

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

MEASURE ARGUMENT FOR COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET

[for instructions and filing fees, see page 3]

Election Date: November 5, 2013 Ballot Measure Number: 3-433

Argument in Favor Argument in Opposition Original Argument Amended Argument

Argument paid for by (name and address) Citizens Committee for Disincorporation 14400 SE Hollyview Ct. Damascus, OR 97089	Phone (home) 503-658-6069
	Phone (work)
E-Mail Address chawes1996@aol.com	Fax Number

This Information Furnished By: Citizens Committee for Disincorporation


If applicable, name of organization represented, as intended to be displayed in voters' pamphlet.

Note: If this argument is not being filed by a registered Oregon Political Committee, you may be required to register as a political committee or submit a Statement of Independent Expenditures (PC 10) with the Secretary of State. Refer to the Campaign Finance Manual for further information.

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By signing this document, I/we hereby state that I/we am/are responsible for the content of this argument (ORS 251.415), and that we have read and understand the instructions for submitting a measure argument.

Signature Redacted

<u>Chris Hawes</u>		<u>9/7/13</u>
Name of person furnishing argument	Signature	Date Signed
_____	_____	_____
Name of person furnishing argument	Signature	Date Signed
_____	_____	_____
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[For additional names, use Endorsement Form, CCE-25.]

Attached is the following information:

Measure Argument Statement(s) of Endorsement, if applicable (number filed: _____)

NOTE: Language which violates any provision of ORS 251.415 will be excluded from the voters' pamphlet.

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Staff Initials <u>JW</u>	Statements of Endorsement	VP Order # _____
Cash or Check Number <u>1003</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes # _____	Word / Number Count
Receipt Number <u>179956</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Total <u>321</u>

The Citizens Committee for Disincorporation began meeting in 2012 to talk about how to address the issues Damascus has struggled with since incorporation. We considered many options, but only one seemed to offer a real solution to heal this **community**: Disincorporation. We debated this idea for months before filing a petition to Disincorporate the city government.

56

Since December 2012, we have fought a legal challenge to our citizens' petition, gathered signatures, offered information, collected funds from Damascus residents and property owners, and placed the future of the **Damascus Community** before you. We have committed to offering our friends and neighbors an opportunity to rethink the decision made to incorporate in 2002.

55

We knew what we knew then. We faced a staggering decision with very little knowledge of what the future held. Today, if the last 9 years have provided nothing else, they have given us far more knowledge and experience into what being a city means.

45

We were told we needed to manage growth, or we would be swallowed whole by other cities. Today we know there has been no growth, and those cities struggle to provide services to the residents they have.

37

We know far more now. We have lived through the process and seen what it has done to us. We are far more informed than we were. **What is our decision today?**

32

The statements that follow are from your neighbors, your friends, fellow church members, people you see at the store. They tell how they came to support Disincorporation. Some supported incorporation. Others did not. The common theme that runs through them is a concern for Damascus and the people who live here.

51

Please read what these people have to say. Consider where their journey has taken them. Think about what you want for your **Damascus Community**. Then please vote.

We hope you will join us in Voting 'Yes' on Measure 3-433.

45

Thank you,

Citizens Committee for Disincorporation

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CCE-23 (Rev. 01/13)

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CLACKAMAS COUNTY

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E-Mail Address Fax Number chawes1996@aol.com

This Information Furnished By: CCD-Wally Bothum

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Signature Redacted 9/5/13 Wally Bothum Name of person furnishing argument Signature Date Signed

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Damascus incorporated with the idea we could develop the city the way citizens wanted. Local Control it was called. But Oregon land use laws in effect for 40 years mean that inside an Urban Growth Boundary, an urbanization plan is required. Whether a city, or the county develops that plan, state laws must be followed.

Nine years of involvement and serving on committees to develop that plan for Damascus and watching the slow descent into a dysfunctional city lead me to file for Disincorporation. The changes to the city charter have reduced the city council to an advisory capacity and lead to a combination of direct democracy and representative government that isn't working.

Bringing Damascus into the UGB was to create a 20-year supply of buildable land. Eleven years later, nine of those paying city taxes, and nothing has happened! Metro's recent population numbers reveal the present city of Damascus has enough land for at least 40 or 50 years!

