

Arizona Republic
Dear Editor,

Your story about the Peoria Council curbside recycling vote on December 12 was factually accurate and balanced. But your reporter, in a by-lined story, failed to capture the passion from both sides of the issue.

Those for mandatory curbside pickup spoke fervently about recycling, saying that Peorians have a duty to do more. They maintain that this responsibility supersedes any vote of the people.

I made a case, just as passionately, on behalf of democracy and voter rights. Once you give the people the right to decide an issue, you cannot in good conscience steal that right away. Those who say that curbside recycling should never have gone to a vote in 2001 miss the point. It did.

The people were asked to weigh in on this important issue in 2001 and a mere five years later four elected city leaders told them that their vote wasn't that important after all.

A little bit of democracy was chipped away by those four in their rush to do what they think is right. It was, however, the wrong way to do the "right thing."

Sincerely
Dave Pearson
Peoria City Councilman
Ironwood District
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