



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

Date of Issuance: May 15, 2026

Contact: Jaimye Bartak, Communications Manager
Springfield Water and Sewer Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Springfield Water and Sewer Commission Issues Proposed FY 2027 Budget
Virtual Public Hearing Scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2026, 6 PM

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) has issued its proposed FY27 budget and schedule of rates, fees and charges, and revisions to its Rules and Regulations. A virtual public hearing on the proposed changes is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 6 PM.

Ongoing Infrastructure Renewal

In FY26 the Commission continued implementation of its multi-year, \$750 million infrastructure renewal portfolio, the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Renewal Program (WWIRP). The WWIRP portfolio includes over 20 critical infrastructure projects to upgrade the Commission's aging water and sewer systems on an accelerated schedule, delivering modernization and increased reliability over 10 years rather than decades. The WWIRP is supported by state and federal low-interest (2% or lower) loans, saving ratepayers significantly on borrowing costs during an era of elevated interest rates.

In FY26 several projects in this portfolio reached or neared completion, including:

- Upgrade of the 1970s era electrical system at the Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (complete) and construction of a new grit removal system (nearing completion)
- Construction of a 42" Raw Water Conveyance Pipeline and Energy Dissipation Valve (nearing completion) and cleaning of residuals lagoon (complete) at West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant
- Water distribution system upgrades at Riverside Road (complete), Birnie Avenue (nearing completion), and the X (nearing completion)

Work on the largest project, the new West Parish Water Treatment Plant, is also continuing but experienced a delay due to the discovery of more PCBs on the construction site than originally anticipated. The schedule and cost impacts to the



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

project will come into focus upon implementation of a PCB sampling and remediation plan, which is currently under development for review and approval by EPA and MassDEP. The Commission recognizes the importance of advancing the new plant as quickly as possible. Therefore, work has continued with other project elements, including the installation of new raw water transmission mains, site work, and demolition of unaffected areas. Regular project updates can be found at newwestparish.com.

Budgetary Drivers

PCB remediation at the new West Parish Water Treatment Plant construction site will not impact the FY27 budget. The four major cost drivers, representing \$6.8 million of the \$8.2 million increase of the proposed FY27 budget, include fixed costs such as employee health insurance, biosolids disposal contract cost increases, pension appropriations, and planned new debt service. Meanwhile, consumption of water continues to trend downward, due to more efficient water fixtures and decreased industrial use, while growth in the customer base remains static. This means revenue from consumption is not keeping pace with the rise in fixed costs, necessitating an adjustment to rates.

Proposed New Rate Structure

In FY27, the Commission is proposing an overall change on a typical combined household bill of \$10.94/month, or \$131.28/year, a 7.5% increase. This is closely aligned with last year's projection of a 7.1% increase for the typical combined household bill. The change reflects a water rate increase of 17%, from \$5.15 CCF to \$6.03 CCF, and a 0% increase to the sewer rate at \$7.75 CCF. The Infrastructure Renewal Charge (IRC) will increase from \$11.50/month to \$13.08/month for meter sizes .5"-1" (93% of customers) and proportionally increase for larger meters. The monthly meter charge will increase 56 cents per month.

“The proposed FY27 rates demonstrate the Commission’s disciplined fiscal management during a time of escalating fixed costs, unpredictable market conditions, and heavy system reinvestment,” said Executive Director Josh Schimmel. “Our commitment to maintaining predictable rates is intertwined with our commitment to delivering long-needed system renewal to ensure reliable water and sewer service for today and the future.”

Customer Assistance Programs

The Commission offers a diversified and robust portfolio of assistance programs to help customers manage their water and sewer bills. In FY27 the Commission is proposing the following changes to its customer assistance programs:

- Increase senior, blind, disabled, and disabled Veteran homeowner discount from \$10.50/month to \$12/month to help minimize the impact of the increased IRC on these customers' bills.



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

- Increase the low-income Customer Assistance Program maximum credit from \$275 to \$295 (up to a maximum 25% off of an annual bill up to a maximum of \$295).
- Continued leak abatements of up to \$500 once every 5 years.
- Customized payment plans

Public Hearing

Ratepayers, customers, and members of the public are invited to participate in the following virtual public hearing on the proposed FY27 budget:

DATE/TIME: Thursday, June 18, 2026, 6:00 P.M.

LOCATION: **Telephone:** 413-261-6430, Conference ID: 165 764 219#

Computer (live video conference): <https://tinyurl.com/SWSCFY27PublicHearing>

Relevant documents are available on the Commission's web page at <https://waterandsewer.org/updates/public-notices/>.

The public can also email questions and comments in advance of and following the hearing to info@waterandsewer.org.

The Board of Commissioners will vote on the FY27 budget at its June 24, 2026, monthly meeting.

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.

END