The City Council has failed to meet the State deadline to approve a plan and charter tampering has resulted in no funding to implement a plan. It appears any plan will meet with opposition, more chaos, and no consensus.

If this continues, the courts will decide the fate of Damascus, wasting more time and taxpayers' money.

Would the citizen of Damascus benefit from Disincorporation?

Yes! The lay of the land makes providing public sewers difficult and will mean a massive cost. With the charter amendments limiting where the money can come from, the present citizens will pay for infrastructure, and get little benefit. Disincorporation will mean an end to paying taxes for nothing. Disincorporating the city along with its dysfunctional charter would return the Damascus Community to being a rural area of the county with a high probability of Metro removing a large part of Damascus from the UGB.

Stop the Waste! Disincorporate! Vote 'YES' on M3-433!

Wally Bothum
Chief Petitioner for Disincorporation.

CCE-23 (Rev. 01/13)

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E-Mail Address Fax Number chawes1986@aol.com

This Information Furnished By: CCD-George Samaan

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George Samaan Name of person furnishing argument Signature Date Signed 9/8/13

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For 23 years we lived in unincorporated Damascus. As a land use planner, I always believed that cities are better at deploying public services: an elected council hires staff, appoints commissions and committees, and the staff runs city daily affairs. Simple, assuming a functional government is in place. It was not that simple in Damascus. 55

In January of 2005 the newly elected council met for the first time. Among those present was a very competent planner, ostensibly hired to help guide the comprehensive plan process. A good omen, I thought. The council was sworn in and proceeded to discuss the anticipated work on the comprehensive plan. When I asked a question that the planning consultant began to answer, he was interrupted by one of the councilors, who went on to provide quite a garbled response. A bad omen: a very knowledgeable professional was not being listened to. 92

Two years later, I was appointed to a 23-member Community Coordinating Committee (C3) and began sensing flaws in the process. My attempts to raise red flags were ignored. Another bad omen. When my attempts to influence the process in a positive way fell on deaf ears, I resigned my position on the C3, pointing out that I no longer wished to serve in a process that was doomed to fail. And fail it did. Recent efforts to revive it were too late to save it and finally succumbed to political gridlock. 91

Dysfunction has been a hallmark of this government. The financial costs to taxpayers, the time spent on a fruitless pursuit of a City on a Hill, and our maligned reputation as a community is staggering. Therefore, I do not see any reason for it to exist any longer. It has inflicted its share of lasting damage on our beloved community. 60

Disincorporation is our best way out of this mess.

Stop the waste! Disincorporate! Vote YES on M3-433! 26

George Samaan,
Retired Land Use Planner and Chief Petitioner

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[X] Argument in Favor [] Argument in Opposition [X] Original Argument [] Amended Argument

Argument paid for by (name and address) Phone (home) Phone (work) E-Mail Address Fax Number

This Information Furnished By: CCD-Diana Helm

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Signature Redacted Diana Helm Name of person furnishing argument Signature Date Signed 9/5/13

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Staff Initials JW Statements of Endorsement VP Order # 313 RSD Cash or Check Number 1003 Word / Number Count Receipt Number 179956 [X] No Total

Damascus residents deserve this opportunity to vote whether we should continue down the path of wasted taxpayer money, or simply end the contention, drama, and dysfunction and return to being the "**Community of Damascus**".

Many citizens were sold on the "local control" aspect of being a city. I was one of them. If I knew then what I know now, I would not vote to incorporate. Damascus is held to the same standards as all other cities in the region and state and we must abide by the same rules. 90

Our city government was established for these purposes: develop a Comprehensive Plan within state law, re-zone our properties, administer development permits, and manage public facilities. We did not incorporate to waste time at city council meetings where important decisions have not been made after 10 years.

The poorly written and badly constructed charter amendments prevent the city from doing the one thing it's supposed to do. They only contribute to the monumental waste of our money and become a great reason to Disincorporate.

Our taxpayer money is also funding continual personal agendas from our elected officials, who don't like playing by the rules. I refuse to pay for someone else's battles. Elected officials who can't accomplish anything or compromise to move our city forward are holding our property values hostage. Enough is enough.

