

# Dynamic Changes in Fluoridation Policy

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Jefferson City, Missouri

# History

Community water fluoridation is one of ten great public health achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Ten great public health achievements – United States, 1990-1999.  
MMWR 1999;48(12):241-3.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr//PDF/wk/mm4812.pdf>

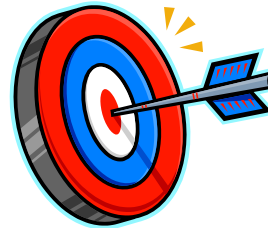
# Future

## Healthy People 2020

Objective OH-13: Increase the proportion of the U.S. population served by community water systems with optimally fluoridated water

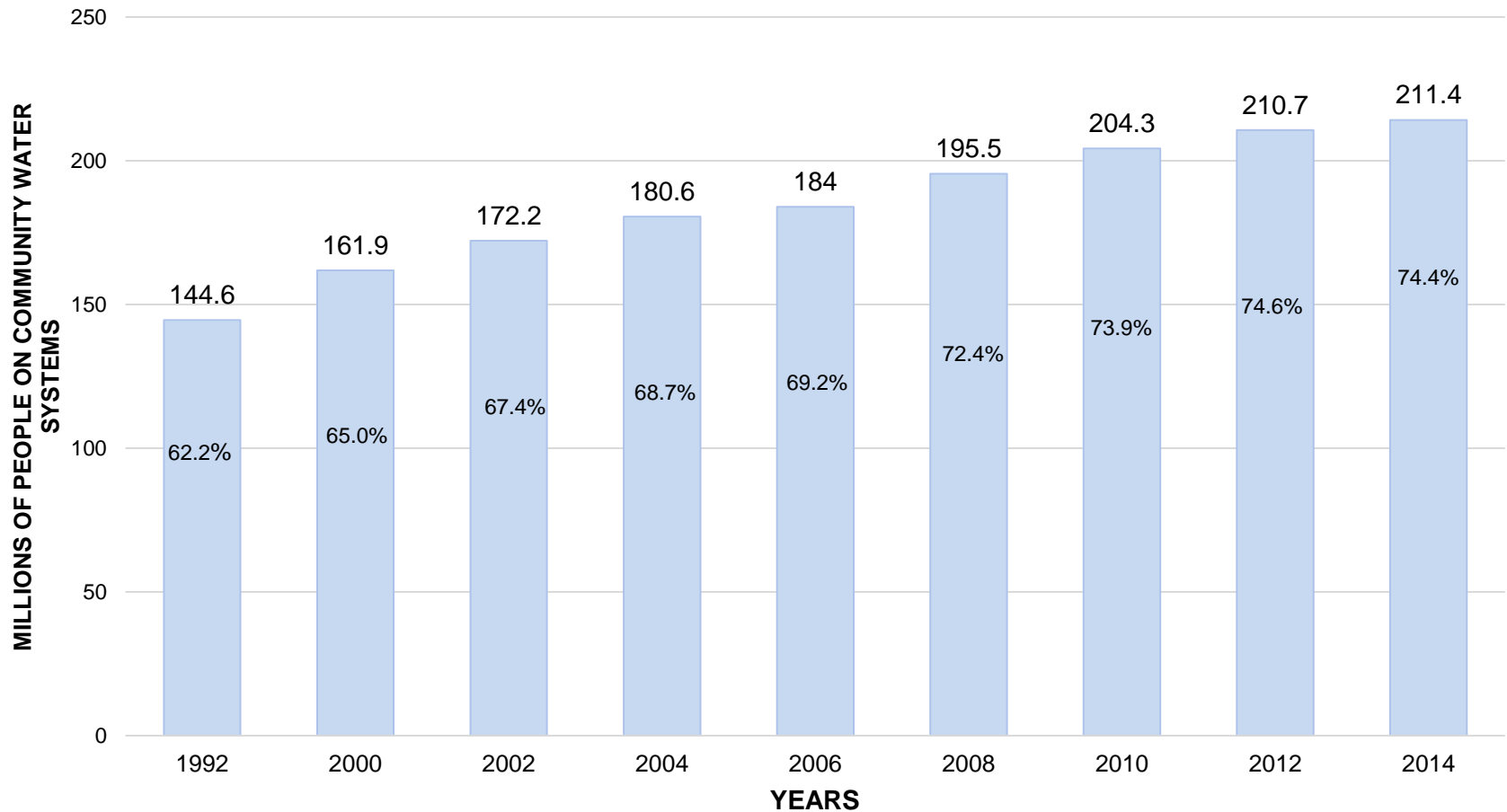
Target: 79.6 %

Missouri (2014): 76.8%



<https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/statistics/2014stats.htm>

