



THE RIGHT TO PETITION:
BASTROP VOTERS'
SOURCE OF POWER TO
TAKE BACK THEIR TOWN.

Produced by Independent Texans PAC

Independent Texans Mission

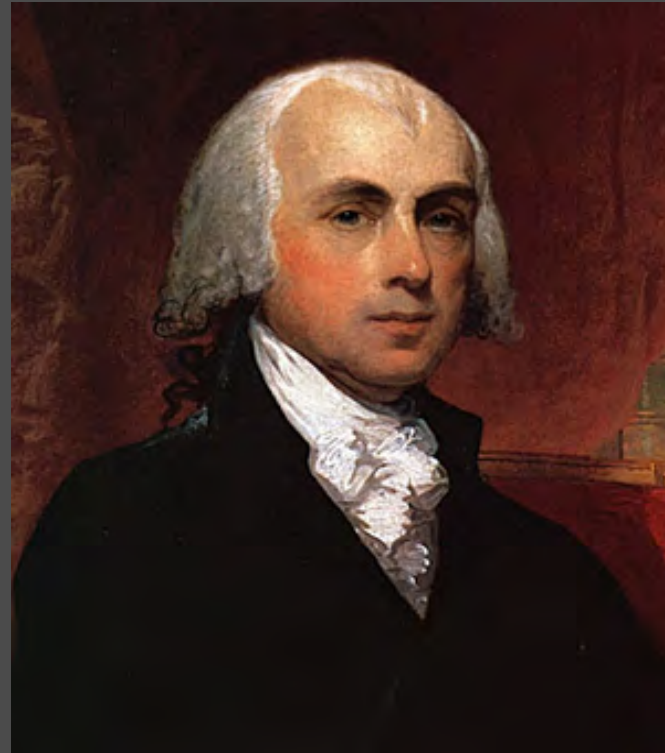


To unite voters across partisan lines in order to counteract the potent engines of the political party machines and to establish the democratic republic for which we are supposed to stand.



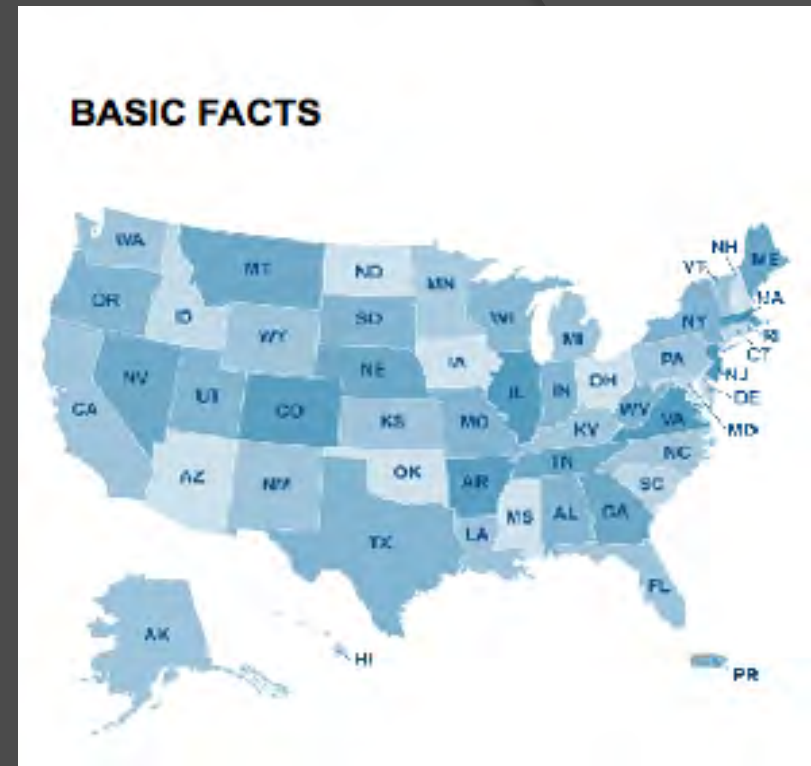
Independent Texans PAC filed a petition on August 1st signed by voters in the city of Bastrop, Texas calling for a vote this November for “Reasonable Petition Requirements in the City of Bastrop.”