I urge each of you to take out your Clackamas County tax bills. Find the line item: City of Damascus. **What have you gotten for those dollars over the past 10 years?** Clackamas County still provides all of our services, under contract with the city. We have police, fire, water, utilities, and garbage service. **The city provides none of those services.** We have No Comprehensive Plan, No Zoning, and No Future.

307 **Should we continue until we have No Community?**

308 **Stop the Waste. Save our Community. Vote 'YES' on M3-433.**

Diana Helm
Owner, Terra Casa
Former City Councilor

CCE-23 (Rev. 01/13)

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E-Mail Address chawes1996@aol.com	Fax Number

This Information Furnished By: CCD-David Jothen

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Signature Redacted

<u>David Jothen</u> Name of person furnishing argument	<u>[Redacted Signature]</u> Signature	<u>9-5-13</u> Date Signed
_____ Name of person furnishing argument	_____ Signature	_____ Date Signed
_____ Name of person furnishing argument	_____ Signature	_____ Date Signed

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Receipt Number <u>179956</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Total <u>313</u>

Nine years ago, the citizens of the community of Damascus voted to become a city. The battle cry of this vote was Local Control, with the promise of preventing adjoining cities from gobbling us up. 35

My membership on citizen involvement committees in Gresham, and the Chamber of Commerce, provided a unique perspective of what being a city meant, and showed me that complete Local Control was not reality. 33

Becoming a city meant a new set of rules we would be required to follow, from the State, the County, and Metro. Local Control was great in theory, but not a reality. Thus I voted no on incorporation. 38

Fast-forward nine years. Nine years of paying Damascus city taxes, and the better part of them for this past 2 ½ years going to lawyers, to deal with dysfunction and infighting in our City Council. 36

I served 4 years as a City Councilor, and while we may not have always been correct, we at least worked together, and we listened to the citizens. We were moving forward. That cannot be said today. 37

These past few years have shown us what a monumental task it is to become a city. Actions by some on Council have drawn lines in the sand, and turned neighbor against neighbor, and friend against friend. 37

Our community is at risk, a community that came together over a little girl struck by a car to help her and her family. I was proud of that community. With what has happened in this "city" over the past 2 years, I wonder if we can get back to that "**community**". 52

We have wasted millions of dollars, created anger, and sown division in our **community**. All due to the fact that frankly we went in over our heads, and didn't truly understand the task at hand. 35

Stop the Waste, Save our Community, Vote 'Yes' on M3-433. 11

David R. Jothen
Former City Councilor
Damascus Citizen

CCE-23 (Rev. 01/13)

ORS 251.355

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E-Mail Address chawes1996@aol.com	Fax Number

This Information Furnished By: CCD - Jim Syring

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<u>Jim Syring</u> Name of person furnishing argument	Signature Redacted Signature	<u>09/08/13</u> Date Signed
_____ Name of person furnishing argument	_____ Signature	_____ Date Signed
_____ Name of person furnishing argument	_____ Signature	_____ Date Signed

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Cash or Check Number <u>1003</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes # <u>29</u>	Word / Number Count
Receipt Number <u>179956</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Total <u>287</u>

Fellow Damascus Residents,

We, the residents of West Damascus and members of the Foster-Troge-Vogel Neighborhood Group named below, are United in our support for disincorporation. We encourage your YES vote in ending the City and lowering our taxes on November 5th. 43

After thousands of hours and millions of dollars over 8 years, its official; Damascus will not have a Comprehensive Plan on the November ballot. Our City leaders have failed. Our city hall is in a state of disarray. Councilors have resigned. Multiple City Managers have resigned. Volunteers have resigned. Committee members have resigned. It will not end until we disincorporate, period. 61

The city has spent Millions of our tax dollars since 2004 and we have absolutely nothing to show for it. When you receive your property tax statement in October, look closely at your Damascus tax line item that you will pay. A YES vote will end that payment forever and lower your taxes. We have other options so don't listen to the scare tactics. Happy Valley is an excellent option. Staying unincorporated is an option. Reincorporating in the future may be an option. 83

We must get over 50% of the voters to actually vote YES so voting is crucial! Together if we fail, the waste will continue. Please VOTE YES for Disincorporation. 89

