

# Klamath Fluoridation Vote Scheduled For November 6

Editor's Note: This is the eighth article appearing in the Herald and News explaining the measures, both city and state, which will appear on the November 6 general election ballot.

**By MAX WAUCHOPE**  
Fluoridation of the Oregon Water Corporation's water supply in Klamath Falls will be one of the city measures that voters of the city will register approval, or disapproval, at the November 6 general election. And like all proposals concerning public health, fluoridation is a controversial subject.

The city council first moved to fluoridate the water company's supply when it passed an ordinance authorizing the use of the chemical late in 1952. Although the water firm indicated that it was ready to begin adding the chemical to the water supply (at no extra cost to its customers), uncertainty over the proposal delayed any action on the fluoridation.

**ORDINANCE**  
Although the ordinance was still in existence, the council reaffirmed its stand on fluoridation in February of this year after several interested women's groups asked the addition of fluorides to the water.

During this same council meeting proclamations endorsing fluoridation from the Klamath County Medical Society and the Klamath County Dental Society were read into the record.

The council instructed the Oregon Water Corporation to install the fluoridation equipment and to begin adding the chemical in 120 days from that date (February 12, 1956) which would have meant that fluoridation would have been started in June.

**SCHEDULE**  
But prior to the time when fluoridation was scheduled to begin, individuals opposing the project submitted petitions to the council bearing the signatures of 15 per cent of the number of voters of the city who voted for mayor in the last general election. Under Oregon state law, this made it mandatory for the council to refer the question to a vote of the people in the November general election.

Even if the voters of Klamath Falls approve fluoridation, it still leaves the water company in a rather ambiguous position because 42 per cent of its customers reside outside the city limits and will not be permitted to vote on the measure. And there is no way to fluoridate just the water used inside the city limits. It must all be fluoridated, or not at all.

**PROS AND CONS**  
Millions of words have been written on the pros and cons of fluoridation in newspapers, magazines and in all the other press media of the nation. Crusades against it and for it have rocked many cities of the U.S., particularly in the last decade.

If approved, and used, in Klamath Falls, fluoridation would be accomplished by adding sodium silico fluoride, a solid, in about 1.5 parts fluoride per million parts of water.

**NEW YORK TEST**  
One of the few long range tests of fluoridation in this country was accomplished over the past 10 years in the comparatively large towns of Kingston and Newburgh, New York. Ten years ago dental researchers found that the average of dental decay in the children of both these cities was about the same. Following this survey, fluoride was added to the water supply of Newburgh with no fluoride added to the Kingston water. In December, 1955, the official results of the test were announced by the New York State Health Commission. The children in Newburgh were found to have 53 per cent less tooth decay and missing teeth than those in Kingston.

It was also shown in the Newburgh study that fluoridation of

**JUDGE DIES**  
CHICAGO (AP)—Jay A. Schiller, 62, dean of Chicago's Municipal Court judges with 26 years on the bench, died yesterday. He was born in Elgin, Ill.



**ROBERT H. BARTLETT**  
Klamath Falls veteran says:

**"VETERANS ARE VOTING FOR DOUG MCKAY BECAUSE...**

McKay is a veteran of two world wars. He knows veterans, and their problems. World peace and veteran benefits are important to him. Oregon veterans need Doug McKay in the Senate."

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that city's water supply did no harm. After drinking the fluoridated water for 10 years the children of that city were just as healthy as the children of neighboring towns. No effect was apparent on their growth, weight, or height, or in their bone structure, blood composition, urinalysis, vision or hearing.

The American Dental Association, which has backed fluoridation consistently, has reported many such tests in cities all over the U.S. with corresponding success. And dentists are almost uniformly for the use of the chemical in the water.

Dr. George F. Lull, secretary and general manager of the American Medical Association, has stated:

tion as some other individuals are proponents of the use of the chemical. Opponents of fluoridation, besides those that are just fearful of the chemical, or consider it mass medication, include the anti-vaccinationists, the anti-vivisectionists, and cults of many other descriptions. One frequent charge levied by the opponents of fluoridation state that the aluminum industry of America has sponsored fluoridation to provide a market for one of its by-products. And some opponents charge that the use of fluoridation is all a huge Communist plot to destroy the health of the U.S.

Some 10 cities in Oregon and several in Northern California have voted down fluoridation in the past decade. The voters of the city of Klamath Falls will have an opportunity to register their thoughts on fluoridation this November 6.

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