

WASTEWATER RESOLUTION OF WIMBERLEY DEMOCRATS (WimDems)

The Wimberley Democrats organization adheres to the platform of the Texas Democratic Party Platform and strives to translate its principles into action. Texas Democrats believe that government exists to achieve as a community, state, and nation what we cannot achieve as individuals.

The preservation of our precious natural resources is a top Democratic Party principle. We accept as scientific fact that climate change is a real and serious threat and that it is accelerating globally. Residents of Wimberley face risk of negative health and financial effects from drought and aquifer depletion as global change worsens. To mitigate these risks, we support energy efficiency and the conservation of all natural resources, especially water conservation.

We believe that recycled water from publicly managed resources is critical to the future health and economics of Texans. We strongly support actions to prevent depletion and exploitation of limited state water resources. We believe that reuse practices in addition to aggressive water conservation are essential for saving this precious natural resource.

We support the preservation of recreational and open spaces and back increased funding for improvements, maintenance and acquisition of local and state park land, especially open space that serves to protect aquifers and watersheds.

We understand that rural communities' assets are under increased pressure from forces outside of their own boundaries. Because our community is in Hays County, one of the fastest growing counties in the nation, we believe a city owned and operated wastewater treatment plant is the best way to protect natural water resources and economic livelihood of the greater Wimberley Valley area and the surrounding central Texas area. Recycled/reuse water is no less valuable an asset than natural water in meeting future water needs, especially in the face of climate change, ongoing droughts, and threatened aquifers.

Therefore, the Steering Committee of Wimberley Democrats (WimDems):

1. support putting Democratic principles into action and displaying leadership for its members by providing this wastewater resolution. It is firmly based on the values of the Texas Democratic Party as inscribed in their platform, and it applies those values in support of the city owned and operated wastewater treatment plant which is a reuse/recycle plant.

2. support the work and vision of four decades of City of Wimberley government to provide a city owned and operated wastewater treatment plant and downtown infrastructure. This is a project that we cannot achieve as individuals, but can be achieved as a community. Although limited in size, it will benefit all of Wimberley Valley's citizens, as well as visitors to the area, whose sales tax dollars will help pay for and maintain the city's system.

3. support the city owned and operated wastewater treatment design which includes three levels of reuse/recycle measures. These measures were placed there by previous Wimberley city councils to prevent depletion of limited water resources, specifically aquifers, a precious natural resource and a dominant part of Wimberley's quality of life. First level is reuse of recycled wastewater to water recreational fields in Blue Hole Park. Second level is purple

pipe infrastructure to use, then reuse, recycled wastewater in toilets. Third level is the sale of excess recycled water at a reduced rate to a contracted company who can then resell the highly valuable recycled water. Reuse/recycled water from publicly managed resources is critical to the future health and economics of Wimberley and Texas. Climate change is real, and increasing and persistent droughts are a real and serious threat.

4. support the goals of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to preserve the health of our people, the quality of life, and to secure long-term economic growth through environmental protection, regulation, and enforcement --and specifically support its granting to City of Wimberley the most environmentally friendly wastewater permit that the state of Texas has ever issued, and for using Wimberley's permit as a guide for future permits, and for possibly creating a new type of wastewater permit based on Wimberley's wastewater plant design - "Reuse Permit."

5. support funding improvements, up keep, and maintenance of Wimberley's Blue Hole Park. The city owned and operated wastewater treatment plant includes a partnership with Blue Hole Regional Park to provide reuse/recycled water for fields planned for soccer, and other recreational activities by park visitors. Only the city owned plant will produce reused/recycled water at a high enough quality to allow human contact, and will NOT require dilution with fresh aquifer water before being applied to the ground, a process which further depletes the aquifer.

6. support government policies that do not favor corporations that overcharge customers or communities, pollute our environment, or demonstrate a disregard for government regulations.

7. support appropriate government regulation, including control of utilities, to assure transparency, accountability, affordability and economic stability to citizens and residents.

8. support resisting short-sighted plans to privatize Wimberley's infrastructure, especially to a national corporation beholden to no one, and to nothing, except its shareholders. We support the city owned and operated wastewater treatment plant because it offers the best opportunity for environmental stewardship, and assures transparency, accountability, affordability and stability to citizens and residents.

Enacted by the Steering Committee of the Wimberley Democrats on April 20, 2017.

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