# Status of Fluoridation (2014)



Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Water Fluoridation Statistics  
Available at [https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/statistics/reference\\_stats.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/statistics/reference_stats.htm)



# States with Mandatory Fluoridation Laws

- Arkansas (2011)
- California (1995/2004)
- Connecticut (1965)
- Delaware (1998)
- Georgia (1973)
- Illinois (1967/2011)
- Kentucky (1966)
- Louisiana (2008)
- Minnesota (1967)
- Mississippi (2009)
- Nebraska (1973/2008)
- Nevada (1999)
- Ohio (1969)
- South Dakota (1969)
- District of Columbia (1952)

# State Legislative Efforts

## Unintended Consequences

Nebraska

Louisiana



# State Legislative Efforts

## Pro and Con Proposed Legislation

2015

13 Bills in 11 States

2016

16 Bills in 11 States

2 Resolutions

2017

24 Bills in 13 States + One resolution





# State Fluoridation-related Legislation 2015

- 10 States
  - (AR, CT, GA, HI, ME, MN, MO, NY, TN and TX)
- 11 Bills Introduced
  - Four related to positive fluoridation activity
  - Seven related to negative fluoridation activity
- One Bill Passed and Signed into Law (NY)

# State Fluoridation-related Legislation 2016

- 11 States
  - CT, HI, ID, IL, MI, MO, NH, NJ, NY, TN and VT
- 16 Bills Introduced
  - Twelve Related to positive fluoridation activity
  - Four related to negative fluoridation activity
- 2 Resolutions Introduced (ID and VT)
- 4 Bills Passed and Signed into Law
  - CT, IL, MO and TN

# State Fluoridation-related Legislation 2017

- 13 States
  - AR, HI, LA, MA, NH, NJ, NV, NY, OR, TN, TX, VT, and WA
- 24 Bills Introduced
  - Fourteen related to positive fluoridation activity
  - Ten related to negative fluoridation activity
- 1 Resolution Introduced
- 2 Bills Passed and Signed into Law
  - LA and TN

# State Fluoridation-related Legislation 2018

## State Legislation Introduced as of March 1, 2018

- 9 States
  - AL, GA, HI, KY, MO, NJ, NY, MA and WV
- 10 Bills Introduced
  - Seven related to positive fluoridation activity
  - Three related to negative fluoridation activity

## Early Notification Legislation

Tennessee  
Missouri  
New York



# Tennessee

- Tennessee had a long history of community water fluoridation peaking at 96% of the state's population.
- Recent rollbacks in mostly small communities had dropped that to around 92%.
- Many times these decisions were being made behind closed doors with little outside input.
- Something needed to be done.

# Tennessee 2014

- (c) Any public water system or waterworks system as defined in this title, which determines to initiate or permanently cease fluoridation of its water supply, shall notify the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Health of its intention thirty (30) days prior to any vote. The water system shall additionally give public notice to its customers in a general mailing at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which said vote shall take place.

# New York 2015

- a) Issue a notice to the Public of the preliminary determination to discontinue fluoridation for comment, which shall include justification for the proposed discontinuance, alternatives to fluoridation available, and a summary of consultations with health professionals and the department concerning the proposed discontinuance.



# New York (continued)

- b) Provide the department at least ninety days prior to written notice of the intent to discontinue and submit a plan for discontinuance.

# Missouri 2016

- 640.136 1. Any public water system, as defined in section 640.102, or public water supply district, as defined in chapter 247, which intends to make modifications to fluoridation of its water supply shall notify the department of natural resources, the department of health and senior services, and its customers of its intentions at least ninety days prior to any vote on the matter.

