



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
**WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT**  
MAYOR Jake Wilson

MICHAEL RICHARDS, MPA, MCPPO  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

RICHARD E. RAICHE, PE, PMP, MCPPO  
DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE & ASSET MANAGEMENT

**Date:** June 11, 2025  
**To:** City Council  
**From:** Michael Richards, Director of Finance and Administration  
**RE:** FY27 Water & Sewer Rates

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Honorable Members of the City Council,

The enclosed tables outline the proposed changes and recommendations for the City's water and sewer rates for Fiscal Year 2027. Water enterprise revenues must increase 15%, and sewer enterprise revenues must increase 15% to ensure that critical repairs, ongoing maintenance, and capital improvements can be made to our aging water and sewer infrastructure.

The Water & Sewer Department instituted a new rate structure in FY26 and transitioned to quarterly billing while simplifying the districts and billing schedules. We are recommending that no changes be made to the current base charge model and billing frequency structure.

**FY27 recommendations include:**

1. A 15% increase in revenues from water volumetric charges;
2. A 15% increase in revenues from sewer volumetric charges;
3. Base charges remain unchanged

A public hearing was advertised and held virtually and in person at the High School Highlander Forum on **Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 6:00 pm**. Video recording of that public hearing is available here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yD\\_xXB96JMI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yD_xXB96JMI)

Respectfully, I request your approval of the attached proposals for FY2027.

Thank you,  
**Michael Richards, MPA, MCPPO**  
Director of Finance and Administration





**TABLE 1: Proposed FY27 Residential Volumetric Charges (Water & Sewer)**

<b>TABLE 1: RESIDENTIAL VOLUMETRIC USAGE CHARGES</b>				
	\$Rate/Unit			
Tier	Tier Range	Water	Sewer	Blended
1	0-9	\$8.40	\$14.16	\$22.56
2	10-18	\$10.50	\$17.97	\$28.47
3	Over 18	\$12.59	\$21.57	\$34.16

\*One unit = 100 cubic feet (CCF) or 748 gallons of water

**TABLE 2: Proposed FY27 Commercial Volumetric Charges (Water & Sewer)**

<b>TABLE 2: COMMERCIAL VOLUMETRIC USAGE CHARGES</b>				
	\$Rate/Unit			
Tier	Tier Range	Water	Sewer	Blended
1	0-19	\$8.37	\$16.12	\$24.49
2	20-100	\$12.05	\$20.57	\$32.62
3	101-200	\$12.62	\$21.57	\$34.19
4	Over 200	\$13.12	\$22.33	\$35.45

\*One unit = 100 cubic feet (CCF) or 748 gallons of water

**TABLE 3: Proposed FY27 Water & Sewer Base Charges**

Meter Size	Water		Sewer		Blended	
	Quarterly	Annually	Quarterly	Annually	Quarterly	Annually
5/8"	\$15	\$60	\$30	\$120	\$45	\$180
3/4"	\$22.50	\$90	\$45	\$180	\$68	\$270
1"	\$37.50	\$150	\$75	\$300	\$113	\$450
1 1/2"	\$75	\$300	\$150	\$600	\$225	\$900
2"	\$120	\$480	\$240	\$960	\$360	\$1,440
3"	\$326.25	\$1,305	\$653	\$2,612	\$979	\$3,917
4"	\$562.50	\$2,250	\$1,125	\$4,500	\$1,688	\$6,750
6"	\$1,200	\$4,800	\$2,400	\$9,600	\$3,600	\$14,400
8"	\$2,100	\$8,400	\$4,200	\$16,800	\$6,300	\$25,200

\*American Water Works Association meter equivalency factors

