



CITY OF JOHN DAY

mayor
Ron Lundbom

interim (pro-tem) city
manager
Corum Ketchum

chief financial officer
Nicholas Green

city recorder
Anna Bass

office manager
Chantal DesJardin

council
Dave Holland, President
Shannon Adair
Heather Rookstool
Chris Labhart
Katrina Randleas
Elliot Sky

July 26th, 2022

In Support of Referring the "Pool for All" Ballot Initiative

Dear John Day-Canyon City Parks and Recreation Board,

We are writing to express our support for you to resubmit the pool ballot measure to our voters for the November 8, 2022 election. Conditions on the ground have significantly changed since the May 2022 election. Specifically:

- 1) Completion of Gleason Pool demolition:** Our work on the demolition, site preparation, and sale of the former Gleason Pool site has been accepted by the State of Oregon and both parties have fully executed the final purchase and sale agreement for Gleason Park. A successful "Redo Not Brand New" campaign against Measure 12-80 implied we had plans to redo Gleason Pool if the measure were defeated, which likely confused voters with the idea that there was an alternative plan or possibility to redo Gleason Pool. We passed Resolution 21-868-16 to sell Gleason Pool following a public hearing held on November 9, 2021, well before your measure was referred. With the completion of the sale and Gleason Pool's demolition, it is demonstratively a non-option to redo the pool. While regrettable the voters were misled, we know for many in Grant County seeing is believing. For this reason, they should be given the opportunity to vote now that they can see for themselves Gleason Pool no longer exists.
- 2) Inflationary indicators are changing:** The May 2022 ballot was submitted for a vote during an uncertain time as inflation was ramping up to unprecedented levels. This made it difficult for our community to vote on a self-imposed tax. It is likely this trend will slow or even reverse by the November election date. As cited by the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis:

Some relief on headline inflation is likely coming in the next couple of months as gas prices are falling today, supply chains are improving, and consumer spending on goods slows. – Josh Lehner, Oregon State Economist, June 14, 2022
- 3) The narrow outcome of the ballot warrants another attempt:** The tie result of the previous measure should be considered a positive indicator of overall voter support for the facility. Many have told us they regret not voting for Measure 12-80 and would like to have the chance to vote again.



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In light of the demolition and sale of Gleason Pool, likely reductions in inflation, and the zero-margin defeat of the prior ballot measure, we strongly encourage you to give our community another chance to weigh in on the future of the John Day-Canyon City swim center.

Our city council and John Day residents overwhelmingly support this project and have committed over \$320,000 towards its design so far, in addition to the significant time city staff have devoted to the project. We remain committed to signing the Intergovernmental Agreement with your board providing the remainder of the \$3 million in financial assistance we budgeted to help fund your efforts.

We would like to invite you to attend a joint meet with us on August 9, 2022 to discuss the future of the pool and the possibility of referring another measure to voters for the November 8, 2022, general election.

We would love to see the Pool for all Project break ground next year as it is envisioned and are willing to do what it takes to help you succeed.

Sincerely,

Ron Lundbom

Dave Holland

Shannon Adair

Chris Labhart

Katrina Randleas

Elliot Sky

Heather
Rookstool