Jefferson & Madison, the original advocates of the right of the people to petition government.



“As the people are the only legitimate fountain of power, and it is from them that the constitutional charter, under which several branches of government hold their power, is derived, it seems strictly consonant for the republican theory to recur to the same original authority...whenever it may be necessary to enlarge, diminish, or new-model the power of government” James Madison, Federalist 49

Though 24 states have statewide petition rights, Texas allows petitions at the municipal level only.



Thanks to the founders of the Texas initiative and referendum movement starting in the late 1800s -- Rev. A. B. Francisco of Milano, Rev. B. F. Foster of Galveston and Erath County Judge Thomas B. King – Texas voters secured their right to petition at the municipal level as part of the constitutional amendment for home rule passed in 1913.

The 1913 Texas constitutional amendment also gave Texans in home rule cities the right to:

- ⦿ **INITIATIVE:** a public vote on city ordinances proposed by the people. *EX: the Save Our Springs initiative in Austin in 1992 to protect Barton Springs.*
- ⦿ **REFERENDUM:** a public vote to revoke a Council decision. *EX: the 1995 vote in Austin to reverse Council's decision to fund an "emergency" baseball stadium.*
- ⦿ **RECALL:** The right to petition for a public vote to remove a city elected official. *A very rare occurrence!*

The real deal for Bastrop voters.

- Bastrop's recall petition rules currently require that 25% of the voters sign the petition, compared to 10% in most Texas cities. (Reference: Texas Municipal League)
- Bastrop's initiative and referendum petition rules require 20% of the voters to sign the petition, while Austin requires 5% (the same required by the state of Texas for citizens' charter change petitions). (Reference: Austin City Charter)
- **THE PETITION FOR REASONABLE PETITION REQUIREMENTS IN THE CITY OF BASTROP** – if passed this November -- will reduce the recall signatures to 10% and reduce the signatures for initiatives and referenda to 5%.



Independent Texans initiated two petitions in the city of Bastrop on July 4, 2016.

Which one do you think is more important?

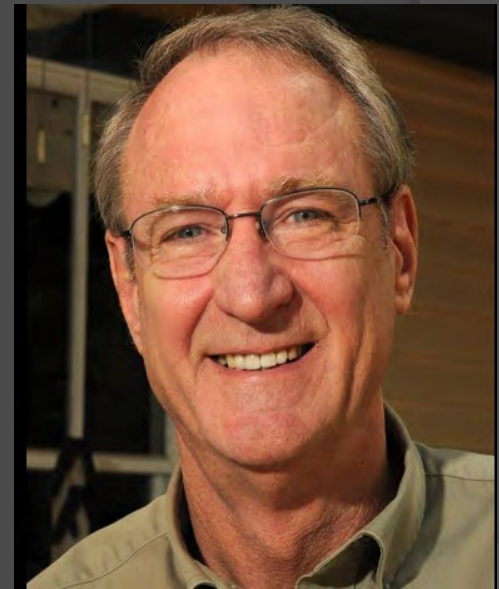


- Recalling Mayor Ken Kesselus, having received most of the media coverage, or
- The Petition for Reasonable Petition Requirements?

NEITHER

They're equally important!

The recall Mayor Ken Kesselus petition sounded the alarm that there is a problem going on that warrants serious consideration of such drastic action as removing the Mayor from office. On August 1st, with less than a month to petition, we ended the recall but the Mayor and his allies are now on notice. In November, we will win reasonable petition requirements!



The remaining slides tell you why we filed the recall and why we need our petition rights NOW.

What's the deal with Joe Beal?



In February 2015 we blew the whistle on then Bastrop City Councilman Beal's attempt to peddle Bastrop and Lee counties' water to Austin when he said to the Austin City Council, *"I've done the numbers. It can be brought in here pretty cheaply, but we have to act quickly"*.

