

# **Info on the August 2, 2011 Pocahontas Gas Election**

**“If I vote yes on August 2, does that mean the City will take control on August 3<sup>rd</sup>?”**

**-The answer is no. All a yes vote does is to allow the City to proceed with negotiations. A yes vote allows the City to continue to investigate the feasibility of the Community to operate its own system. Before any final decision is made the City Council will appoint a Citizens Advisory Committee to recommend whether or not the City should pursue purchasing the rights to operate the local gas distribution system.**

**“Black Hills says that they are not for sale and they won’t release gas capacity.”**

**-The decision is not up to Black Hills, it is up to the citizens of Pocahontas. They have undertaken an extensive campaign to convince Pocahontas that they are not for sale or they won’t release the capacity that serves Pocahontas. But it is up to you the voter to decide who you want to manage the gas utility in Pocahontas.**

**“What are the benefits of the Community operating its own system?”**

**-The three main benefits of a locally controlled system are: lower gas rates at your home and business, local control of the distribution system, and finally your money stays in Pocahontas. Black Hills has invested heavily to try and scare you into voting no because they make a lot of money off of our community and want to continue this practice.**

**“If I vote yes does that give the City Council a blank check?”**

**-The answer is no. A yes vote allows the City to proceed with negotiations. If a fair price cannot be reached where the City can offer lower rates than Black Hills, we will not proceed with municipalization of the system. A Citizens Advisory Committee will make a recommendation to the City Council before any final decision is made.**

**“Black Hills has done a good job, why would I want to change?”**

**-If the Community operates our gas system we will have the potential to save considerably on our gas bills over the next several years. The biggest savings will be in the future when our children and grandchildren will be living and working in Pocahontas. This will benefit Pocahontas in the long run.**