

ORGANIZING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Ban Fracking

Advantages of a Petition

- Provides a rich opportunity for face-to-face discussions with residents
- Educates the public about the issues
- Recruit for future mobilization
- Amass contact info
- Is independent of the Board
- Contacts may be used for future campaigns

The Process

- Obtain voter registration list (on CD) from County Election Board
- Load to a database or spreadsheet (searchable and sortable)
- Volunteers can be trained by accompanying experienced canvassers
- Use a picture book (3-ring binder) for education
- As signatures come in, match them to names and addresses on the voter registry
- Residents who were not registered to vote are added to the database
- Use “street sheets” to stay organized and assure coverage of all areas of the town

The Petition Language

Ban Slickwater Horizontal Hydrofracking in Ulysses

We, the undersigned, believe that the slickwater horizontal hydrofracking gas extraction technique threatens our water and air. We believe that allowing this practice in our community will significantly endanger our health and well-being.

Hydrofracking is a heavily industrialized process that in surrounding states has severely snarled traffic and damaged local agriculture, hunting, fishing, tourism, roads, and community economies.

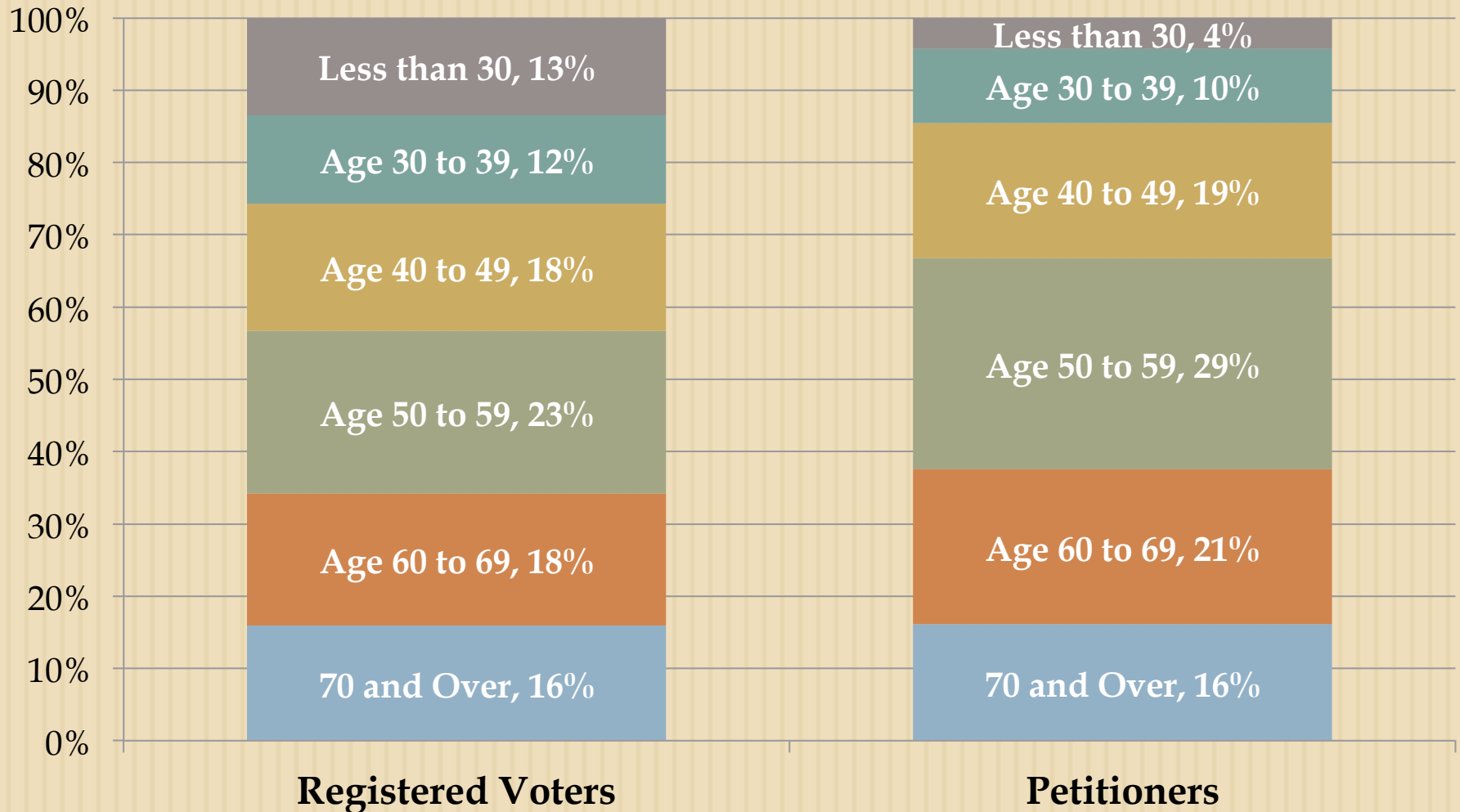
We urge the Town of Ulysses to ban slickwater horizontal hydrofracking.

