

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Election saga shows need to change laws

I'm writing today to comment on the recent saga of the 2019 Harpers Ferry municipal election coming toward a close. While the circumstances surrounding the fourteen month ordeal are applicable

Furthermore, this flawed statute has now also contributed to a current council member and a now former council member admitting guilt of a serious violation of the West Virginia Governmental Ethics

law), then it appears to me that the attorneys would have failed in their duty to both their clients and to the court.

I firmly believe that if our election laws had been updated to reflect more modern

A word on drinking water protection from an outgoing water operator

After several years of service, I'm leaving my post as Chief Water Operator for Harpers Ferry Water Works to pursue new opportunities. Before my tenure ends, I wanted to share a few words on source water protection.

As a Water Operator, my job is to make certain that residents in Harpers Ferry and Bolivar, as well as the nearly 500,000 people that visit Harpers Ferry National Historical Park each year, have access to safe, clean drinking water.

We can best achieve that by protecting our water at the source, before it reaches the intake at our water treatment plant. This is what's known as source water protection. This also includes the various steps that all systems are trying to do to protect the public from future hazards by installing source water monitoring systems and sampling that is regulated by the Department of Health and Human Resources.

Treating raw water with chemicals and other processes should be the final step in a long series of actions to protect our drinking water. That is to say, source water protection should be a primary strategy, with the treatment plants serving as critical backstops for any remaining contaminants.

Water utilities like Harpers Ferry Water Works and others across West Virginia, must take an active role in protecting our drinking

water sources to ensure our water is as clean as possible before it reaches the intake. Public health is our ultimate concern and keeping our water sources protected from pollution and hazardous waste is going to keep the public safe from future health issues.

Fortunately, each water utility already has their own roadmap for success in the form of locally-developed Source Water Protection Plans. These community-based plans identify potential pollution sources near drinking water intakes and develop strategies to keep source water safe.

Pollution threats identified in source water protection plans can range from the obvious culprits like agricultural runoff and industrial development, to more insidious threats like climate change.

I am proud to have been a part of all of the great source water protection activities happening around the Elks Run Watershed, our source for drinking water. I encourage my fellow Water Operators to take an equally active role in source water protection in their communities.

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Harpers Ferry Water Works