



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CAREFREE RESIDENTS CONCERNED WITH WATER TAKE OVER

CAVE CREEK - Carefree residents are concerned about the costs associated to take over a portion of the Cave Creek water system that serves more than 500 Cave Creek customers who reside within the Town of Carefree, a new survey finds.

The survey, conducted April 18-22, contacted Carefree residents who receive their water from either Cave Creek or Carefree. While a significant number of respondents identified water service as the number one issue facing the town, once presented with information, two-thirds of respondents were less likely to support taking over of a portion of the Cave Creek water system.

71 percent of respondents said that if a takeover by Carefree would increase water rates or taxes, they would be less likely to support the move.

And 67 percent of respondents said they would be less likely to support the purchase of a portion of the Cave Creek water system if it meant the service would remain the same, but the costs would increase.

"The survey shows the vast majority of Carefree residents have concerns about increased taxes or the rising costs for water if Carefree follows through with its plan to take over part of the Cave Creek water system," said Joe Conner, a national utility condemnation lawyer who has been hired to represent Cave Creek. "Carefree should listen to its constituents and end this expensive take over attempt."

Carefree has sued Cave Creek to take over the water service for more than 500 customers. The move would cost Carefree residents millions of dollars to compensate Cave Creek for the value of the system.

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Carefree Survey

Conducted: April 18-22, 2019
Number of Respondents: 147

Q1) What is your gender?

Male	65	44.2%
Female	82	55.8%
Total	147	100.0%

Q2) First, generally speaking, would you say that things in Carefree are going in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction	98	66.7%
Wrong direction	29	19.7%
Refused	20	13.6%
Total	147	100.0%

Q3) And, what would you say is the most important issue facing Carefree? That is, the one that you, yourself are most concerned about?

Public Education System	7	4.8%
Crime	3	2.0%
Bad Roads	9	6.1%
Economy	16	10.9%
Water Utility Concerns	40	27.2%
Health Concerns	6	4.1%
Taxes	11	7.5%
Environment	14	9.5%
Don't Know	18	12.2%
Other	21	14.3%
Refused	2	1.4%
Total	147	100.0%

Q4) Which one of the following issues do you think should be the TOP PRIORITY for the Carefree Town Council?

Improving the local economy and bringing jobs to the area	39	26.5%
Improving the public education system	11	7.5%
Buying the local water company	33	22.4%
Improving town roads	16	10.9%
Hiring additional police officers and firefighters	11	7.5%
increasing job skills training for higher paying jobs	10	6.8%
All	2	1.4%
Don't Know	11	7.5%
Refused	3	2.0%
Other	11	7.5%
Total	147	100.0%

Q5) On a scale of one to five, one being the worst and five being the best, how would you rate your current water service?

One	5	3.4%
Two	7	4.8%
Three	28	19.0%
Four	44	29.9%
Five	56	38.1%
No opinion	6	4.1%
Refused	1	0.7%
Total	147	100.0%

Q6) Now, Is your water service provided by the Town of Cave Creek or the Town of Carefree?

Carefree	108	73.5%
Cave Creek	27	18.4%
Refused	12	8.2%
Total	147	100.0%

Q7) The Town of Carefree is looking to take over the portion of the Cave Creek water system within the Carefree town limits that serves approximately 500 Carefree residents. Based on this information do you support or oppose Carefree's efforts to take over the Cave Creek water system?

Support	81	55.1%
Oppose	27	18.4%
Refused	39	26.5%
Total	147	100.0%

Q8) The town of Carefree has filed a lawsuit to take over the water system from Cave Creek, which would cost Carefree residents more than \$10 million dollars. Based on this statement, are you more likely or less likely to support the takeover of the water system?

More Likely	20	13.6%
Less Likely	97	66.0%
It makes no difference	9	6.1%
Undecided	21	14.3%
Refused		0.0%
Total	147	100.0%

Q9) If Carefree takes over the water system from Cave Creek, it will likely mean an increase in your water rates and/or your taxes. Based on this statement, are you more likely or less likely to support the takeover of the water system?

More Likely	20	13.6%
Less Likely	105	71.4%
It makes no difference	7	4.8%
Undecided	14	9.5%
Refused	1	0.7%
Total	147	100.0%

Q10) If Carefree takes over the water system from Cave Creek, the water service will very likely remain the same, but rates will increase. Based on this statement, are you more likely or less likely to support the takeover of the water system?

More Likely	24	16.3%
Less Likely	99	67.3%
It makes no difference	11	7.5%
Undecided	13	8.8%
Refused		0.0%
Total	147	100.0%

DEMOGRAPHICS:

Q11) Which of the following age categories do you fall into?

18 to 34	9	6.1%
35 to 44	6	4.1%
45 to 54	12	8.2%
55 to 64	38	25.9%
65 and over	82	55.8%
Total	147	100.0%

Q12) How would you classify yourself in terms of race or ethnicity - White, Hispanic, African American, Asian American, Middle Eastern, Native American or something else?

White	124	84.4%
Hispanic	2	1.4%
African American	2	1.4%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	1.4%
Middle Eastern	1	0.7%
Native American	1	0.7%
Other	5	3.4%
Refused	10	6.8%
Total	147	100.0%

Q13) Are you registered as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or unaffiliated?

Republican	69	46.9%
Democrat	23	15.6%
Independent / Unaffiliated	37	25.2%
Other	3	2.0%
Refused	15	10.2%
Total	147	100.0%