



SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Springfield Water and Sewer Commission Adopts FY26 Budget

Updated Budget Goes Into Effect July 1, 2025

The Board of Commissioners of the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) adopted its Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) budget at its regular monthly meeting on June 18, 2025, following a public hearing held on June 4, 2025. The revised proposed budget includes no change to water and sewer rates and adds a new Infrastructure Renewal Charge (IRC) charge to monthly bills, which for approximately 94% of customer accounts will be \$11.50/month. The new budget takes effect July 1, 2025 and will be reflected in bills issued in July.

The new IRC is intended to proactively stabilize rates and support more predictable household budgets amidst several driving trends. These trends include the potential reduced availability of state and federal loan programs, a downward trend in water consumption, and increased volatility in fixed costs such as health insurance, biosolids disposal, and project materials. The IRC will be tied to debt service obligations associated with infrastructure renewal.

“The Commission is currently executing a much-needed generational re-investment in its water and sewer infrastructure, and has already delivered on several large-scale projects, including the \$137 million York Street Pump Station and new \$26.5 million Backwash Facility at the West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant,” said Commission FY25 Chair Daniel Rodriguez. “Implementing the Infrastructure Renewal Charge sets a responsible budget that recognizes the fixed costs of delivering these essential services 24/7 while adapting to the variable conditions impacting the revenues that fund them.”

Rate and Charge Impact

In FY26, water and sewer rates will remain level (0% increase). The new monthly Infrastructure Renewal Charge (IRC) of \$11.50 will be added to accounts with meters less than 1” in size (93.5% of accounts) starting in July bills. Larger meter sizes will incur a larger monthly IRC. Including the IRC, the overall bill change on a typical household bill in FY26 will be 8.9%, or \$11.84 per month. Monthly charges for fire service lines in commercial properties will also double to account for the costs to maintain readiness-to-serve for these private assets.



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Customer Assistance Programs

The Board voted to expand its financial assistance programs for FY26 in the following ways:

- Increase senior, disabled, and disabled Veteran homeowner discount from \$9/month to \$10.50/month to help minimize the impact of the IRC on these customers' bills.
- Expand eligibility for disabled Veterans from 80% to 10% disabled.
- Increase the low-income Customer Assistance Program maximum credit from \$250 to \$275 (up to a maximum 25% off of annual billing).
- Remove the one-time-only limit for a leak abatement (up to \$500) by expanding eligibility to once every 5 years.

Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Renewal Program (WWIRP)

The WWIRP was launched in 2021 and is supported by a \$250 million competitive loan from EPA along with low-interest competitive state Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans. The WWIRP will revitalize the region's water and wastewater systems through 26 critical infrastructure upgrades. The cornerstone of this portfolio includes the new West Parish Water Treatment Plant, which will modernize the region's drinking water treatment technology and resolve regulatory compliance issues with disinfection byproducts. Construction is now underway, with completion scheduled for 2028. The total cost of engineering, permitting, materials, and construction of the new plant is \$363 million. Project updates are available at newwestparish.com.

In 2023 the Commission also completed a new Backwash Facility at the existing West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant, which will enable treatment to continue while the new plant is under construction, and the York Street Pump Station and Connecticut River Crossing Project. This year major water main upgrades will be made at Riverside Road, Birnie Avenue, and the X (in coordination with MassDOT).

About the Commission

Established in 1996, the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission is an independent, public regional utility. The Commission serves 250,000 customers in the lower Pioneer Valley with safe and reliable drinking water and wastewater service. The Commission provides retail drinking water service to Springfield and Ludlow; regional drinking water treatment to Agawam, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, and Southwick; and emergency/peak service to Westfield, West Springfield, Chicopee, and Wilbraham. The Commission provides retail wastewater service to Springfield and regional wastewater treatment to West Springfield, Agawam, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Wilbraham, and Ludlow.

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