



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT  
Katjana Ballantyne  
MAYOR

*Demetrios G. Vidalis, PE, SHEP*  
*Director of Water & Sewer*

May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Honorable President and Members of the City Council:

The tables below outline the proposed water and sewer volumetric rates for the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24). The FY24 rate proposal represents the following changes to the current rates:

1. No change to existing base charges for both water and sewer;
2. An 11% increase in water volumetric charges;
3. A 15% increase in sewer volumetric charges.

The following tables list the new rates. The residential 'discount tier' for the first 8 units of usage [8 units x 748 gallons per unit = 5,984 gallons] remains in place.

**Table 1: Proposed FY24 Residential Volumetric Charges (tri-annual bills)**

FY 2024 Residential Volumetric Charges (\$/Billing Unit)				
Tier	Tier Range (per CCF)	Water	Sewer	Combined
Discount Rate	0-8	\$5.53	\$11.41	\$16.94
Tier 1	9-13	\$6.17	\$12.68	\$18.85
Tier 2	14-67	\$8.88	\$16.18	\$25.06
Tier 3	68-133	\$9.30	\$16.97	\$26.27
Tier 4	Over 133	\$9.67	\$17.57	\$27.24

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



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**Table 2: Proposed FY24 Commercial Volumetric Charges (bi-monthly bills)**

FY 2024 Commercial Volumetric Charges (\$/Billing Unit)				
Tier	Tier Range (per CCF)	Water	Sewer	Combined
Tier 1	0-13	\$6.17	\$ 12.68	\$18.85
Tier 2	14-67	\$8.88	\$16.18	\$25.06
Tier 3	68-133	\$9.30	\$16.97	\$26.27
Tier 4	Over 133	\$9.67	\$17.57	\$27.24

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

An information session and public hearing was scheduled and conducted for May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, on the City's virtual platform where the rates of 11% for water and 17% for sewer were presented. The information session began under the premise that the rates would be 12.6% for water and 18.75% for sewer due to anticipated increases in our Debt Service. In light of some favorable factors, and new information gained within the few hours leading up to this event, we were able to make significant adjustments to the rate schedule as seen above.

If you have any further questions, please contact myself or our Director of Finance at [sthaynes@somervillema.gov](mailto:sthaynes@somervillema.gov).



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