# Missouri (continued)

- The public water system or public water supply district shall notify its customers via radio, television, newspaper, regular mail, electronic means, or any combination of notification methods to most effectively notify customers at least ninety days prior to any meeting at which the vote will occur.

## Missouri (continued)

- Any public water system or public water supply district that violates the notification requirements of this section shall return the fluoridation of its water supply to its previous level until proper notification is provided under the provisions of this section.

# Failed in 2017

## Oregon SB 878

- A water supplier must provide notice to any person that is served water through the water system if the water supplier changes its practices with respect to the fluoridation of the water supply.
- The Oregon Health Authority is to adopt rules on how the notice is to be provided.

## Texas HB 3153

- A public water supply system may not reduce the amount of fluoride in the water or terminate the fluoridation of the water without written notice to the customers of the system and the state at least 60 days before the reduction or termination.

## Alabama SB180/HB 224

- Before a water system may initiate a permanent fluoridation change, it must provide written notice to the State Health Officer at least 90 days before initiating the change, including proposed date of the change, reasons for the change, and all communities affected by the change. Failing to do so, the system must resume the fluoridation of its water supply to its previous level until proper notice is provided.

# Proposed in 2018

## Missouri HB 2213

- Any public water system, as defined in section 640.012, or public water supply district, as defined in chapter 247, that intends to make modifications to fluoridation of its water supply shall seek and receive information about the impact of public water fluoridation from the local health department.



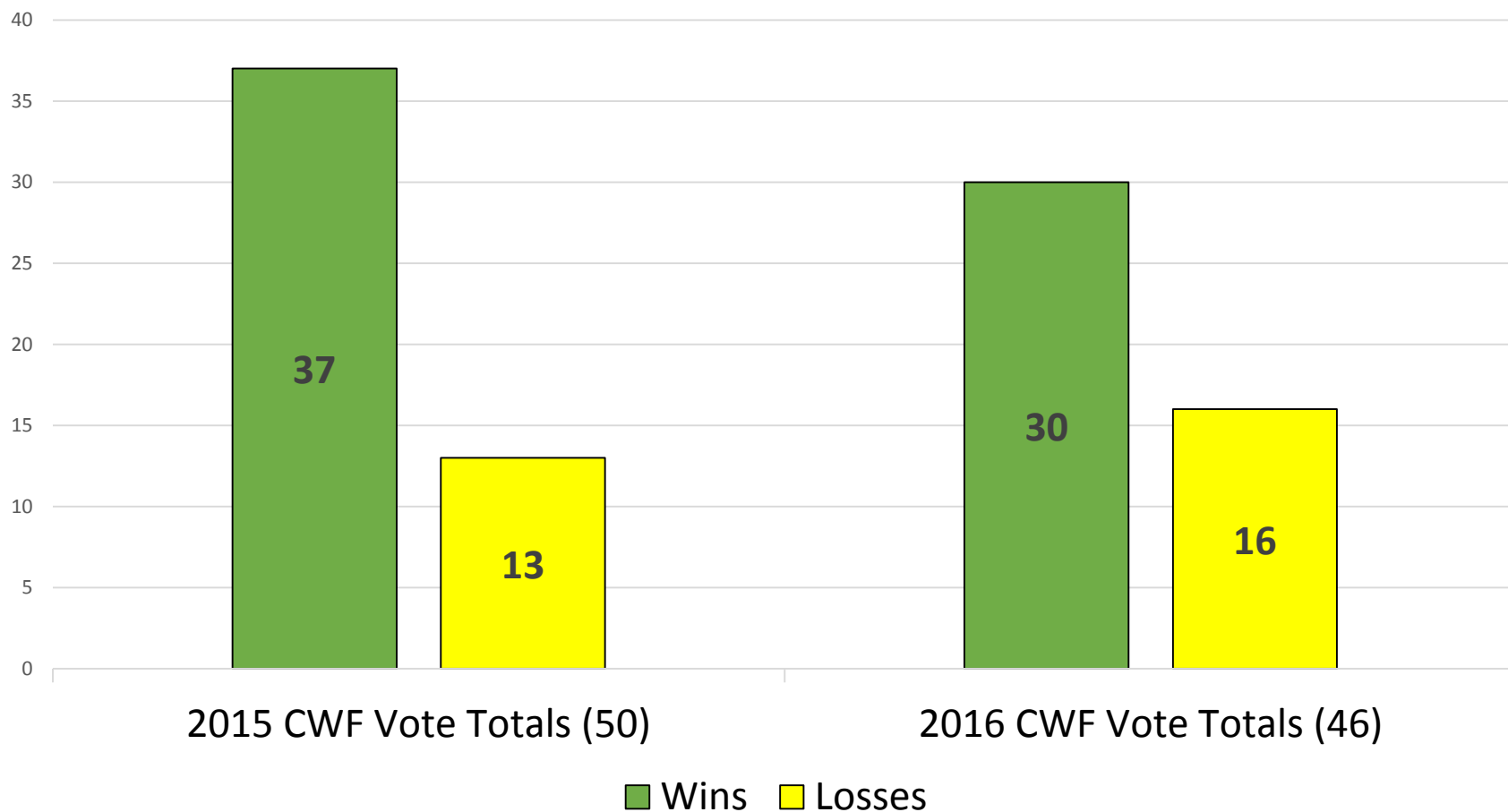
# First Community to Vote on Fluoridation

