

Public Comment – Ordinance No. 2025-1224

March 19, 2026

Dear Stevenson City Council Members,

I am a Stevenson property owner and former city council member, writing to express concern about Ordinance No. 2025-1224, which mandates connection to newly installed sewer lines.

This requirement places a significant financial burden on property owners who have functioning septic systems and have not contributed to or impacted the city's sewer infrastructure. To date, there have been no documented health or safety issues related to these systems, raising questions about the necessity and timing of this mandate.

The costs associated with forced connection—including installation, system development charges, and potential liens—are already affecting property values, affordability, and the ability to sell homes. Many affected owners were also unaware of the recent delay in implementation to August 31, 2026.

I respectfully ask the Council to use this delay to:

- Clearly communicate with all impacted property owners
- Provide transparent financial analysis of the project and its fairness
- Reevaluate whether mandatory connection is justified in the absence of demonstrated risk

At a minimum, the City should consider removing mandatory fees and allowing voluntary connection, rather than imposing financial hardship on a small group of property owners.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristy Arnett McCaskell

Stevenson Property Owner