

To the Kingston Common Council:

On behalf of the Third District Dental Association, representing over 400 dental professionals across the Hudson Valley, we are writing to express our strong support for the exploration of community water fluoridation in Kingston through a state-funded engineering feasibility study.

Fluoridation of public water systems is widely recognized as one of the most effective public health measures of the past century. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Dental Association, and the World Health Organization all affirm its safety and effectiveness in preventing cavities across populations, regardless of age or income. Communities with fluoridated water experience fewer cavities, lower healthcare costs, and healthier outcomes throughout life.

Kingston holds a unique place in this history. As the control city in the landmark Newburgh-Kingston study of 1945 to 1955, our community helped prove to the world that fluoridation reduces tooth decay dramatically. Yet, ironically, Kingston never implemented fluoridation itself. The consequences have been stark: children in Ulster County experience significantly higher cavity rates than children in neighboring counties like Westchester, where nearly 90% of residents benefit from fluoridated water.

We understand that a decision of this magnitude should be made responsibly and transparently. That is why we urge the Common Council to support the next logical step: authorizing the Water Department to apply for a New York State Department of Health engineering study grant. This study, provided at no cost to the City, will allow engineers to assess Kingston's water system and determine the safest, most efficient way to introduce fluoride at optimal levels.

Sincerely,
Mohamed Bayoumy, DMD
President, Third District Dental Society of NY