Stevens Point, Wisconsin

September 19, 1950



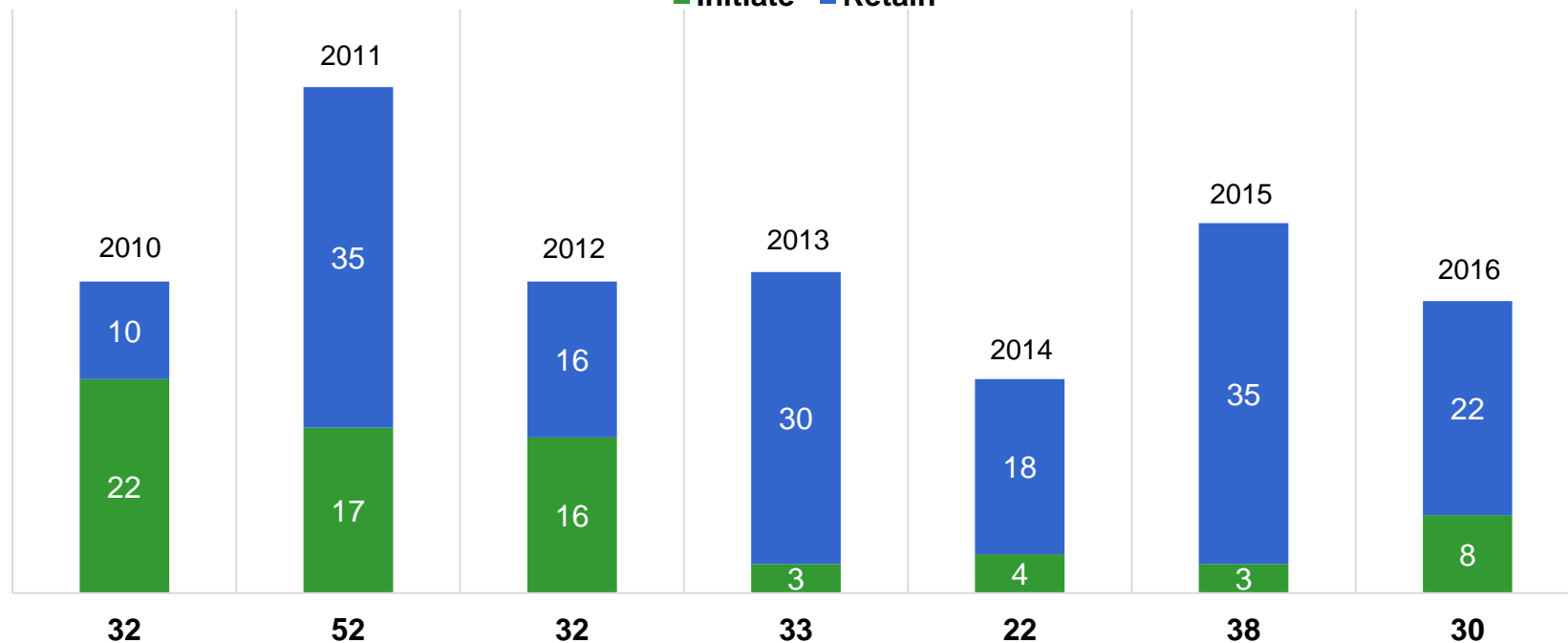
# Fluoridation Vote Outcomes 2015-2016



# Fluoridation Vote Outcomes

Total Number of Successful Votes to Initiate and Retain

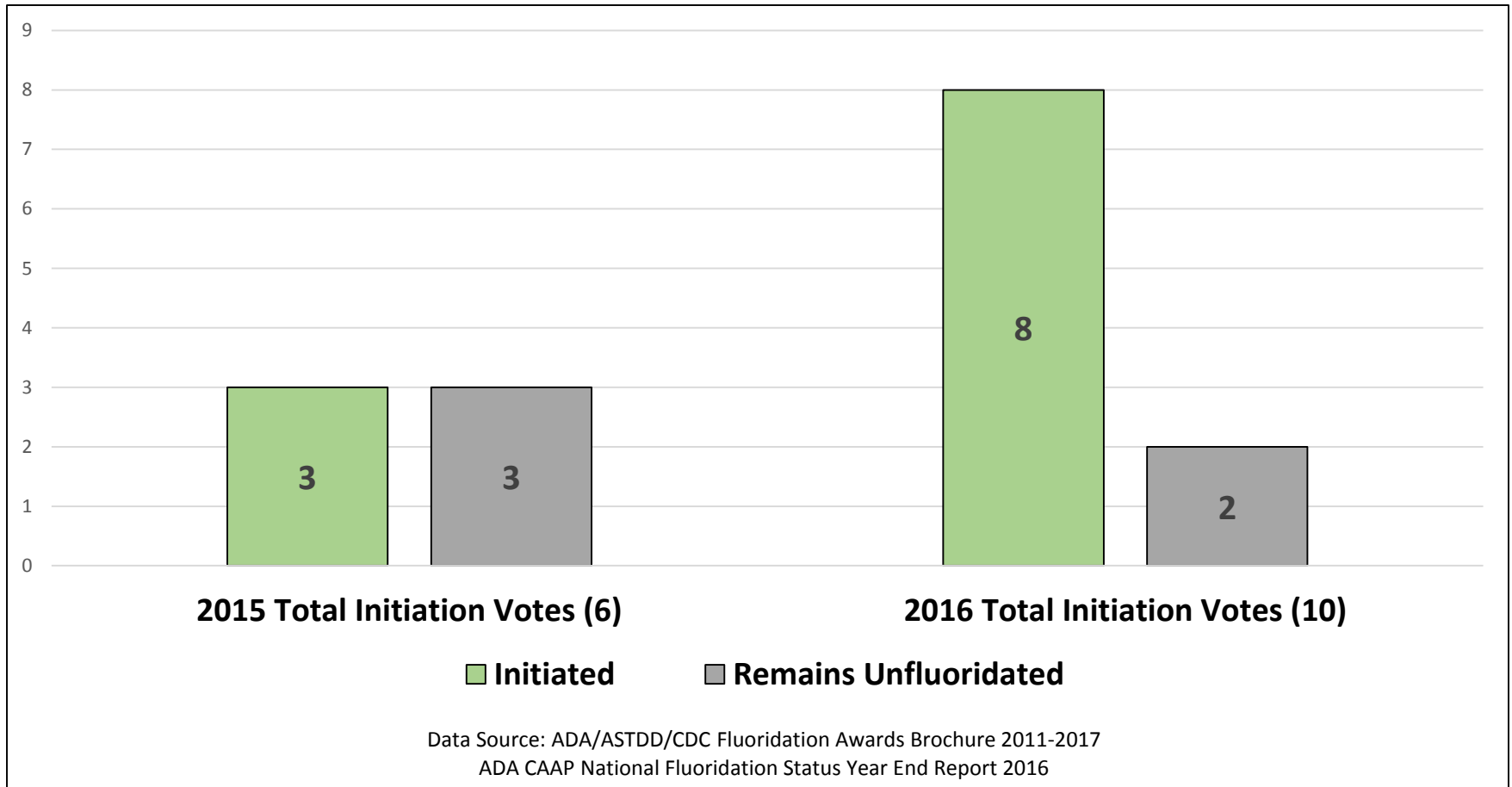
