

City of Bloomington Utilities – 2025 Water Rate Case FAQ

1. Why is CBU proposing a water rate increase?

This proposed water rate adjustment will fund essential maintenance, upgrades, and capital improvements to Bloomington's water utility infrastructure that are outlined in the [CBU Capital Improvement Plan](#). The timing of this rate case follows CBU's standard practice of conducting a comprehensive rate review every four years. This practice allows CBU to attend to infrastructure maintenance, operations, and capital projects in a proactive manner and leads to increased rate stability over time.

2. What are the expected changes to water rates?

The proposed rates have not been determined just yet. As part of the settlement from the previous rate case, CBU committed to gathering feedback from all involved parties before finalizing the proposed rates, and that process is still underway. CBU will share the proposed rate increase for each of the various customer classes once they are available. Stay up-to-date on the rate case by visiting <https://bloomington.in.gov/utilities/rate-case>

3. When will the increase be implemented?

CBU plans to implement the rates in mid-to-late 2026.

4. What infrastructure projects will this rate support?

Rate revenue will fund a series of essential capital projects outlined in [CBU's Capital Improvement Plan \(CIP\)](#) and identified as urgent in the Wessler Engineering cost-of-service study and the Mayor's Transition Report.

These projects reflect a major investment in Bloomington's water infrastructure: nearly \$30.8 million for maintenance, repairs, and upgrades at the Monroe Water Treatment Plant, \$34.5 million for distribution system improvements, and \$18.75 million toward the \$45.7 million total cost of building a new service center. All accomplished without increasing CBU's debt service expenses.

5. Why now?

The last rate case was approved in 2021, based on cost estimates from 2019. Since then, the costs of capital projects, construction, maintenance, treatment chemicals, and

operations have grown substantially. If CBU waits longer to address needed projects, the financial costs of projects will continue to climb. CBU is dedicated to taking timely action on improvements and repairs that will save resources and ensure safe, reliable drinking water infrastructure for the community over time.

6. What is the process for approving the new rates?

- August 25, 2025 – Utilities Service Board considers the proposal (open to the public)
Zoom Link:
<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/84160267530pwd=fuaabV8MOk567cefcLrPXsBfjUMxJ.1>
Meeting ID: 841 6026 7530
Passcode: 877854
- August 29, 2025 – CBU hosts a public information session (5–6 PM at the Utilities Service Center)
Zoom Link:
<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/82738299871?pwd=goe40LxTyJryVilbIGl49zaXSzm1xA.1>
Meeting ID: 827 3829 9871
Passcode: 980782
- September 8, 2025 – Utilities Service Board for approval
Zoom Link:
<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/85381725798?pwd=mlQc6UaxbEOgq3vOpt5xwzvazssCw.1>
Meeting ID: 853 8172 5798
Passcode: 040258
- September 30th – City of Bloomington Common Council - First Reading
- October 22nd – City of Bloomington Common Council - Second Reading (Possible Vote)
- Late October 2025 – Submission to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC)
- The IURC will conduct public hearings – dates will be announced as they become available
- Mid/late 2026 - If approved by IURC, new rates will go into effect

8. How can residents learn more or provide feedback?

- Visit: bloomington.in.gov/utilities/rates for details, reports, and updates.
- Attend public meetings: Details posted at bloomington.in.gov/calendar.
- Attend the Public Information Session on August 29th, 5:00–6:00 PM.
- Attend IURC public hearings (dates and times to be announced).

9. Who pays for these improvements?

CBU is a fully self-funded municipal utility. This means all costs for operations, maintenance, infrastructure, and facilities are paid directly by CBU's customers—residents, businesses, institutions, and wholesale partners. No general tax dollars are used.

10. What happens if the rate increase and associated projects are delayed?

Postponing these projects risks:

- Higher future costs
- Water quality issues
- Increased service interruption due to aging systems
- Increased regulatory compliance risks
- Equipment failure due to aging systems
- CBU's capacity to serve ratepayers as a modern utility

Acting now protects public health, ensures system reliability, and avoids more costly emergency repairs later.