Sample Street Sheet

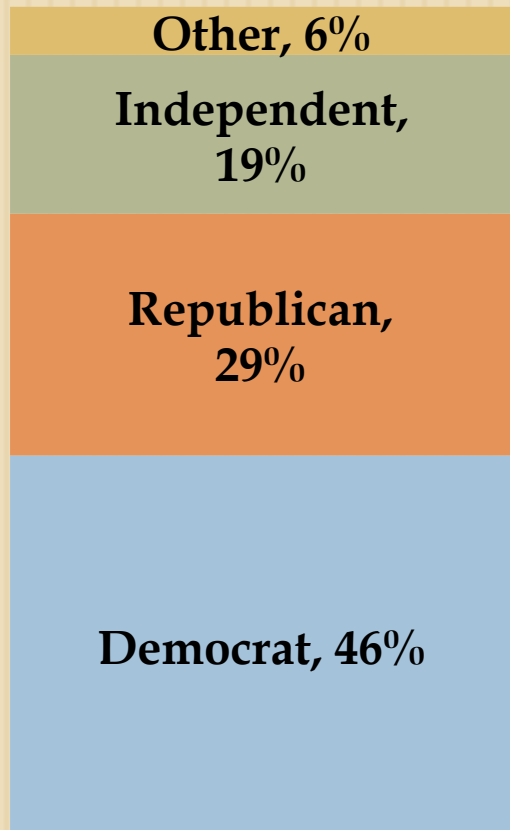
Podunk Road

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Rtn</i>	<i>Vol</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Last</i>	<i>Age</i>
				3020	FRANCIS W	BIRDSALL	58
X		X	X	3020	ANNETTE I	BIRDSALL	50
				3020	MARGAUX L	BIRDSALL	25
				3031	PEARL M	MILLER	88
				3245	SUSAN J	NIEMI	36
				3245	MICHAEL T	NIEMI	44
X				3376	MAYA P	DONENFELD	42
X				3376	SUNNY	DONENFELD	43
	X			3410	TIMOTHY S	SWARTZ	46
	X			3410	DEBBIE A	SWARTZ	45
X				3488	Rosemary	Wells	-99

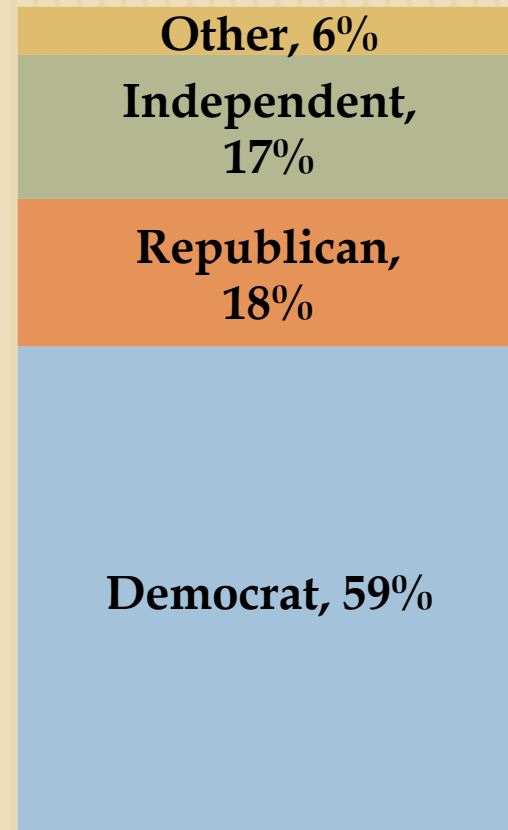
Petitioners and Registered Voters: by Age