■ Initiate ■ Retain



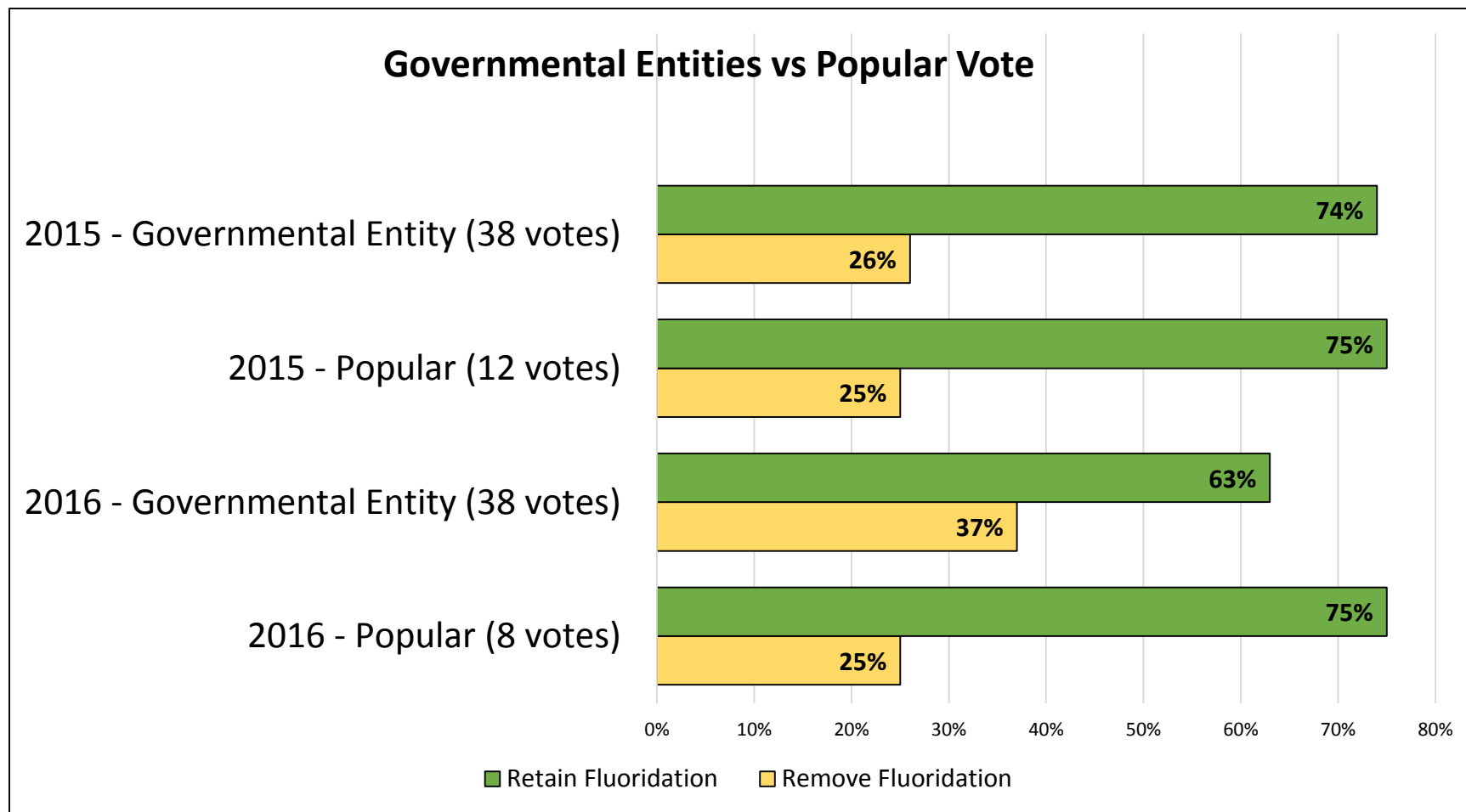
Date source: ADA/ASTDD/CDC Fluoridation Awards Brochure 2011-2017

# Fluoridation Vote Outcomes 2015-2016

## Total Initiation Votes and Outcomes: 2015 vs 2016



# Fluoridation Vote Outcomes 2015-2016



# Communities “Rejecting” Fluoridation

- In 2016, those opposed to fluoridation were stating that over 450 communities had rejected fluoridation since 2000.
- Almost one-third of those communities were outside the United States.

