



Springfield Water and Sewer Commission
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Springfield Water and Sewer Commission Adopts FY27 Budget *Updated Budget Goes Into Effect July 1, 2026*

The Board of Commissioners of the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) adopted its Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) budget at its regular monthly meeting on June 24, 2026, following a public hearing held on June 18, 2026. The revised budget will raise the typical household water and sewer bill by 7.5%, or \$10.94/month. The new budget takes effect July 1, 2026 and will be reflected in bills issued in July.

The FY27 budget reflects the day-to-day costs to deliver essential water and sewer services, as well as capital reinvestments in the water and sewer system. The Commission is currently implementing its Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Renewal Program (WWIRP), a portfolio of over 20 critical water/sewer upgrade projects to ensure system resilience and reliability for the region.

"The Commission continues to be strongly focused on maintaining local rate stability while we deliver one of the largest water/sewer upgrade programs in New England," said Executive Director Josh Schimmel. "In the past year alone, the Commission has reached completion on seven major projects, including water system upgrades at Birnie Avenue and the X. The FY27 budget extends our commitment to delivering for our community by supporting modest rate adjustments during this period of major reinvestment."

Rate and Charge Impact

In FY27, water rates will increase to \$6.03 CCF (17% increase) and the sewer rate will remain \$7.85 CCF (0% increase). The monthly Infrastructure Renewal Charge (IRC) will increase from \$11.50/month to \$13.08/month for accounts with meters equal to or less than 1" in size (93.5% of accounts). Residential monthly meter charges (for ½" & 5/8" size) will increase from \$3.76 to \$4.32. The changes will raise the typical household bill by \$10.94/month, or \$131.28/year.

Customer Assistance Programs

The Board voted to expand its financial assistance programs for FY27 in the following ways:

- Increase senior, blind, disabled, and disabled Veteran homeowner discount from \$10.50/month to \$12/month to help minimize the impact of rate and monthly charge increases on these customers' bills.
- Increase the low-income Customer Assistance Program maximum credit from \$275 to \$295 (up to a maximum 25% off of annual billing).
- Continued leak abatements of up to \$500 once every 5 years.



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Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Renewal Program (WWIRP)

The WWIRP has completed or is advancing over 20 critical infrastructure upgrades to the region's water and wastewater infrastructure. 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. The discovery of additional PCBs at the construction site last year is not impacting FY27 rates. Sampling of the site is currently underway to determine the exact scope of the PCB issue, which will in turn inform the cost and schedule of PCB remediation. In the meantime, demolition has commenced on the 1925 slow sand filters 7-10, which are unaffected by PCBs. Project updates are available at newwestparish.com.

In FY26 the Commission also reached completion or near-completion of the following projects:

- Electrical system upgrades (complete) and grit removal upgrades (nearing completion) at the Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility
- 42" Raw Water Conveyance and EDV Facility (nearing completion) and lagoon cleaning (complete) at West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant
- Water system upgrades at Riverside Road (complete), Birnie Avenue (nearing completion), and the X (complete, one year ahead of schedule, as part of MassDOT's current streetscape project)

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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