

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 proposed changes to water rates?

Proposed Monthly Water Fixed & Usage Charges

Fixed Charges

Meter Size (Inches)	Current Rates	Proposed Rates
5/8"	\$6.50	\$8.16
¾"	\$7.93	\$9.58
1"	\$10.68	\$12.41
1 ½"	\$22.12	\$19.50
2"	\$29.70	\$28.01
3"	\$61.06	\$47.87
4"	\$100.40	\$76.23
6"	\$198.78	\$147.14
8"	\$297.17	\$232.23
10"	\$395.53	\$331.50

Usage Charges

Water Rates	Current Rates (\$/1,000 gal)	Proposed Rates (\$/1,000 gal)
Residential	\$4.38	\$5.31
General Service	\$3.98, \$3.71	\$5.83
Wholesale	\$3.03	\$4.49
Indiana University - Master	\$2.99 (Master) \$3.98 (Other IU)	\$4.76 (Master) \$5.83 (Other IU)
Irrigation	\$4.92	\$10.92

Proposed Monthly Fire Protection Rates

Public Fire Protection

Meter Size (Inches)	Current Rates (Inside)	Proposed Rates (Inside)	Current Rates (Outside)	Proposed Rates (Outside)
5/8"	\$2.20	\$1.93	\$3.67	\$2.64
¾"	\$3.28	\$2.90	\$5.52	\$3.96
1"	\$5.48	\$4.83	\$9.21	\$6.60
1 ½"	\$10.95	\$9.65	\$18.38	\$13.20
2"	\$17.52	\$15.44	\$29.44	\$21.12
3"	\$38.34	\$28.95	\$64.40	\$39.60
4"	\$65.70	\$48.25	\$110.34	\$66.00
6"	\$136.93	\$96.50	\$229.90	\$132.00
8"	\$197.17	\$154.40	\$331.00	\$211.20
10"	\$317.64	\$221.95	\$533.40	\$303.60

Private Fire Protection (Fire Lines)

Connection Size (Inches)	Current Rates	Proposed Rates
4" or Less	\$11.04	\$15.83
6"	\$30.69	\$35.84
8"	\$62.88	\$70.36
10"	\$110.15	\$122.29
12"	\$173.65	\$194.25

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 \$52-54 million total cost of building a new service center. All accomplished without increasing CBU's debt service expenses.

5. 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.

6. 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

7. How does Bloomington compare to other cities?

Even with the proposed rate increase, Bloomington's residential water rates remain below the state median:

COMBINED WATER AND SEWER RATE SURVEY
 Cities and Towns in Indiana with over 25,000 Population

Rank	City/Town	2020 Census	County	Combined Charge (1)
1	Hobart	29,752	Lake	\$ 151.06 (2)
2	Crown Point	33,899	Lake	150.67 (2)
3	Greenwood	63,830	Johnson	145.67
4	Evansville	117,298	Vanderburgh	140.84 (2)
5	Jeffersonville	49,447	Clark	139.61
6	Franklin	25,313	Johnson	137.26
7	Richmond	35,720	Wayne	134.38
8	Terre Haute	58,389	Vigo	132.67
9	Muncie	65,194	Delaware	132.26 (2)
10	Noblesville	69,604	Hamilton	125.76
11	Portage	37,926	Porter	125.48 (2)
12	New Albany	37,841	Floyd	123.78
13	West Lafayette	44,595	Tippecanoe	120.15 (2)
14	Kokomo	59,604	Howard	115.38
15	Gary	69,093	Lake	114.98
16	Lawrence	49,370	Marion	111.54
17	Merrillville	36,444	Lake	105.28
18	Goshen	34,517	Elkhart	103.42
19	Zionsville	30,603	Boone	99.69
20	Fort Wayne	263,886	Allen	99.33
21	Mishawaka	51,063	St. Joseph	99.12
22	Indianapolis	887,642	Marion	98.66
23	Valparaiso	34,151	Porter	94.41 (2)
Proposed Rate Increase	Bloomington (2026)	79,168	Monroe	93.81
24	Bloomington	79,168	Monroe	87.77
25	Carmel	99,757	Hamilton	86.06 (2)
26	Elkhart	53,923	Elkhart	85.01 (2)
27	Westfield	46,410	Hamilton	83.30
28	South Bend	103,453	St. Joseph	80.17
29	Marion	28,310	Grant	79.03 (2)
30	Fishers	98,977	Hamilton	76.84
31	Columbus	50,474	Bartholomew	73.35 (2)
32	Brownsburg	28,973	Hendricks	72.93 (2)
33	Anderson	54,788	Madison	70.64 (2)
34	East Chicago	26,370	Lake	65.81 (2)
35	Michigan City	32,075	La Porte	60.42
36	Lafayette	70,783	Tippecanoe	60.31
37	Schererville	29,646	Lake	58.07 (2)
38	Plainfield	34,625	Hendricks	54.09
39	Hammond	77,879	Lake	34.60