# Communities Adopting/Retaining Fluoridation

In the past 17 years (2000 through 2016), more than 515 U.S. communities in 42 states have voted to adopt or retain successful fluoridation programs.

# Communities Adopting/Retaining Fluoridation

## Fluoridation Resources [www.ada.org/fluoride](http://www.ada.org/fluoride)

### Access to Fluoridated Water in the U.S.

- [Water Fluoridation Data and Statistics from CDC](#)
- [Fluoridation Status of 50 Largest U.S. Cities \(PDF\)](#)
- [ADA/ASTDD/CDC Community Fluoridation Awards \(PDF\)](#)
- [U.S. Communities Voting to Adopt Fluoridation \(PDF\)](#)
- [My Water's Fluoride](#)

<https://www.ada.org/en/public-programs/advocating-for-the-public/fluoride-and-fluoridation/ada-fluoridation-resources>



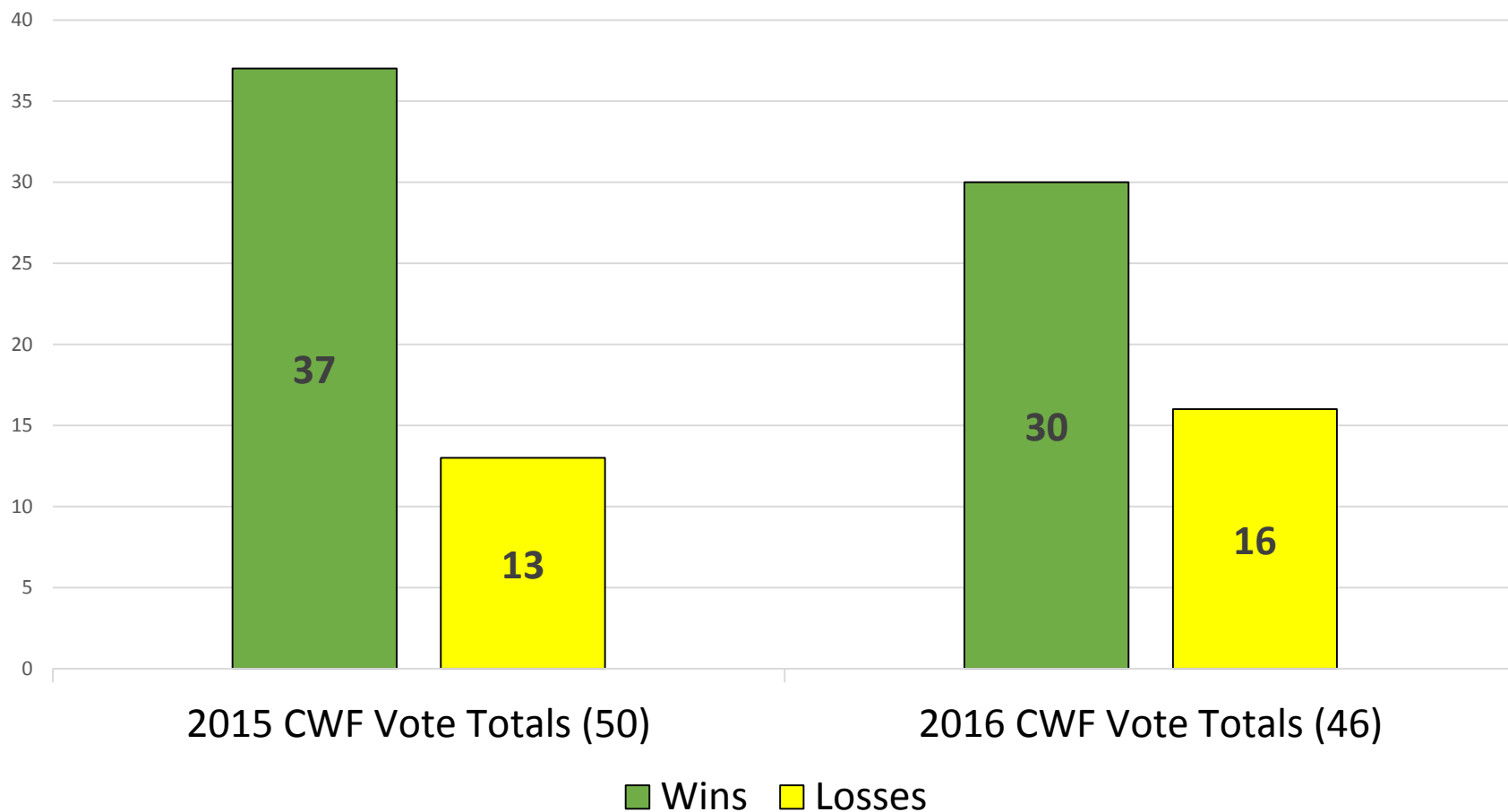
# Communities Adopting/Retaining Fluoridation

- In the past five years (2012-2016) more than 153 U.S. communities in 32 states have voted to adopt or retain fluoridation programs.

# Communities Adopting/Retaining Fluoridation

- In the past five years (2012-2016), U.S. communities have voted in favor of fluoridation programs by a two to one margin.

# Fluoridation Vote Outcomes 2015-2016



# Take Home Messages

- State fluoridation mandates can, but do not always ensure, a high rate of fluoridation.
- State laws designed to provide early notification of a change in a community's fluoridation status appear promising in providing time for discussion of the issues.

# Take Home Messages

- While the rate of growth has slowed, each year more people in the U.S. enjoy the benefits of optimally fluoridated water.
- At the community level, fluoridation votes can occur at any time; most frequently today they are challenges to halt successful fluoridation programs.

# Take Home Messages

- No matter the venue, the best results on fluoridation votes are achieved when a broad-based community (or state-wide) coalition actively collaborates and participates in the process.



# Campaign Strategies

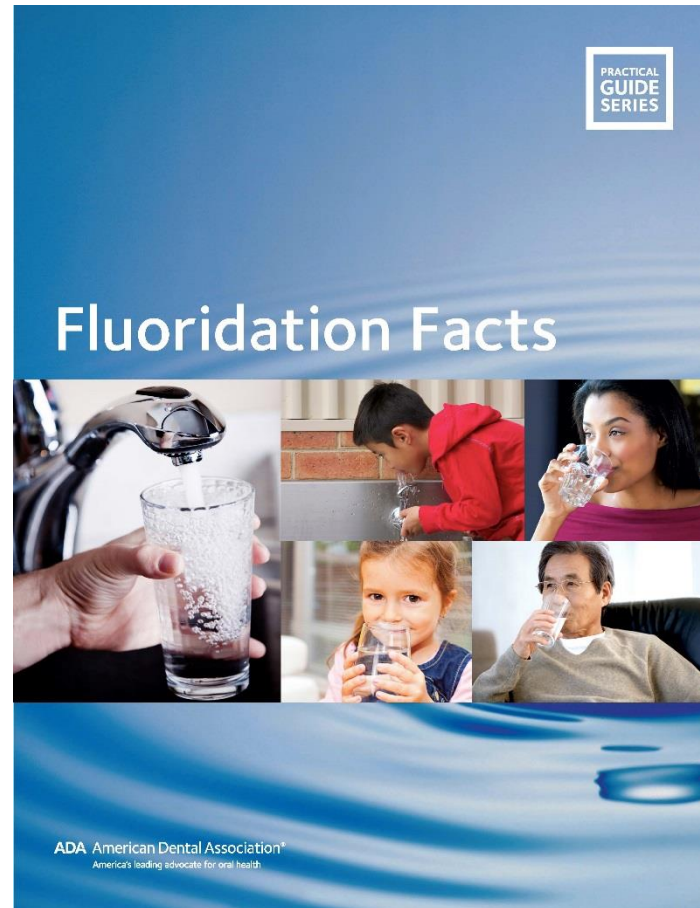
Fluoridation Campaigns are Political Campaigns

AND

All Politics Are Local



## 2018 Fluoridation Facts





# Community Water Fluoridation

**THANK YOU!**

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