

I support the Terry Ranch Water Supply and Storage Project and if you don't know what that is, please go to the City of Greeley's website to learn more. You can actually find a lot of information on-line related to the Terry Ranch Project, in support and opposition, so I encourage you to do your own due diligence.

That said, I would like to focus on a couple items related to this Project that are generating some other actions. You may encounter petition circulators in Greeley gathering signatures to put a couple issues on a special election ballot. That is our democracy at work. Another aspect of our democracy at work is the election by the people of our elected officials, and in this case the Mayor and the City Councilmembers, who are in a role of informed decision-making for the Greeley community.

Having been a Greeley City Councilmember, I did not know everything, yet I studied and reviewed all the issues, and I knew the City hired many highly qualified, knowledgeable professionals to guide all our decision-making. Council hires a City Manager and in turn, the City Manager hires department heads for all the operations of the City. Additionally, the City has numerous Boards and Commissions serving in advisory roles to Council and staff, such as the Water and Sewer Board, all of which are volunteer positions and appointed by City Council. I trust the people in all these positions then and now. There are numerous checks and balances and all staff and Board and Commission members have the interest of the residents of Greeley as their top priority.

I trust the Water and Sewer Board, City Manager, City staff and the Mayor and City Council, and know they have made the right decision on the Terry Ranch Project for our safe high-quality water needs for generations to come.

I do not support unfounded and unnecessary changes to our City of Greeley Home Rule Charter (which was first approved by a vote the residents of Greeley in 1958). There have been numerous amendments to the Charter voted on by Greeley citizens, following major Charter review committee work over the last 62 years. The two amendments (additions) to the Charter being pursued via the current petition drive are not in the best interest of the residents of Greeley, nor the Charter.

Two of the petitions want to amend the Charter to have Greeley residents vote in special elections on most all water related actions that the City would need to take, ever. Not to mention the cost of such elections. I don't believe I have the in-depth, technical knowledge to make informed and hugely important decisions as a resident. That is why we have all the professionals within the City and outside the City, to guide and inform these decisions, ultimately approved by City Council.

I mentioned special elections in reference to the referendum and petitions being circulated currently; you should know that in today's dollars, each special election will cost Greeley taxpayers \$190-200K. Yes, tax dollars would be used to finance these elections, not special interest groups, not dollars falling from the sky – you and me. What services and projects will that amount of money impact?

Therefore, I will not sign any of these petitions, and know that the Terry Ranch Project is visionary and safe, providing storage in wet water years and safe treated water resources in drought years, for many generations to come. I trust the research and science on this project, and I invite you to check it out for yourself.

Debbie Pilch

Former Greeley City Councilmember Ward IV 1999-2007 and 58 year resident of the city of Greeley