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**When 60% say no...  
it means NO!**



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The Collins Family  
OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Batavia IL 60510-1911

Or Current Resident

# **Just last year, over 60% of voters said NO to municipal broadband.**

In politics, receiving over 60% is considered a mandate. Such a mandate occurred just 19 months ago when Tri-Cities voters overwhelmingly defeated ballot referendums that would have established a municipal broadband utility.

Now proponents are back with new referenda resurrecting a bad idea with altered language. These referenda promote unproven concepts and make an unsubstantiated promise of no tax based financing for the proposed system.

That's a promise that cannot be kept if things go wrong.

## ***And when it comes to municipal broadband utilities, things often go wrong:***

- Marietta, Georgia had to sell their broadband system at a substantial loss. The town still owes millions in outstanding bonds and was forced dip into taxpayer funds to make up for shortfalls. \$34 million invested. Sold for \$11 million. Equals \$24 million lost.
- Kutztown, Pennsylvania Mayor Gennaro Marino says Kutztown's municipally owned cable and Internet company is "hemorrhaging money, with profits nowhere in sight and with taxpayers subsidizing the system for too few paying customers." (Source: Philadelphia Inquirer - 6/18/04)
- Initial estimated capital for the Ashland, Oregon municipal broadband network was \$6 million. Now it is at \$8 to 8.5 million. The system is borrowing more from other city funds than it is repaying.

***Broadband is a high-risk business that can put all taxpayers at risk when municipalities are the providers. Voters proved they understood this in April 2003. Let's prove we still understand today.***

**VOTE NO ON MUNICIPAL BROADBAND ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND**