

**FINAL DATA
AUGUST 2011**



Ciruli Associates

Stonegate Village Metropolitan District Water Issues

Survey of District Voters

August 2011

Research Design

- Conducted By: Ciruli Associates
- Sponsored By: Stonegate Village Metropolitan District
- Area: Voters within District boundaries
- Sample: Registered frequent voters
- Sample Size: 150
- Margin of Error: ± 8.1 percentage points in 95 out of 100 cases
- Date in Field: August 10-August 14, 2011

**STONEGATE VILLAGE
Water Issues**

Direction

Let me ask you a few questions about how you believe things are going in Douglas County.

1. Generally, would you say things in Douglas County are going in the right direction, or do you feel things here have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

Right direction	63%
Wrong track	21
Don't know/refused	16

Rate Organizations

As I read the following list of divisions of government, please tell me your impression of each one as either very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable. If you aren't familiar with an organization or don't have an opinion, just say so. [ROTATED]

	<u>Very Favorable</u>	<u>Somewhat Favorable</u>	<u>Somewhat Unfavorable</u>	<u>Very Unfavorable</u>	<u>Not Applicable</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
2. Douglas County government.....	12%	65%	5%	4%	3%	11%
3. Your local public school district	23	44	9	13	4	7
4. Parker Water and Sanitation District.....	6	26	13	19	13	23
5. Stonegate Village Metropolitan District.....	37	48	7	4	1	3

Summary of Organization Ratings

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Very/ Somewhat Favorable</u>	<u>Very/ Somewhat Unfavorable</u>	<u>Don't Know/Not Applicable</u>
Stonegate Village Metropolitan District	85%	11%	4%
Douglas County government	77	9	14
Your local public school district	67	22	11
Parker Water and Sanitation District	32	32	36

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Water Issues

6. Turning our attention to water issues, what do you think are the most important water issues in this area of North Douglas County? [MULTIPLE ANSWERS]

Water shortage	32%
Water conservation/saving supplies	23
Rising cost of water	11
Drinking water quality/good-tasting water	9
Hooking up to Parker Water (PWSD).....	9
Need for replacement/renewable water/replace aquifer water.....	9
Keeping rates low/lowering rates.....	8
Protecting the security of water supplies	5
Growth in area	5
Cost of SVMD water	2
Making sure growth pays for water	2
SVMD water treatment plant.....	1
Too much debt	1
Making sure rates are fair	1
Depletion of aquifer/loss of groundwater	1
Losing water to other areas	1
More storage	1
Water for recreation	1
None.....	1
Don't know/refused	5

Water Supply

7. In the next 10 years, do you believe the supply of water to residents in the area of North Douglas County will be adequate or do you believe there will be a shortage of water?

Adequate	43%
Shortage	46
Don't know/refused	11

8. Do you believe finding, buying and hooking up to a renewable source of water, such as surface water from a stream or river, to replace the aquifer that is currently depended on is a top priority, an important priority or not an important priority for the Stonegate Village Metropolitan District? [ROTATED]

Top priority	24%
Important priority.....	49
Not important priority.....	13
Don't know/refused	14

Cost of Water

9. Would you describe the cost of your water as very high, high, about right, low or very low? [ROTATED]

Very high	18%
High.....	37
About right	42
Low	1
Very low	2
Don't know/refused.....	--

Summary

Cost	
High.....	55%
About right.....	42
Low.....	3

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Quality

10. Considering water quality, would you describe the overall quality of your drinking water as excellent, good, fair or poor? [ROTATED]

Excellent	35%
Good.....	41
Fair	14
Poor.....	9
Don't know/refused.....	1

Summary

Quality	
Excellent/good.....	76%
Fair/poor	23

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Concern

The Stonegate Village Metropolitan District is dedicated to providing a reliable supply of high quality water. The District is considering a new approach to improving its wastewater treatment plant and securing a supply of renewable water.

11. Would you say you are very concerned about the District dealing with water related issues, such as the treatment plant and renewable water, somewhat concerned, not very concerned or not at all concerned?

Very concerned.....	35%
Somewhat concerned	47
Not very concerned	11
Not at all concerned	3
Don't know/refused.....	3

Summary

Concern	
Concerned.....	82%
Not concerned.....	14

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Heard of Connection With PWSD

12. How much would you say you have heard or seen about the plans for Stonegate Village Metropolitan District to include its water and wastewater services with Parker Water and Sanitation District: a great deal, some information, very little or almost nothing?
[ROTATED]

A great deal	31%
Some information.....	41
Very little.....	20
Almost nothing.....	8
Don't know/refused.....	--

Summary

Information

More	72%
Less.....	28

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Support Regionalization

13. A proposal to include Stonegate Village Metropolitan District's water and wastewater services with three other neighboring metro districts it serves in the North Douglas County area into the Parker Water and Sanitation District is being considered. The Stonegate Village Board must have public hearings and residents could vote on the issue.

The potential regionalization would bring Stonegate and the three districts it currently serves – Dove Ridge, also called E-470 Potomac; Compark Business Campus; and Lincoln Park metropolitan districts – under one unifying body, Parker Water and Sanitation District. The regionalization would add about 3,300 more water connections to Parker Water's current 16,000.

Based on what you know at this time, would you say you strongly favor Stonegate Village Metropolitan District participating in the regionalization of the districts, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the participation in a regional water and wastewater district? [ROTATED]

Strongly favor.....	9%	GO TO Q14A
Somewhat favor	21	GO TO Q14A
Somewhat oppose	23	GO TO Q14B
Strongly oppose.....	33	GO TO Q14B
Claim to be neutral (vol).....	4	GO TO Q15
Don't know/refused.....	10	GO TO Q15

Summary

Regionalization

Favor.....	30%
Oppose.....	56

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14A & B. IF A PERSON FAVORS OR IS OPPOSED, ASK: Why do you (favor/oppose) the participation in a regional water district? [*MULTIPLE ANSWERS*]

<u>14A. Favor</u>		<u>14B. Oppose</u>	
Economies-of-scale should lower cost...	32%	Rates too high/higher rates.....	33%
Need the water	27	Too much debt.....	18
Regionalism good idea/makes sense.....	20	Don't trust/like Parker Water	18
Good idea/project.....	11	Very expensive/how to pay for it ...	14
Shortage/drought.....	7	SVMD is fine, why change	14
Need for economy.....	7	Parker Water rates too expensive ...	7
Parker Water has renewable water	4	Poor quality of water.....	6
Parker Water has most of supply.....	4	Regionalization expensive	2
Area growing.....	4	Parker Water taxes too high	1
Water supply must be managed.....	2	What will it cost?	1
Don't know/refused.....	2	Other	2
		Don't know/refused	11

Base 44

Base 84

GO TO Q15

Policy Choice Question

The Board of Stonegate Village Metropolitan District has been holding public meetings on the proposed regionalization of the districts. The following statements contain pro and con information on the proposal.

As I read the following statements, please tell me which statement comes closest to your personal views on the topic. [*ROTATED*]

[And would you say that the statement is much closer to your personal views than the other statement or only somewhat closer?]

15. Statement A: A majority of the Stonegate Village Metropolitan District Board has recommended the joining together of five neighboring districts. The Board believes combining Compark Business Campus Metropolitan District, E-470 Potomac Metropolitan District, Lincoln Park Metropolitan District, Parker Water and Sanitation District, and Stonegate Village Metropolitan District will prove to be a cost-effective and efficient plan for providing your water and wastewater services.

The primary reason for combining is to minimize the rising costs of water and wastewater services by spreading them out over more customers. The idea is one water and wastewater service provider would reduce the duplication of efforts. Also, having 20,000 customers working collectively would carry more negotiating and buying power in replacing our groundwater with renewable water.

The overall amount of taxes paid by Stonegate's residents is projected to be lower. Parker Water's taxes would come to Stonegate, but it is estimated that by Stonegate paying down a portion of its current debt, the overall effect is the amount of taxes would be lower.