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| √ Steven Kent | √ James Karn | √ Carol Evans |
| √ Jennifer Kent | √ Teresa Karn | √ Tavin Miller |
| √ Anna Farwell-Leischner | √ Thomas Rich | √ Warren Evans |
| √ Dennis Leischner | √ Roger Roth | √ Jerome Hoemberg |
| √ Priscilla Benitez | √ Steve Deters | √ Candi Hoemberg |
| √ Samuel Benitez | √ Suzanne Deters | √ Laura Deters |
| √ Shane Deters | √ Kerry Owen | √ Arnold Deters Jr |
| √ Fred McFall | √ James Syring | √ Lisa Jacobs |
| √ Karen McFall | √ Evelyn Syring | √ David Jacobs |
| √ Cheryl Reimche | √ Steven Hickethier | |
- 60

Citizens of West Damascus and the Foster-Troge-Vogel Neighborhood Group

CCE-23 (Rev. 01/13)

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Damascus, OR

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503-658-6069

Phone (work)

E-Mail Address

chawes1996@aol.com

Fax Number

This Information Furnished By:

CCD-Brian Gosney

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Signature Redacted

Brian Gosney

Name of person furnishing argument

Signature

9/5/2013
Date Signed

Name of person furnishing argument

Signature

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No

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16 years ago, my wife and I decided to move out of East Portland. We were looking for a rural community where we could raise our two-year old son; a place where neighbor helped neighbor; a place where you might see deer grazing in the fields or hear coyotes yelping ~~in the evenings~~. We found these things in the **Damascus Community**.

Nine years ago, I voted for incorporation out of Fear and Hope. **I was afraid** that the community of Damascus would be taken over by Happy Valley and/or Gresham. **I was afraid** that Metro would come in and destroy our rural way of life. **I was hopeful** that incorporation would better protect my interests.

116

Since incorporation, here is what I have **learned, experienced, and observed**:

I have learned...Annexation of property occurs in one of four ways. By far the two most typical are:

30

An existing city invites property owners to annex and the people vote.

Property owners **ask** a city to be annexed.

33

In either of these two scenarios, **a community is not forced** into annexation.

I have learned...Metro is here to stay. If your property is within the urban growth boundary, property development must comply with Metro's minimums.

24

I have experienced...significant tax increases. The return on my investment is dismal. Some believe we have gone too far to stop now. As a person who manages money, I believe that we need to stop investing good money after bad.

41

I have observed...Damascus become the battleground for Oregon's land use law. The extremists on either side will never allow the other to govern. After thousands of volunteer hours and millions of dollars spent, our city council chose not to refer a comprehensive plan to the ballot.

47

What is the solution? Vote YES ON MEASURE 3-433.

9

Let's start over. Those who want to live in unincorporated Clackamas County could. Those who may want to reincorporate could. But first, **Let's save our Damascus Community**.

27

Brian Gosney

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This Information Furnished By: CCD - Ernie Platt

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Signature Redacted

Ernie Platt
 Name of person furnishing argument

[Redacted Signature]
 Signature

31 Aug 2013
 Date Signed

Name of person furnishing argument

Signature

Date Signed

Name of person furnishing argument

Signature

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No

Total 311

To my Damascus Neighbors:

My wife and I moved to Damascus in 1992 to take advantage of the rural character, while still being within commuting distance to nearby services. And I suspect many of you did likewise. 37

We weren't pleased in 2002 when Metro included us in the Urban Growth Boundary, but it seemed reasonable to try to determine our destiny, if we now had to prepare to urbanize. I was honored to serve with Dee Wescott on The Committee for the Future of Damascus as we advocated for incorporation as a way to control preparation of a comprehensive plan, our tax rate, and the services we wanted from our city, and in 2004 we successfully incorporated Damascus. 81

Since then, I have volunteered on the Citizen Coordinating Committee, The original Charter Committee, and served 5 years as chair of the Development Code team. The development code we recently delivered to the planning commission and city council would have been the implementation tool for the comprehensive plan. 48

In the 9 years since incorporation, we have burned through seven city managers and eight annual city budgets of millions of dollars, and we still have no plan. The state requires new cities to complete and adopt a plan within four years of incorporation. We have had nine years, and we still have no plan. I have paid over \$7,500 in property taxes to the city, and have nothing to show for it. 13

Many people, including myself, have volunteered thousands of hours trying to make Damascus a functioning city. We are not. It appears that people moved here to escape the very things being a city means. It is time to accept reality, end the collection of the city property tax, return the planning process to Clackamas County, and go back to being a rural community. 62