Petitioners and Registered Voters: Party Affiliation

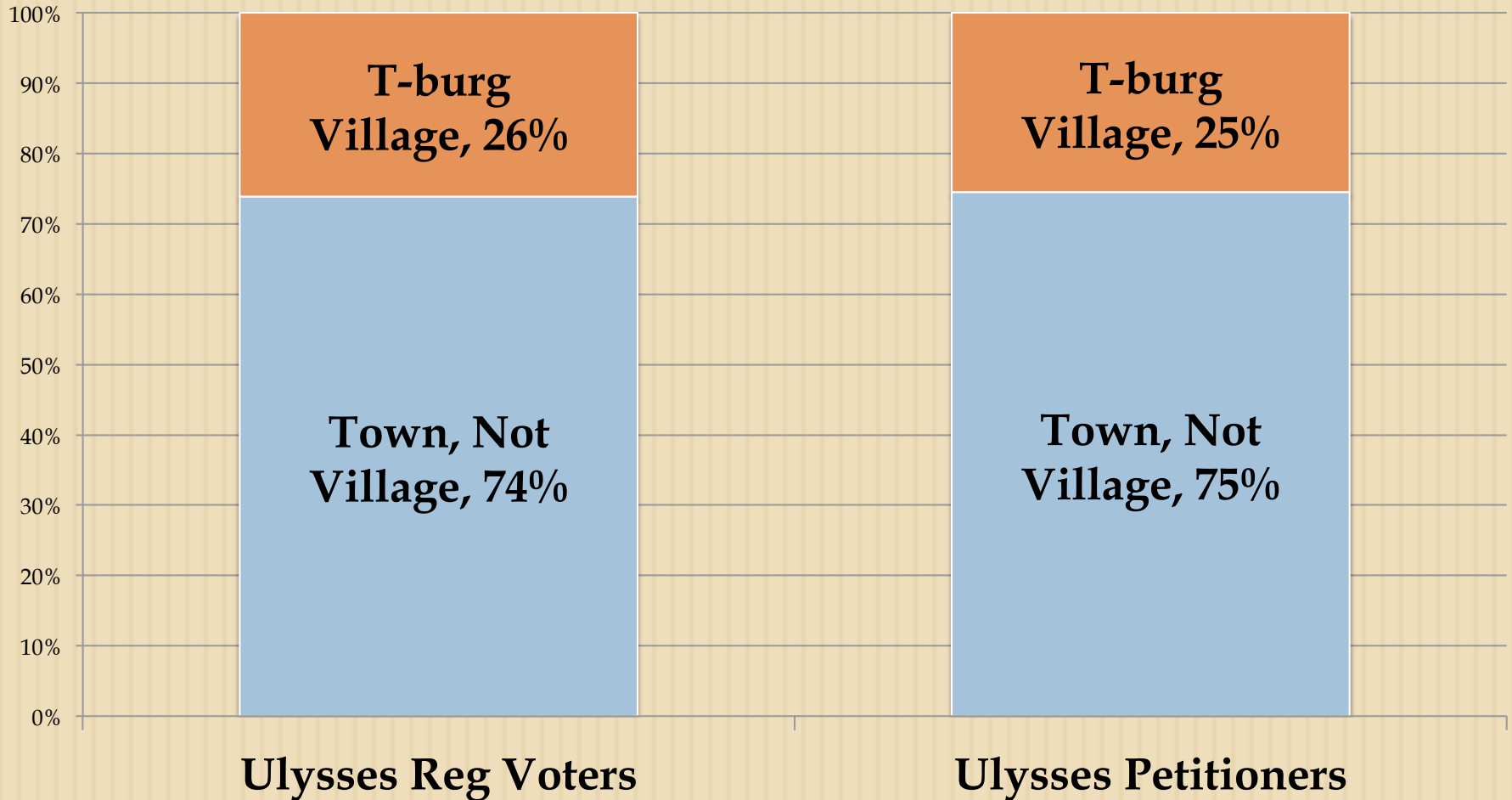


Ulysses Registered Voters



Ulysses Petition Signers

Inside and Outside Trumansburg Village



Those Who Wouldn't Sign

- About 15-20% of residents we asked chose *not* to sign the petition.
- Of these, most say they don't know enough about the issue to take a position
- Others say they don't sign petitions
- A minor portion support drilling

