

## **Questions & Concerns: Why Fluvanna Taxpayers Want a Referendum on the Joint Water Authority**

- Citizens had only five weeks to learn about the water authority and raise questions between the time the authority's articles of incorporation first became available in early February and the public hearing in mid-March. The two counties struck their deal on January 26.
- The JWA will give Louisa as much say-so as Fluvanna over a utility running only through Fluvanna territory – a sovereignty issue.
- The JWA board – half of whose voting members will be from Louisa – will have eminent domain authority over Fluvanna lands, affecting 200-300 properties.
- With only one elected Fluvanna official on the JWA, citizens will be further removed from pipeline decisions and less able to influence them. JWA decisions cannot be changed or overridden by Fluvanna's Board of Supervisors.
- Louisa will pay only half the cost -- nothing extra for Fluvanna's ease of access to the river, use of its land, or the impact on Fluvanna citizens who would bear the brunt of eminent domain, construction, inconvenience, loss of trees, etc.
- The JWA will put upward pressure on Fluvanna taxes by generating operating and expansion costs that Fluvanna will have to fund, then pass on to taxpayers.
- Louisa could enjoy profit-making advantages not available to Fluvanna because Louisa's existing water authority would not be restricted from selling to other wholesale customers while Fluvanna, which has no county water authority, would be subject to JWA veto or approval if it tried to do the same.
- Fluvanna County wants citizens to foot the bill for the pipeline through general obligation bonds rather than issue revenue bonds requiring the pipeline to pay for itself. Estimates range from a 5-to-6 cent tax increase per \$100 valuation. Most citizens will pay double for water – for the pipeline in addition to their own wells and private water systems.
- Fluvanna taxpayers received no remuneration for the county's valuable James River permit that makes the pipeline possible nor for East Coast Transport, Inc., contractual rights, both of which Fluvanna County signed over for free to the joint water authority. Fluvanna taxpayers paid for all the work and expertise in securing and maintaining the permit and contract, while Louisa, which could not easily have gained such a permit on its own because of lack of proximity to the river, saved a bundle.

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