I urge you to vote YES on Measure 3-433. 9

Ernie Platt
Former Chair,
Development Code Topic Specific Team

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This Information Furnished By:

CCD - John Fromwiller

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Signature Redacted

John Fromwiller
 Name of person furnishing argument

/
 Signature

9/5/13
 Date Signed

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Signature

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Statements of Endorsement

VP Order # 298 K's

Cash or Check Number 1003

Yes # _____

Word / Number Count

Receipt Number 179958

No

Total _____

Are you better off now than you were nine years ago?

Ronald Reagan's famous campaign question sums up the situation for Damascus residents as we consider Disincorporation. Nine years of haggling and infighting, millions spent on consultants and public meetings, changes in City Council members until deadlock exists, and we still do not have a Comprehensive Plan. Meanwhile we pay taxes to fund the planning efforts and set up reserves for the day when we could build a city hall, parks, greenways, and other amenities of a small rural city. That day is nowhere in sight.

It is time for the bickering and waste to end.

Opponents of the measure will tell you that Disincorporation will make a multi-million dollar gift of our tax dollars to Clackamas County. This is unfortunately true. Those same persons were on the last Budget Committee and voted down my motions for a one-year city tax rate of \$0 per thousand until this Disincorporation measure was decided. That reduction would have allowed us to fund city operations with reserves, reducing the amount transferred to Clackamas County on Disincorporation. Every City Council member voted against the reduction.

Opponents say that Disincorporation will put us under Metro and Clackamas County control. What they do not say is that by state law we have always been under Metro and Clackamas County control. Whatever Comprehensive Plan we adopt must follow State land use laws, administered by Metro and Clackamas County. Becoming a city did not magically remove us from their control. It simply added another layer of expensive government to the layers already weighing us down.

Our dream was to create a city with rural character. We have seen that dream, and our community, shattered.

It is time to stop the waste. **Vote "YES" on M3-433.**

John Fromwiller, CPA

Former Budget Committee member (nine years), Former Treasurer - Committee to Incorporate Damascus, Former Treasurer - Committee for the Future of Damascus

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

MEASURE ARGUMENT FOR COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET

[for instructions and filing fees, see page 3]

Election Date: November 5, 2013 Ballot Measure Number: 3-433

[X] Argument in Favor [] Argument in Opposition [X] Original Argument [] Amended Argument

Argument paid for by (name and address) Phone (home) Phone (work) E-Mail Address Fax Number

This Information Furnished By: CCD-Jim Syring

If applicable, name of organization represented, as intended to be displayed in voters' pamphlet. Note: If this argument is not being filed by a registered Oregon Political Committee, you may be required to register as a political committee or submit a Statement of Independent Expenditures (PC 10) with the Secretary of State. Refer to the Campaign Finance Manual for further information. Below, print name(s) of person(s) furnishing information, as intended to be displayed in voters' pamphlet, accompanied by their signature(s): By signing this document, I/we hereby state that I/we am/are responsible for the content of this argument (ORS 251.415), and that we have read and understand the instructions for submitting a measure argument.

Signature Redacted

09/07/2013 Date Signed

Name of person furnishing argument Signature Date Signed

[For additional names, use Endorsement Form, CCE-25.]

Attached is the following information:

[X] Measure Argument [] Statement(s) of Endorsement, if applicable (number filed:)

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Staff Initials JWO Statements of Endorsement VP Order # Cash or Check Number 1003 Word / Number Count Receipt Number 179956 Total

Measure Argument For County Voter's Pamphlet

Damascus Friends and Neighbors,

4

I have lived in Damascus for 51 years. I was born in Damascus and I will be buried in Damascus at the Pioneer Cemetery. Damascus has been my life. I have worked here, I have volunteered here, and I have served on City committees and planning groups.

47

We have reached a critical point in our history that we must end now. It has become our duty to end the chaos, the waste of our tax dollars, and look for other options.

34

The United States Declaration of Independence (Thomas Jefferson, July 4, 1776) states:

12

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, **That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government,** laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness".

