

## *Social & Environmental Justice:*

- Support filling empty store-fronts and mixed-use development
- Transfer abandoned & under-used state and federal sites to Randolph control
- Develop open-access parks for our kids, and rail trails & walking trails for pedestrians
- Co-founded Randolph Foundation for Education: private funding to public schools

## *Political & Economic Justice:*

- Redistrict with 2020 census to create a Randolph state House district
- Co-founded Randolph United PAC, providing annual scholarships for RHS grads.
- Publicize street paving schedules and water quality information on town website

## *About Jesse:*

- Graduate of Harvard University and Brandeis University
- History of working with municipal, state, & federal agencies & grants.
- Got unaccounted-for \$8 million in Cambridge budget returned to taxpayers
- With EPA, provided water quality information to the public when the Tucson (AZ) water system collapsed.
- Member of MTA (teacher's union)
- Member NAACP, ACLU, and RDTG
- My 12-year fiancée Kathleen and I have four grown children between us

## *For more:*

www.JesseGordon.com (617) 320-6989  
52 West St., Randolph MA 02368  
jesse@jessegordon.com

# Jesse Gordon for Randolph Town Council

Dear Randolph voter,

My newspaper article inside this flyer is about dealing with Randolph's water crisis. The people of Randolph need more public information about our water quality, and about our recent problems. The Town Council needs to make that information available, and then trust that the people of Randolph will apply that information to decide the next steps.

Some of my proposed solutions will require new spending, but the means to pay for them should be "Grants and Growth and Good Government," not raising property taxes. The lack of public information about our water system is the opposite of "Good Government!"

In the early 2000s, I worked on a grant-funded water quality project, to provide information to the public about a water system in crisis. Randolph could benefit by learning the lessons from that project: the most important lesson is "give the public more information!"

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After this flyer first appeared in August, the Town Council on Sept. 9 held a discussion with Town Councilor Q&A (public excluded), and then there was a public-included "Community Meeting on Water Issues," on Sept. 12, hosted by Town Councilors Clifton and Huff-Larmond – these were good first steps!

Jesse attended both meetings and suggested making more timely water quality information available on the town website – and that additional public forums be held, until Randolph's water crisis is permanently resolved!

Jesse Gordon for  
Randolph Town Council:

## *Dealing With Our Water Crisis*



***Vote for Jesse on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>!***

- *More education funding*
- *More public access to public places*
- *More inclusive and welcoming town for newcomers*



**G** Grants  
**G** Growth  
**G** Good Government

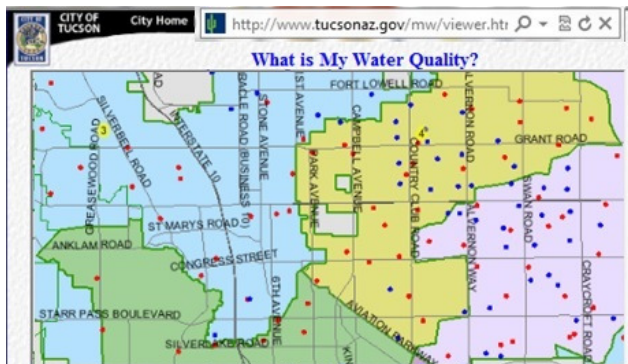
# Dealing with Randolph's Water Crisis

**(expanded reprint from the Randolph Journal-Sun, August-September 2019)**

Do you trust Randolph's drinking water? Do you know what's happening with our water system? I think people can only *TRUST* our drinking water if they *KNOW* what's happening with the water system – and it's our right as residents to hear a lot more than we've heard.

Try searching for what's going on with the Randolph water crisis – you'll find some news articles from last month's "boil water" order, but nothing since that order was lifted. The Randolph Water Division's website shows only general information, without daily water quality specifics, and nothing about the current problems. If you dig, you can find an annual report on water quality from 2018. To maintain trust in our water system, we need a lot more than that.

What happens if a town loses trust in its water system? That happened in Tucson, Arizona, in the early 2000s, and my job at the time was to rebuild trust in the Tucson water system after it collapsed. We did that by sharing lots of information with the public – which is what Randolph should do, to avoid a total collapse like Tucson's.



Tucson's water quality website, which I created. The dots indicate individual sensors where you can click to see water quality information, updated at least once daily.

Let me tell you Tucson's story, then apply the lessons learned to Randolph. Tucson, a desert town, needed more drinking water, so the federal government built a 336-mile-long canal, and fed it into the Tucson water system. Unfortunately, the mineral content was so different that the city's pipes corroded, and people's water taps spewed out discolored water (like I hear from Randolph residents daily!). Everyone had to buy bottled water, so the entire Water Department was fired, and the federal EPA stepped in to rebuild the system.

As an EPA contractor, my role was to inform the public about the new system's water quality. We did that by installing hundreds of sensors around the city, and I created a website that compiled all of that sensor data, and reported it daily to the public, so people could see a dozen measures of water quality specific to every city block. The idea was that, to rebuild trust, everyone could see every measure of water quality every day.

Wouldn't it be appropriate to address Randolph's water crisis by sharing more information like that? Randolph's water quality report comes out once a year – but our water department gathers water quality data every day, right now – so why not show it every day?

Sure, that would cost some money, but there are grants available for that – my job in Tucson was paid by an "EMPACT grant," for example. When you hear about "investing in infrastructure," this is it – we need to spend more on our water system because it's very old. This topic comes up all the time – which means there are federal grants available to pay for that investment. Let's find some!

Without spending any money, Randolph can start informing the public about our water crisis by holding a public forum every few months, so that the people of Randolph can learn what's going on. Those public forums should focus on three questions:

- **The Past: What happened?** What went wrong in July that we had to boil our water? Why have we had a "water ban" in place for decades?
- **The Present: Is it fixed?** Permanently? What other problems is our water system experiencing? What's needed to address the problems permanently?
- **The Future: What's next?** Aren't we getting a whole new system? How many years will that take to build? What do we need in the meantime?

I've heard the new water system will take years to build, and that broken pump and other fixes are all interim fixes. But I'm no expert on the details – all I've got is word-of-mouth news. We need to hear from our town's experts on the questions above.

I *AM* an expert on delivering water quality information to the public – and we certainly need more water quality information delivered to the people of Randolph – both on the Water Division's website, and at a public forum, as soon as possible.

Water Quality Measure	Water Quality Measure Results			
	Average	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Number of Samples
Chlorine, mg/L	0.84	0.52	1.1	296
Coliform Bactera, # Pos.	0	N/A	N/A	284
Fluoride, mg/L F	0.45	0.33	0.66	96
Hardness, mg/L CaCO <sub>3</sub>	201	81	253	97
Nitrate as Nitrogen, mg/L N	1.32	0.68	2.6	96
Sodium, mg/L Na	60.0	44.0	69.0	97
Temperature, deg.F	80.8	68.0	91.4	286
Total Dissolved Solids, mg/L	447	279	523	286
Total Trihalomethanes, ug/L	8.5	7.6	9.3	2
pH, Std. Units	7.93	7.61	8.14	284

One of Tucson's water quality charts from their public website. You can get these figures for every neighborhood, and for every individual sensor, every day or summarized by month or year. These are the SAME data points that go into Randolph's annual report – we should make them more readily available!