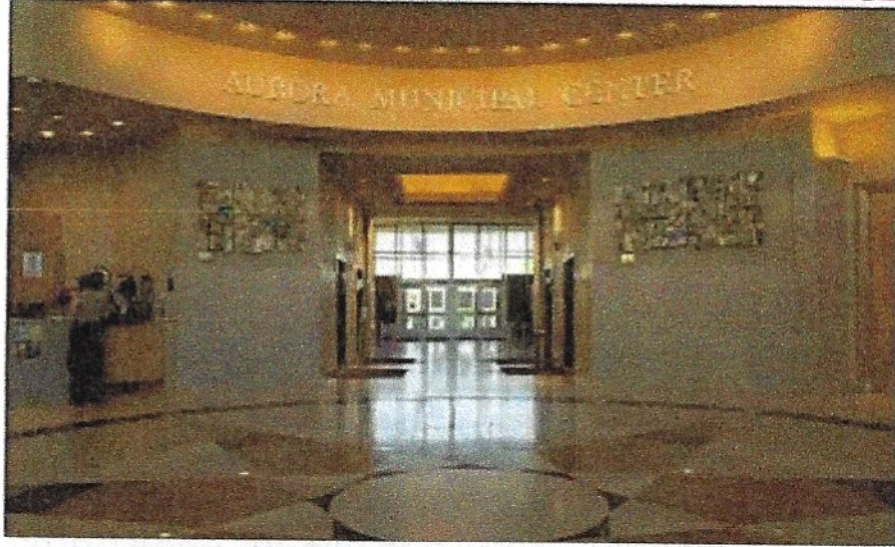


Aurora council progressives govern by crisis

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There is a familiar rhythm to progressive government.



First, announce a crisis.

Second, demand an immediate solution — one that expands government power, weakens an institution, or rewards the activists who declared the crisis.

Third, ignore the results when the solution fails.

Finally, insist that failure proves the solution did not go far enough.

Thomas Sowell described this pattern decades ago: crisis, solution, result and response. The crisis changes, but the response rarely does. It is almost never reconsideration. It is escalation.

Aurora should pay attention because, since December 2025, the city has been governed by a progressive council majority. The crisis machine is accelerating.

The pattern was clear after the 2024 shooting of Kilyn Lewis.

Lewis' death was tragic. Although Kilyn Lewis was later determined to be unarmed, he reached into his pocket while surrounded by armed SWAT officers and pulled out an object that was subsequently identified as a cellphone. The district attorney declined to file charges, concluding that the officer reasonably believed Lewis posed an imminent threat. An internal investigation found no policy violation.

That is how law is supposed to work: evidence is gathered, video is reviewed, witnesses are interviewed, and legal standards are applied.

But the activist verdict came first. The officer had to be fired and jailed. The council had to apologize.

The city had to accept institutional guilt. The investigation was treated not as a search for truth, but as an obstacle to a predetermined conclusion.

For nearly two years, activists disrupted council meetings. Then, after progressives gained control, those aligned with the disruption discovered a new emergency: a crisis of council decorum.

Aurora already had rules governing public comment and meeting order. The problem was that disruption had been excused whenever it served a favored political cause.

Now the consequences are being used to justify changing the rules. The activists who helped create the disorder become the witnesses proving it exists. Those who tolerated it become the reformers prom-

ising to fix it.

Cause the problem. Rename it a crisis. Claim ownership of the solution.

The tuberculosis controversy at the GEO immigration facility follows the same pattern, though the facts require precision.

One active tuberculosis case was confirmed. Reports of a larger outbreak were not independently verified. That justified investigation, testing, and public-health access. It did not justify replacing evidence with political theater.

Yet, council member Alli Jackson participated in a staged protest while supporting emergency council action. Protest is a constitutional right, but it is not evidence. Lying on a sidewalk does not establish how many people are infected inside a federal detention center.

The same technique is now being applied to data centers.

Data centers raise legitimate questions involving power, water, noise, infrastructure, and land use. But careful planning is not the same thing as manufacturing catastrophe.

City officials recently explained that Aurora's existing data centers use roughly 0.3 percent of the city's water supply. Aurora also restricts where they may be located and limits water-intensive cooling systems.

Those facts do not mean every proposal should be approved. They do mean Aurora is not facing a data-center water apocalypse.

A serious government asks how much water and power a facility will use, what infrastructure it requires, who bears the costs, and what safeguards are needed.

An activist government begins with the conclusion that the industry is dangerous, then holds a meeting to validate it.

The latest manufactured crisis concerns Aurora's election calendar.

Progressives want to move municipal elections from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years, placing local races alongside presidential or congressional elections. The stated problem is low turnout. Higher turnout may be desirable. But turnout is not the same as attention, knowledge, or accountability.

An odd-year election asks voters to focus on Aurora — its police, roads, water, taxes, and budget. An even-year election buries those questions beneath national campaigns and statewide measures. It may produce more ballots. It may not produce more informed voters. And perhaps that is the point. Nationalized elections benefit partisan organizations, ideological groups, unions, and large turnout operations. Local races become less about whether streets are safe, budgets are sound, and businesses can survive — and more about which coalition can deliver the most ballots.

Aurora can increase turnout while driving businesses away. It can count more ballots while refusing to count the cost of its policies.

That is the deception of crisis government. It measures success by intentions, activism, and moral posturing rather than results.

If meetings descend into disorder, more rules are needed. If an emergency resolution accomplishes nothing, a stronger one is needed. If voters resist the agenda, the election system must be changed. Failure never discredits the ideology. Failure becomes the justification for expanding it.

Aurora needs something less theatrical and more demanding: government based on evidence, jurisdiction, and measurable results.

Before declaring a crisis, establish that one exists. Before imposing a solution, show that the city can carry it out. After adopting a policy, measure the results. And when it fails, admit it.

That is the one requirement the crisis merchants cannot tolerate. Their power depends not upon solving crises, but upon perpetuating them.

In Aurora, the crisis is no longer merely the subject of the debate.

The crisis is the method.

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