Also, Stonegate, in particular, will be able to resolve its need to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant. Over the long-term, capital costs and water and wastewater rates will be lower when compared with continuing to remaining small and have two independently operated districts. Rate increases will be lower together than if five districts remain separate.

or

Statement B: Two Stonegate Village Metropolitan District Board members recommend against including with Parker Water and Sanitation District. They state Parker Water is over \$200 million in debt. If the election is successful, Stonegate residents will pay Parker Water's mill levy, which will be a property tax increase for Stonegate homeowners.

Depending on usage, Parker Water's rates are currently higher than Stonegate's. Parker Water has in its plans an increase effective January 2012. This will make Parker's rates as much as 50 percent higher than Stonegate's current rates, depending on your usage to your water and sewer bill.

Since Parker Water is only proposing to include the water and wastewater services, Stonegate Village will have separate management and billing costs related to its parks, recreation, pool and open space.

Stonegate Village is in great shape financially and has already made several large investments related to a renewable water plan. Stonegate Village has already purchased and paid for capacity in Rueter-Hess Reservoir.

		Summary	
		<u>Choice</u>	
Much closer to Statement A	10%	Regionalize	18%
Somewhat closer to Statement A	8	Don't regionalize	75
Somewhat closer to Statement B	21		
Much closer to Statement B	54		
Don't know/refused.....	7		

Stonegate Village Metropolitan District Policy

The following are some policy issues discussed about the water supply in Stonegate Village. As I read the statements, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the idea. [ROTATED]

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Somewhat Agree</u>	<u>Somewhat Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
16. Stonegate Village should work with other water providers in Douglas County to bring a reliable supply of water to our area...	31%	43%	13%	9%	3%
17. The area will have another drought. It is important to find additional supply of reliable water.....	47	33	10	5	5
18. A water-pricing program should be continued that encourages water conservation by setting water rates that increase based on the amount of water used	47	41	4	7	1
19. A dependable water supply is important for long-term real estate values	73	24	1	1	1
20. Buying space in Rueter-Hess Reservoir was a good idea for Stonegate Village. We need storage.....	59	29	4	2	6
21. Irrigation water, along with household and commercial wastewater, should be treated and reused for irrigation of landscaping.....	75	21	1	1	2
22. The Stonegate Village swimming pool is a very important recreational facility for the community	64	28	4	2	2
23. Stonegate Village should work with Denver and Aurora to treat and reuse water to help extend supplies in Douglas County and Parker area.....	38	33	12	5	12
24. If Stonegate Village residents join with Parker Water, local residents should be on the District Board.....	29	15	1	3	2

Summary of Metro District Policy

<u>Statement</u>	<u>Strongly/ Somewhat Agree</u>	<u>Strongly/ Somewhat Disagree</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
A water supply is important for real estate values	97%	2%	1%
Irrigation water and wastewater should be treated and reused	96	2	2
Local residents should be on the new District Board	94	4	2
The Stonegate Village swimming pool is very important	92	6	2
A water-pricing program should encourage water conservation	88	11	1
Buying space in Rueter-Hess Reservoir was a good idea	88	6	6
The area will have another drought	80	15	5
Stonegate Village should work with other water providers	74	22	3
Should work with Denver and Aurora to reuse water	71	17	12

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Final Question

As I read the following final statement on the water and consolidation issue, please tell me which statement comes closest to your personal views on the topic. [ROTATED]

[And would you say that the statement is much closer to your personal views than the other statement or only somewhat closer?]

25. Statement A: It is important for Stonegate Village Metropolitan District to join with its neighboring water districts to control costs and find renewable water.

or

Statement B: It is important for Stonegate Village Metropolitan District to maintain control of its own water and sewage system by remaining independent from neighboring water districts.

Much closer to Statement A	15%
Somewhat closer to Statement A	13
Somewhat closer to Statement B	27
Much closer to Statement B	36
Don't know/refused.....	8

Summary

Final Question

Regionalize	28%
Don't regionalize	63

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Demographics

The final questions are for background information only. The answers to these questions help us to understand the results.

Your answers to these questions, like all the survey questions, are confidential and used only when combined with all other persons who are interviewed.