What Beal failed to disclose was that he was a paid consultant to End Op L.P. (aka Recharge), a water marketing company pushing to export 46,000 acre-feet of groundwater per year (about 15 billion gallons) out from underneath Bastrop and Lee counties to the I-35 growth corridor.

Kay McAnally & Kelly Gilleland



Council members Kay McAnally and Kelly Gilleland spoke out forcefully, criticizing Beal who remains unrepentant. We remain deeply concerned that Beal is using his status as a government official to wheel and deal for private water interests he refuses disclose, and for which Kesselus has given him a pass. You will see how in the next slide.



Within months of Beal's ended term on the Council in May 2015, Delarosa, Jackson and Schiff gave Mayor Kesselus the votes he needed to appoint Beal to the Bastrop Economic Development Corporation Board. BEDC handles millions of tax dollars for local development. Again McAnally & Gilleland were strongly opposed to it.



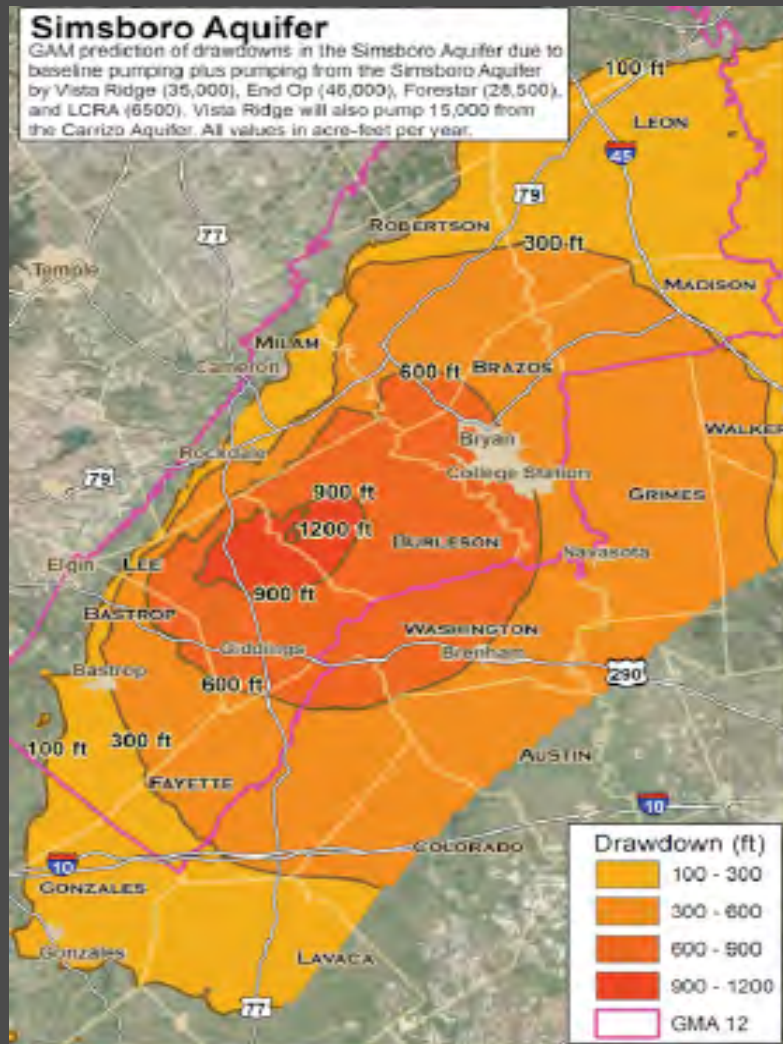
From l to r, Mayor Pro-Tem Willie Delarosa, former Councilman Dock Jackson and current Councilman Gary Schiff, who also sits on the BEDC Board. Jackson is currently running for Bastrop County Commissioner Precinct 1 on the Democratic ticket. Delarosa is rumored to be planning a run for Bastrop Mayor in May 2017.

