meaning that they produce no other liquids.

Road and non-road vehicles produce more than 75 percent of the unhealthy emissions, and **Denton's** air also is affected by coal and other pollutants coming from points south by our prevailing winds.

More than 4.6 million air concentration values were gathered by extensive air monitoring operated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for the last 12 years.

When measured concentrations were compared to federal and state health-based air compression values (HBACVs), investigators found that none of the air concentration values exceeded applicable acute HBACVs.

As the air samples were collected over such a long period, a full range of shale gas activities was captured, including drilling, hydraulic fracturing and production. These results show that shale gas operators are not impacting air quality through communitywide ambient concentrations. This is especially important given the exponential increase in the number of wells over the last decade.

Base your vote on facts, not false scare tactics. Vote no on the ban.

Dianne Edmondson,

Denton

Vote for fracking ban

I hope **Denton** citizens vote for the fracking ban. It will be a victory for local control and a defeat of bullying, bribery and fact-bending by petroleum giants, an accomplishment with seismic

reverberations nationally. Readers of the **Denton** Record-Chronicle and everyone with a mailbox have been barraged with misinformation by managed opponents.

There are, as usual, yard signs for political candidates, as well as pro and con signs on the fracking business. By my count, ban-the-fracking signs outnumber the "Vote no" signs by at least 4 to 1. And they vastly outnumber the candidate signs. Homeowners have spoken.

Unable to persuade many homeowners to display yard signs, and, you may be sure, they've done their darndest, the naysayers bought billboards on the highways. What does that tell you?

The biggest battleground in this contest is the **Denton** Record-Chronicle, with daily full-page ads about dire consequences of banning the fracturing.

But, in the place where it counts, letters to the editor, people support the ban by a large margin.

I'm grateful to the DRC for its coverage. I hope Peggy Heinkel-Wolfe gets a prize for her work, then maybe a raise. If you haven't read her Oct. 17 analysis, look it up online.

Of course, the editor and the Chamber of Commerce leaders asked us to vote "no." But what could we expect?

Thanks to the cadre of dedicated volunteers who led the fight. And kudos to council member Kevin Roden who had the guts to resist the chamber.

Dale Branum,

Denton

What Frack Free Denton looks like

Picture a room full of people: professionals, stay-at-home moms, teachers, business owners, students, retirees, professors, office workers - people from all walks of life and all political affiliations who get together once a week to organize and get their assignments (canvassing, distributing fliers, looking up phone numbers), which they complete on their own time, for free.

That is what **Frack Free Denton** looks like.

Some of these people's lives have been directly impacted by fracking, others are there simply because they have educated themselves enough to know that heavy industrial activity does not belong in neighborhoods.

The members of the Frack Free board are dedicated citizens who never wanted a ban in the first place. Adam Briggie is a professor who, years ago, while untenured, took it upon himself to educate citizens by organizing balanced information sessions in preparation for the rewriting of our fracking ordinance.

Ed and Carol Soph addressed the City Council countless times over the years to help craft a

stronger ordinance.

Cathy McMullen, a nurse, and Rhonda Love, a retired professor of public health, have both devoted hundreds of hours to researching, speaking to the City Council, and engaging in productive debate.

They are not unreasonable people. They have all invested a great deal of time trying to negotiate a compromise with the fracking industry. If now they are asking for a ban, it's because our attempts at regulation have failed.

Vote for the fracking ban on Nov. 4.

Pauline Raffestin,

Denton

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