26. What was the last grade or degree you completed at school?

Grade 1-11	--	Summary
High school graduate	5%	Education
Some college/business/vocational school	11	High school or less..... 5%
College graduate	46	Some college..... 11
Post grad work/professional graduate	36	College or more
Refused	1	<i>Ciruli Associates 2011</i>

27. How old are you?

(18-24).....	--	Summary
(25-34).....	2%	Age
(35-44).....	19	34 or less..... 2%
(45-54).....	31	35-54..... 50
(55-64).....	29	55-64..... 29
(65-74).....	11	65 and older
(75 and over).....	5	<i>Ciruli Associates 2011</i>
Refused	3	

28. How long have you lived in the Stonegate Village Metropolitan District?

Less than 5 years	13%	Summary
5 to 10 years	23	Length of Time
11 to 20 years	55	Less than 5 years
More than 20 years.....	7	5 to 20 years
Native (born in county).....	--	More than 20 years/native ...
Don't know/refused	1	<i>Ciruli Associates 2011</i>

29. What, if any, newspaper do you read regularly? [MULTIPLE ANSWERS]

<i>Denver Post</i>	63%
None	24
<i>Parker Chronicle</i>	23
<i>Douglas County News-Press</i>	5
<i>Castle Rock News-Press</i>	1
Other (list).....	5
Don't know/refused.....	3

30. Stonegate Village Metropolitan District just sent out a letter and a newsletter. Did you have a chance to read either of them or not?

Read both	35%
Read one	16
Didn't read either	46
Don't know/refused	3

31. Stonegate Village Metropolitan District has a website at www.stonegatelife.org. Have you used the Stonegate Village Metropolitan District website in the last year?

Yes, used it	50%
No, haven't used it	49
Don't know/refused	1

32. For statistical purposes only, as I read the following income groups, please stop me when the figure includes an approximation of your total income for you and members of your household for last year, 2010, before taxes? [ROTATED]

Less than \$40,000	2%	Summary
From \$40,000 to \$79,999.....	11	
From \$80,000 to \$99,999.....	25	Income
From \$100,000 to \$150,000.....	22	Less than \$80,000
More than \$150,000	19	\$80,000 to \$100,000.....
Don't know/refused.....	22	\$100,000 or more.....
		13%
		25
		41

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33. Is this interview being conducted on a cell phone (not mobile landline) or a landline telephone?

Cell phone	4%
Landline	95
Don't know/refused	1

34. RECORD RESPONDENT'S SEX

Male	47%
Female.....	53

35. RECORD POLITICAL PARTY FROM LIST

Republican	54%
Democrat.....	26
Unaffiliated	20

36. REGISTRATION DATE

2000-2009	36%
1990-1999	57
Pre 1990	7

37. LANGUAGE

Completed survey entirely in English	100%
Completed survey in mix of English and Spanish	
Completed survey entirely in Spanish.....	

SCREEN QUESTIONS

1S. Does anyone in your household work for a radio or television station, newspaper or an advertising agency?

Yes		THANK AND TERMINATE
No	1	CONTINUE
Don't know/refused.....		THANK AND TERMINATE

2S. Are you a registered voter in Douglas County?

Yes	1	CONTINUE
No		THANK AND TERMINATE
Don't know/refused.....		THANK AND TERMINATE

3S. Does this household receive its water service from Stonegate Village Metropolitan District?

Yes		CONTINUE
No	1	THANK AND TERMINATE
Don't know.....		THANK AND TERMINATE

4S. Do you or a member of your family work for the Stonegate Village Metropolitan District?

Yes		THANK AND TERMINATE
No	1	CONTINUE
Don't know		THANK AND TERMINATE

5S. How often would you say you vote...always, nearly always, part of the time or seldom?

Always.....	85%	CONTINUE
Nearly always	15	CONTINUE
Part of the time.....		THANK AND TERMINATE
Seldom		THANK AND TERMINATE
Don't know		THANK AND TERMINATE

6S. In November of this year there will be what is called an off-year election. On the ballot will be elections for local and statewide ballot issues, and possibly a few local offices. Please rate your chances of voting in that election on a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 represents definitely will not vote, and 10 represents definitely will vote. Where on this scale of 1 to 10 would you place yourself?

10	81%	CONTINUE
9	11	CONTINUE
8	9	CONTINUE
7-1		THANK AND TERMINATE
Don't know		THANK AND TERMINATE