

**Water Watchdog:** Jesse used FOIA (see below) to make public our water quality data (see details on flip side), and posted it all on: <http://www.JesseGordon.com/Water>

**Good Government Watchdog:** Jesse has for years used FOIA (the Freedom of Information Act, which Jesse calls “The People’s Subpoena”), to release numerous documents that had been kept undisclosed by our town administration.

**Budget Watchdog:** When Jesse lived in Cambridge, he analyzed the city budget, and identified \$8 million in unaccounted-for funds. Jesse publicized that \$8 million, and the City Council then voted to return it to the people of Cambridge. Former Mayor Anthony Galluccio, referring to Jesse, said, “I don’t like people running around town saying there’s \$8 million,” before voting to return the \$8 million to the people. Jesse wants to do the same for Randolph!

**Grants Watchdog:** The Randolph Foundation for Education (RFE, which Jesse co-founded) first identified the “Community Eligibility Provision” in 2018, after the School Superintendent asked the RFE in 2017 to help pay for unfunded school meals. Our schools implemented the program in Sept. 2019 – now every student can get free breakfast and lunch, with no enrollment and no stigma, under a state-funded program. As with the Cambridge budget, officials first denied there was an issue, then said “We would have done it anyway!”

**Toxic Waste Watchdog:** With RATTSS coalition, Jesse publicized “environmental injustice” issues with the trash transfer station on a toxic waste site adjacent to the Randolph-Holbrook Commuter Rail. TLA-Holbrook lawyers put out misleading statements regularly – pretending in Sept. 2019 to overturn a vote against a zoning permit – details at: <http://www.JesseGordon.com/TLA>

### *Social & Environmental Justice:*

- Support mixed-use development and public-transit-oriented 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 college scholarships for RHS grads
- Work with neighboring towns, and state and federal agencies, on regional issues
- Publicize street paving schedules and water quality information on town website
- Push for a full-time grant-writer for our schools and our town (the Town Council vetoed a school grantwriter in Summer 2019!)

### *About Jesse:*

- Graduate of Harvard University and Brandeis University.
- History of working with municipal, state, & federal agencies (EPA, NMFS) & grants.
- Member of MTA (teacher’s union); math & science tutor, and SAT teacher, since 1990s.
- Co-founder of OnTheIssues.org, which details issue stances of state & federal candidates.
- Employed as a Data Scientist / Data Curator at pharmaceutical R&D labs.
- Member NAACP, ACLU, and RDTC
- Member of RATTSS (**R**esidents **A**gainst **T**rash **T**ransfer **S**tation, anti-TLA).
- My 12-year fiancée Kathleen and I have four grown children between us.

## Jesse Gordon for Randolph Town Council: *Water Watchdog*



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

- *More education funding*
- *More public access to public information & resources*
- *More inclusive and welcoming town for newcomers*



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

[www.JesseGordon.com](http://www.JesseGordon.com) (617) 320-6989  
52 West St., Randolph MA 02368  
[jesse@jessegordon.com](mailto:jesse@jessegordon.com)

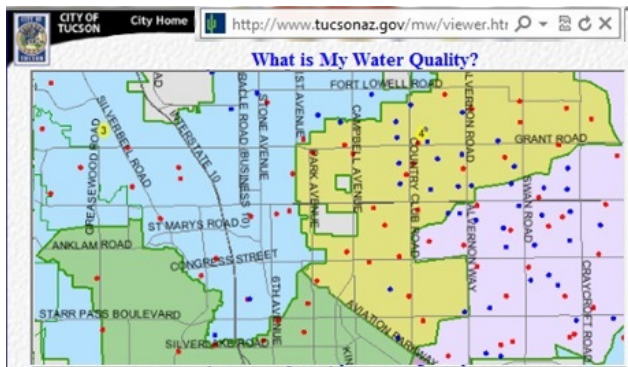
# Dealing with Randolph's Water Crisis: Version 3

Do you trust Randolph's drinking water? I don't drink our tap water – do you? 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 July's "boil water" order, but nothing since then. The Randolph DPW's Water Division's website shows no daily water quality specifics – only an annual report on water quality from 2018. To maintain trust in our water system, we need information from last *WEEK*, not last *YEAR*!

My job in the 2000s was to rebuild trust in the Tucson (AZ) water system after it collapsed due to a poorly-planned new water system. We rebuilt trust by sharing lots of information with the public – which is what Randolph should do, to avoid a total collapse like Tucson's. The entire Tucson water department was fired when they insisted that smelly, discolored water was perfectly safe to drink – just like our Randolph officials are saying now!

As an EPA contractor in Tucson, my role was to inform the public about the new system's water quality. I created a website that compiled water



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.

quality data, and reported it daily to the public, so people could see a dozen measures of water quality specific to their neighborhood. I want to do the same for Randolph – here's how...

In August, I called for a "public water forum." Then in September, the Town Council held the first forum. I asked the Randolph DPW for water quality data to be posted online – and they agreed, on TV. But when I formally requested the data, they said I would have to pay \$1,050 for it, even though they acknowledge that it's all public information. I called their bluff, and paid the fee, and they delivered 1,000 pages of raw data, which I've now posted online, at: <http://www.JesseGordon.com/Water>

I plan to post the raw water quality data on an ongoing basis – if elected, I'll work to do exactly that as an official DPW function. More importantly, I plan to post data summarized by geography and date – so you can see water quality in your neighborhood, and trends over time to see if water quality is improving.

Sure, that will cost some money for the DPW to implement, but there are grants available – my job in Tucson was paid by a federal "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. The Town Council and the Randolph DPW have not been investing enough in our water infrastructure – and the people of Randolph are now paying the price for those poor decisions, in discolored and smelly water!

At the water forum, I took extensive notes that are available on my website above, and I summarize the important points here. On the Town Council, I will organize regular water forums until all the problems are resolved.

## Notes from the Water Forum:

- The new water treatment plant will not be completed until 2023, at the earliest.
- July's "boil water" order was because of an electrical failure which shorted out the main pump; low pressure allowed bacteria to potentially infiltrate.
- The water discoloration and odor is caused by pre-existing sediment in the pipes, when disrupted by pressure changes or chemical changes.
- Our bubbly water is caused by air trapped in the pipes; air gets in whenever a pump is changed.
- Both the discoloration and air bubbles can be fixed by "flushing" the pipes; that has started in North Randolph but will take many months to finish.
- Our water bills have gone up because Randolph is saving up money for the new water treatment plant in 2023; we have saved up \$6.5 million so far.
- The total expected cost for Randolph is \$23 million for our share of the \$67 million expected total.
- Our water is tested at ten different locations each week, or 40 locations around town, each month.
- All town administrators insisted that the water is safe to drink, despite odor or discoloration – our water meets all state minimums for health & safety.

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 Bacteria, # 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!