111

Damascus Citizens, please read this passage slowly and carefully. The declaration speaks for itself. When you insert the name "City of Damascus" into the phrase "Any Form Of Government" it is the right of the people to abolish it and institute new government. Please help the people by enacting our god given right handed to us by our forefathers and vote **Yes on Disincorporation.**

64

James Syring

7

51 year Resident of Damascus

279

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

MEASURE ARGUMENT FOR COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET

[for instructions and filing fees, see page 3]

Election Date: November 5, 2013 Ballot Measure Number: 3-433

Argument in Favor Argument in Opposition Original Argument Amended Argument

Argument paid for by (name and address) Citizens Committee for Disincorporation 14400 SE Hollyview Ct. Damascus, OR 97089	Phone (home) 503-658-6069
	Phone (work)
E-Mail Address chawes1996@aol.com	Fax Number

This Information Furnished By: CCD - Randy and Kathy Russell

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<u>Randy Russell</u> Name of person furnishing argument	Signature Redacted	<u>8/28/13</u> Date Signed
<u>Kathy Russell</u> Name of person furnishing argument	Signature Redacted	<u>8-28-13</u> Date Signed
_____ Name of person furnishing argument	_____ Signature	_____ Date Signed

[For additional names, use Endorsement Form, CCE-25.]

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Staff Initials <u>JW</u>	Statements of Endorsement	VP Order # _____
Cash or Check Number <u>1003</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes # _____	Word / Number Count
Receipt Number <u>179956</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Total <u>313</u>

We are in favor of Disincorporation of the City of Damascus. Many promises have been made to protect our "property rights". In reality our property rights have been ignored in favor of those who wish to develop on steep and unstable slopes to benefit their own pocket books. The most vocal of the "property rights" advocates really mean "their property rights", and to heck with their neighbors. 67

Our city is deadlocked, dysfunctional, and is incapable of constructive compromise. If we continue as a city we will only see more erosion of "property rights" in a quest for the almighty dollar. This quest will cost us taxpayers dearly. It has been 9 years with no comprehensive plan; do we really want to continue to fund this city for another 9 years? We have received no services or benefits for the \$600.00 per year that we have paid in property taxes. We can't even get them to mail us a city newsletter! 93

Incorporation was "sold" to Damascus citizens as a way to protect us from big, bad, Metro. The reality is that Damascus, as well as all cities, must follow state law. We don't need to be a city to follow state law; the county can accomplish this. 46

Development can't occur in Damascus without costly infrastructure and our city charter prohibits Damascus from charging developers for the infrastructure. Why be a city? Citizens shouldn't be paying for new services for developers. 33 33

Those who want to stay a city are still trying to scare us so they can "protect us" from big, bad Metro. They are also "scaring" us with the claim that Clackamas County will make Damascus an industrial wasteland. Industry goes where transportation and services are established, not to rural areas with no infrastructure. 54

Disincorporation will stop the scare tactics and we can go back to being a community. 20

Please Vote 'Yes' on M3-433.

Sincerely,
Randy & Kathy Russell
Damascus

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

MEASURE ARGUMENT FOR COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET

[for instructions and filing fees, see page 3]

Election Date: November 5, 2013 Ballot Measure Number: 3-433

[X] Argument in Favor [] Argument in Opposition [X] Original Argument [] Amended Argument

Argument paid for by (name and address) Phone (home)
Citizens Committee for Disincorporation 503-658-6069
14400 SE Hollyview Ct. Phone (work)
Damascus, OR

E-Mail Address Fax Number
chawes1996@aol.com

This Information Furnished By: CCD-Sharon Huffman

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Signature Redacted

Sharon Huffman 9/5/13
Name of person furnishing argument Signature Date Signed

Name of person furnishing argument Signature Date Signed

Name of person furnishing argument Signature Date Signed

[For additional names, use Endorsement Form, CCE-25.]