Billions of dollars in construction hinge on Austin's growth plans*. That "plan" is to never do anything that might slow down growth. This is why water marketers appear perfectly willing to kill the goose that laid the golden egg: The Simsboro and other aquifer formations underneath Bastrop, Lee, Milam and Burleson counties.



* Reference: Austin developer & whistle-blower, Brian Rodgers, CostofGrowth.com

The siege on the Simsboro



The Simsboro is the deep formation within the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer group coveted by water profiteers and municipalities from Williamson County to San Antonio. This map is a projection of what it means to “mine an aquifer” or “manage its depletion”--- pump it harder and faster than it can recharge.

Projected 2060 drawdowns for listed projects; prepared by hydrologist George Rice using state-approved Groundwater Availability Model.

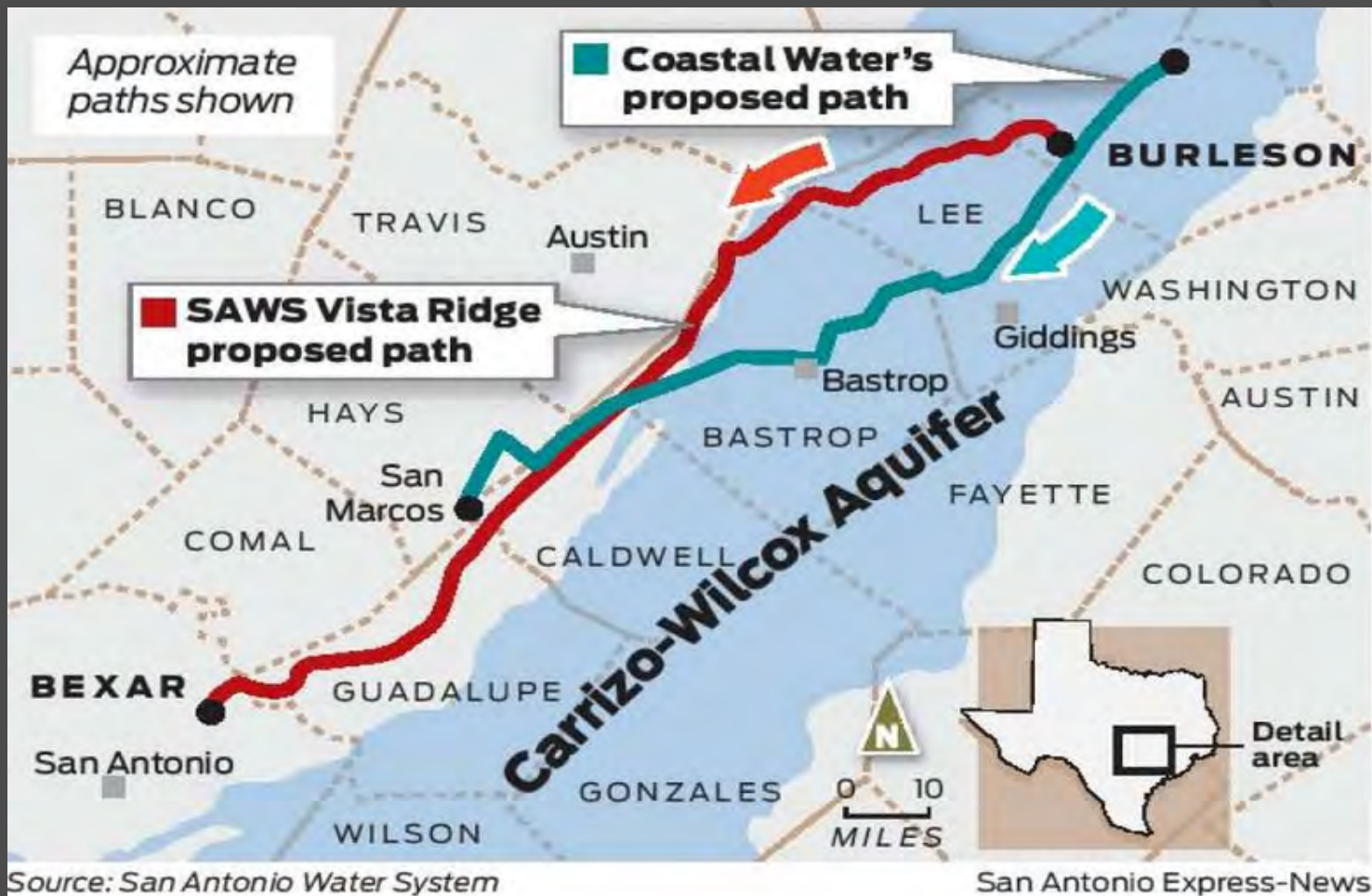
Recharge, MAG and Pumping for Simsboro Aquifer in Lost Pines GCD

