

Flint Has Clean Water Now. Why Won't People Drink It? | POLITICO

By Derek Robertson

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Weaver was narrowly defeated in her 2019 reelection bid by Sheldon Neeley, a state representative and former city council member who relentlessly needled the mayor for her mismanagement of the arduous project to replace the city's lead pipes, calling her a "ceremonial mayor" who basked in the media spotlight.

When I spoke to Mayor Neeley, he acknowledged the difficulties Flint faces—public safety, sanitation and managing the city's teetering pension system—and that the ability of residents to trust that the government can meet those needs was at an all-time low.

"People just want a government that works," Neeley said. When I asked him about his evaluation of Weaver, he was guarded in his response, but invoked an oft-repeated campaign slogan—one that hints at Flint's desperate need to believe in something beyond its own ongoing diminishment.

[...]

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