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Staff Initials JW Statements of Endorsement VP Order #

Cash or Check Number 1003 [] Yes # Word / Number Count

Receipt Number 179956 [X] No Total

I have been a resident in the Damascus area since early 1993. I did not vote to incorporate the city, but as the majority of my neighbors did, I decided to support that decision. Three years ago the City Council presented a map that changed my zoning from residential to employment. I tried to talk to City Staff and appeared in front of the Council to ask that they explain why they chose to do this. No answers were given. 79

At that time, I realized I needed to get involved with the City and applied to join the Committee for Citizen Involvement. I served on the Committee, eventually becoming Vice Chair. I enjoyed serving with the CCI as we held a series of Town Halls over the last several years, but the more informed I became with City politics the more disturbed I found myself. My taxes continue to go up and no city services are provided. The City Council is totally dysfunctional, self-serving, and in no way represent the citizens they were elected to serve. 97

The choice to fire our seventh City Manger in nine years, with no reason stated, no public input, and behind closed doors, moved me to resign from the CCI. I could no longer represent the citizens with integrity. We are a wonderful Community and I will continue to work to bring the Community together serving as Vice Chair for our local non-profit. **But the city must go.** 68

I urge you to vote for the Disincorporation of the City of Damascus. The terrible waste of our tax dollars by the City is unacceptable. With Disincorporation, our city property taxes will be eliminated, we will return to being in Clackamas County, and we can get back to being a strong, quiet, rural community. 71

Please join me in ending the nightmare the **Damascus city government** has become.

Vote 'YES' on M3-433!

Sharon Huffman

Former Vice Chair-Committee for Citizen Involvement

315

CCE-23 (Rev. 01/13)

ORS 251.355

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

MEASURE ARGUMENT FOR COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET

[for instructions and filing fees, see page 3]

Election Date: November 5, 2013 Ballot Measure Number: 3-433

Argument in Favor Argument in Opposition Original Argument Amended Argument

Argument paid for by (name and address) Citizens Committee for Disincorporation 14400 SE Hollyview Ct. Damascus, OR	Phone (home) 503-658-6069
	Phone (work)
E-Mail Address chawes1996@aol.com	Fax Number

This Information Furnished By: CCD-Beau Williams

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Signature Redacted

<u>Beau Williams</u> Name of person furnishing argument	<u>[Redacted Signature]</u> Signature	<u>9/5/13</u> Date Signed
_____ Name of person furnishing argument	_____ Signature	_____ Date Signed
_____ Name of person furnishing argument	_____ Signature	_____ Date Signed

[For additional names, use Endorsement Form, CCE-25.]

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Cash or Check Number <u>1063</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes # _____	Word / Number Count
Receipt Number <u>179956</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Total <u>317</u>

When I was young, my community was finally "growing up" – things were being built, improvements were being installed, "dead" areas were being renovated and (much like here), the new freeway had finally cleared all the hurdles and we were finally going to be connected to the places we needed to go. 50

But there was one guy who fought it all. He didn't like the improvements, he didn't like being connected to anything, he didn't like change. He refused to sell his lot for any price, showed up to argue at every meeting, told everyone how the city was going to be ruined and become a cesspool, etc. Eventually, he succeeded in alienating everyone, including his neighbors and everything just had to build around him. It was a sadly comical site – a small, darkly painted, old house, sitting like an island with the rest of the community finding its identity in the modern world, just beyond his fences. 106

I'm sure that up to the day he died, he thought that he had "won". But, if you go back there now, you can't see anything of his legacy, and you can't find anyone who remembers his name or his "message". All you see is the community he had once spurned; healthy and happy, now free of the anchor he had forced them to drag along. 46

I'm seeing something similar in the City of Damascus. Public agencies are treated as if their sole purpose is to destroy us; articles in regional newspapers discuss our issues with derision and cynicism; and debates have degraded into "it's our way or the highway" 44

These problems did not exist when we were still under County control. 12

I'm tired of my taxes funding a City who can only argue and alienate. I prefer my taxes funding a community that works together for common goals, even if it means disincorporating.

Join me in voting "Yes" on M3-433. 39

Beau Williams

Damascus Citizen

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

MEASURE ARGUMENT FOR COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET

[for instructions and filing fees, see page 3]

Election Date: November 5, 2013 Ballot Measure Number: 3-433

Argument in Favor Argument in Opposition Original Argument Amended Argument

Argument paid for by (name and address) Citizens Committee for Disincorporation 14400 SE Hollyview Ct. Damascus, OR 97089	Phone (home) 503-658-6069
	Phone (work)

E-Mail Address chawas1996@aol.com	Fax Number
--------------------------------------	------------

This Information Furnished By: Citizens Committee for Disincorporation

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Signature Redacted

<u>Chris Hawes</u> Name of person furnishing argument	<u>[Redacted Signature]</u> Signature	<u>9/5/13</u> Date Signed
_____ Name of person furnishing argument	_____ Signature	_____ Date Signed
_____ Name of person furnishing argument	_____ Signature	_____ Date Signed

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Cash or Check Number <u>1003</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes # _____	Word / Number Count
Receipt Number <u>179956</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Total <u>321</u>

Yes On M3-433!

