

July 16, 2025

Kingston City Hall 420 Broadway Kingston, New York 12401

Kingston Common Council,

I am writing on behalf of the New York State Dental Association (NYSDA) to express its strong support in fluoridating the public water supply within Kingston.

Fluoridation of community water supplies, such as yours in Kingston, is the single most effective public health measure to prevent tooth decay.

Community water fluoridation is the controlled adjustment of the natural fluoride concentration for optimal dental health. The optimal levels, 0.7 ppm, used for water fluoridation are carefully regulated to ensure the prevention of tooth decay while minimizing the risk of dental fluorosis, a cosmetic condition that can occur with excess fluoride exposure. By fluoridating the public water, all members of the community, regardless of age, education, or income level, will have access to oral health benefits without any other adverse health impact. Furthermore, fluoride's effectiveness in preventing tooth decay extends throughout one's life, resulting in fewer – and less severe – cavities.

Numerous scientific studies and reputable organizations, such as the American Dental Association, the World Health Organization, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, support water fluoridation due to its safety and effectiveness. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention proclaimed community water fluoridation as one of ten great public health achievements of the 20th century.

Through decades of research and over 75 years of practical experience, fluoridation of public water supplies has been responsible for dramatically improving the public's oral health. You have the opportunity to dramatically improve the lives of your neighbors, friends, and family by voting to include fluoridation within your water supply.

Should you have any questions or require additional information about the benefits community water fluoridation can provide, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Michael Herrmann Executive Director