Year	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
RECHARGE (Bastrop & Lee)	5,172	5,172	5,172	5,172	5,172	5,172
MAG	29,556	32,731	31,362	34,916	36,544	37,249
PROJECTED PUMPING (GAM PS4)	10,000	38,000	43,000	47,000	50,000	55,000
PERMITTED PUMPING - 2013	53,564	53,564				
PERMITTED PUMPING - 2016 W/End Op		88,788	88,788	88,788	88,788	88,788
PERMITTED PUMPING - 2016 W/End Op		134,788	134,788	134,788	134,788	134,788
RECHARGE RATIOS (as a % of Recharge)						
MAG (MAG as a % of Recharge)	571%	633%	606%	675%	707%	720%
PROJECTED PUMPING (GAM PS4)	193%	735%	831%	909%	967%	1063%
PERMITTED PUMPING - 2013	1036%	1036%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PERMITTED PUMPING - 2016 W/End Op		1717%	1717%	1717%	1717%	1717%
PERMITTED PUMPING - 2016 W/End Op		2606%	2606%	2606%	2606%	2606%
RECHARGE RATIOS (as multiplier of Recharge)						
MAG (MAG is X times Recharge)	6	6	6	7	7	7
PROJECTED PUMPING (GAM PS4)	2	7	8	9	10	11
PERMITTED PUMPING - 2013	10	10	0	0	0	0
PERMITTED PUMPING - 2016 W/End Op	N/A	17	17	17	17	17
PERMITTED PUMPING - 2016 W/End Op	N/A	26	26	26	26	26

PROJECTED PUMPING (GAM PS4): GMA-12 Hydrological Conditions Presentation 5/28/15

Source: Environmental Stewardship 7/24/16

In Bastrop and Lee counties, a comparison of Simsboro recharge to various pumping scenarios over a 50-year period tells the story. We will see pumping of 134,788 acre-feet of water annually if current groundwater permits plus the pending End Op permit are pumped at their limits. That level of pumping would exceed recharge by 2,606%. Even if pumping were to only reach 55,000 acre-feet per year in the Simsboro, recharge is still exceeded at the rate of 1,063%. Where will permitting and actual pumping go? No one knows. We only know the gold rush will continue, with Bastrop and Lee counties in the crosshairs.



The Vista Ridge “San Antone Hose” pipeline in red has a permit in the Burleson County side of the aquifer. Promised to be built by 2020, it will pipe 50,000 acre-feet of groundwater annually to San Antonio. North of Vista Ridge is the projected path of another 35,000 acre-feet permit that, if issued, appears headed for Hays County. Note the aqua colored line appears to go through or very close to the city of Bastrop. Both projects are located in the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District, which has a policy of permitting all comers, with only a promise to cut them back if they damage the aquifer.

What's love got to do with it?

A lot! We love Bastrop and know that we are far more vulnerable than Austin to an affordability crisis. Let's not make the same mistakes.

Stay tuned more as Bastropians join hands to take back our city, county and region!



NEVER THE END!

**Get registered to vote for the
November 8th election.**

*(Deadline for registration is October
11th)*