It is time to admit that the City of Damascus has become a failed, expensive expedition. Many of us have spent a lot of time, and all Damascans have spent a lot of money, trying to plan a future city. Yet the city we endlessly plan keeps receding into the distance like a desert mirage. We think we see water, an oasis perhaps. We struggle over the next barren dune only to find more sand, more rocks, no water, and no city. 85

For nine long years we have wandered the desert. We tried this route and that route. We are told by what is left of City Hall that if we only go over one more dune, we will find our oasis. 40

Yet right at the moment when we seem to have a plan most of us agreed on, the City Council pushes out the City Manager, lays off staff, fails to adopt a plan, and points us in a completely different direction. 41

Thanks but no thanks. Every year and dollar we waste on this journey is time and money we will never get back. 22

We never wanted this journey. We were happy with the **Damascus Community** we had. A beautiful tapestry of valley farms, forested hills, and scattered subdivisions that most in the Portland area envy. It wasn't our choice to make a city here. Why should we keep paying for change we didn't want in the first place? 53

We have an opportunity right now to end this expensive city and save **our community**. This chance is not likely to come around again. Let's vote to disincorporate and make those who want a city here pay for it and make it happen. Put the onus on them while we return to our rural lives. 55

Stop throwing good money and time after bad.

Please join us in voting YES on M3-433 to end this journey through the desert. 23

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

MEASURE ARGUMENT FOR COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET

[for instructions and filing fees, see page 3]

Election Date: November 5, 2013 Ballot Measure Number: 3-433

[X] Argument in Favor [] Argument in Opposition [X] Original Argument [] Amended Argument

Argument paid for by (name and address)
Citizens Committee for Disincorporation
14400 SE Hollyview Ct.
Damascus, OR

Phone (home)
503-658-6069

Phone (work)

E-Mail Address

chawes1996@aol.com

Fax Number

This Information Furnished By:

CCD-Louise Neilson

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Signature Redacted

Louise Neilson

Name of person furnishing argument

Signature

9-7-13
Date Signed

Name of person furnishing argument

Signature

Date Signed

Name of person furnishing argument

Signature

Date Signed

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Staff Initials JED

Statements of Endorsement

VP Order # 309 EP

Cash or Check Number 1003

[] Yes #

Word / Number Count

Receipt Number 179956

[X] No

Total

Continuously divisive, dysfunction city politics have finally compelled me to support the effort to disincorporate Damascus.

Although the original supporters of incorporation meant well, we incorporated for the wrong reasons; mostly as a reaction to being brought into the UGB and fears of "becoming like Happy Valley." There was a naïve belief that local control meant we still wouldn't have to answer to state, regional, and county planning.

Although most people moved here to avoid being within a city, we are still called to be in community. Community projects and activities have gone on in Damascus for over 100 years. They began before we were incorporated and will continue after we disincorporate. The Day in Damascus, weekly farmer's markets, Good Morning Damascus, Centennial Park, plus all the local school and church community events will continue regardless.

We don't need to be a city to be a **community**. The era of incorporation has only diminished that inherent sense of support as neighbors and congregations are split by politics. Once that tension ends we can begin to heal the divisions and return to being a rural community.

Disincorporation will allow tempers to cool, negative memories to fade. It will deprive political opponents the opportunity to belittle, defame, and discredit others at City Council meetings. The allegations about immediate industrialization will also fade as people realize that there is no infrastructure to support large construction. And that the local topography and the associated costs will prevent urbanization for decades to come.

I urge you to read the other letters supporting disincorporation, along with those against it, and determine for yourself who genuinely has the **community's** best interests at heart. Then please vote. We need a large turn out to end Metro's "failed experiment" and allow us to return to being the **caring rural community** we once were.

Please Vote 'YES' on M3-433!

Louise Neilson

Damascus Resident