WATER RATE SURVEY

Cities and Towns in Indiana with over 25,000 Population

Rank	City/Town	2020 Census	County	Effective Date	Water Charge (1)
1	Franklin	25,313	Johnson	2024	\$ 72.48
2	Gary	69,093	Lake	2024	72.48
3	Greenwood	63,830	Johnson	2024	72.48
4	Hobart	29,752	Lake	2024	72.48
5	Jeffersonville	49,447	Clark	2024	72.48
6	Kokomo	59,604	Howard	2024	72.48
7	Merrillville	36,444	Lake	2025	72.48
8	Muncie	65,194	Delaware	2024	72.48
9	New Albany	37,841	Floyd	2025	72.48
10	Noblesville	69,604	Hamilton	2024	72.48
11	Portage	37,926	Porter	2024	72.48
12	Richmond	35,720	Wayne	2024	72.48
13	Terre Haute	58,389	Vigo	2025	72.48
14	West Lafayette	44,595	Tippecanoe	2024	72.48
15	Crown Point	33,899	Lake	2025	67.12 (2)
16	Evansville	117,298	Vanderburgh	2025	55.54 (2)
17	Lawrence	49,370	Marion	2019	51.28
18	Fishers	98,977	Hamilton	2025	42.84
19	Indianapolis	887,642	Marion	2025	42.84
20	Zionsville	30,603	Boone	2025	42.84
21	Carmel	99,757	Hamilton	2025	42.43 (2)
22	Goshen	34,517	Elkhart	2025	39.67
23	Valparaiso	34,151	Porter	2025	39.37 (2)
24	Mishawaka	51,063	St. Joseph	2023	38.04
25	East Chicago	26,370	Lake	2024	36.76 (2)
Proposed Rate Increase Bloomington (2026)		79,168	Monroe	2026	36.64
26	Westfield	46,410	Hamilton	2024	35.53
27	Fort Wayne	263,886	Allen	2023	33.23
28	Marion	28,310	Grant	2025	32.31 (2)
29	Schererville	29,646	Lake	2025	31.34
30	Bloomington	79,168	Monroe	2024	30.60
31	Brownsburg	28,973	Hendricks	2022	29.06 (2)
32	Anderson	54,788	Madison	2016	27.47 (2)
33	Michigan City	32,075	La Porte	2015	26.65
34	Elkhart	53,923	Elkhart	2025	23.86 (2)
35	South Bend	103,453	St. Joseph	2024	23.23
36	Columbus	50,474	Bartholomew	2024	22.00 (2)
37	Lafayette	70,783	Tippecanoe	2019	17.81
38	Plainfield	34,625	Hendricks	2009	17.69
39	Hammond	77,879	Lake	2023	14.65

(1) Residential 5/8" meter monthly billing for 6.68 CCF or 5,000 Gallons.

(2) Rate increase pending.

This reflects CBU's continued commitment to balancing affordability with responsible investment.

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

- August 25, 2025 – Utilities Service Board considers the proposal (open to the public) **(Completed)**
- August 29, 2025 – CBU hosts a public information session (5–6 PM at the Utilities Service Center)**(Completed)**
- September 8, 2025 – Utilities Service Board for approval **(Completed - Approved)**
- September 9/17 - City of Bloomington Common Council - First Reading
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/87868604832?pwd=7a8bJhpYfba0itp3DdAvZOWahXcBfV.1>
Meeting ID: 878 6860 4832
Passcode: 043023
- September 9/30 - City of Bloomington Common Council - Second Reading
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/88097642632?pwd=WCeVALal8tNdnmKpEYcXFI137AY88U.1>
Meeting ID: 880 9764 2632
Passcode: 211360
- 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

9. 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).

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.