Lease Holders Who Sign the Petition

- Some bought the property with a pre-existing lease
- Others are OK with conventional drilling, but fear the effects of fracking
- Some signed out of economic necessity, but now regret it.
- Others feel they were misled by the land man

Handouts

- Good for when folks aren't home, or say they're uninformed
- Establish a central location for storing handouts
- Downloadable tri-fold flyers
 - *Economics of Extracting Natural Gas From Shale Formations*, from GasMain.org
 - *Hunting & Fishing at Risk*, from GasMain.org
 - *The MYTH of 'Clean' Natural Gas -- What ALL New Yorkers Should Know*, from NYRAD.org
- Primers for educating volunteers
 - *The Case for a Ban on Gas Fracking* (pdf), a 15-page pamphlet from FoodandWaterWatch.org

Other ways to get signatures

- Table at local events
- Farmers Market: If tabling isn't allowed, carry petition (discretely) and circulate. It's public property.
- Leave petition with trusted shop owner who will call you when it's complete.
- Email it to a trusted volunteer
- On-line petition
- Phone petition with targeted list; script available from Sue Rapp <srapp@stny.rr.com>

Public Events

- Organize educational events
 - ▣ free screening of “Gasland”
 - ▣ Speakers (Don Barber, Tony Ingraffea, Bob Howarth, Sandra Steingraber, etc)
 - ▣ a forum with panelists
 - ▣ distribute educational DVDs to churches (Sue Rapp)
- Explore affordable venues
 - ▣ Fire Hall (\$10) vs. school auditorium (\$300/janitors)

Public Events, cont

- Free publicity
 - calendars in papers & on-line
 - social marketing: web site; Facebook page; Twitter
 - Posters
- Help Town Board organize Public Info session(s) and the required Public Hearing
- Invite Town Board members to all events

Handling Objections

- “Drilling creates jobs”
 - ▣ It takes away jobs in established industries, resulting in a net loss
 - ▣ Most workers are from out of state
 - ▣ Jobs are temporary (boom, then bust)
- “Opposing drilling is NIMBY”
 - ▣ We’d prefer that the adequate protections would be provided from the Federal or State level
 - ▣ Our position is NIABY: We should be investing in renewable energy

Handling Objections

- “Drilling will give us energy independence”
 - ▣ Much of the gas will be exported
 - ▣ Natural gas does not replace liquid fuels (transportation)
 - ▣ Natural gas could replace some coal, but does not reduce coal mining (the coal will just be exported)
 - ▣ True independence can only come from reducing dependence on fossil fuels

Handling Objections

- Farmers are Broke
 - ▣ The problems of farming should be solved through agricultural policy
 - ▣ Commodity prices are increasing, especially for organic crops
- You can't take away lease holders' property rights
 - ▣ The right to profit from one's property is not absolute
 - ▣ Since the community will be impacted, the community has a say

Contact Info

- Michael Dineen <MDineen39@gmail.com>
- Jan Quarles <JanQ99@gmail.com>
- Phone: 607-532-9288
- Free Legal Advice: Helen & David Slottje
www.CEDCLaw.org

Working with the Town Board

- Board is opposed
 - Petition drive
 - Ask each signer to write a letter to the Board
 - Urge petitioners to attend every Town Board meeting, their presence alone will act as pressure
 - Urge them to speak during “Privilege of the Floor”
 - Invite reporters to all Town Board meetings
 - Run your own candidates
 - Get your people to the polls

Town Board's Objections

- **“We’ll be sued”**
 - ▣ They don’t need to sue you on the question of Home Rule
 - ▣ The current suits did not ask for damages
 - ▣ You can always just withdraw the ordinance
 - ▣ We’ll back you up (fundraising efforts)
- **“It’s up to the State, not the Town”**
 - ▣ Two cases have now confirmed Home Rule
- **“We don’t have the time, money, or expertise”**
 - ▣ Consultation is available free of charge by CEDC/Slottjes
 - ▣ At this point, there are many existing model ordinances

Town Board's Objections, continued

- No comp plan or zoning
 - ▣ You can still use the Town's land use power
- The board have gas leases (personal interest)
 - ▣ You have the duty to support the majority who will be adversely affected but not compensated
- You are not the majority
 - ▣ If we are, will you pass the ban?
 - ▣ Now, go get signatures