

## 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 Charges

##### Fixed Charges

Meter Size (Inches)	Current Rates	Proposed Rates
5/8"	\$6.50	\$8.16
3/4"	\$7.93	\$9.58
1"	\$10.68	\$12.41
1½"	\$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)	\$4.76 (Master)
	\$3.98 (Other IU)	\$5.83 (Other IU)
Irrigation	\$4.92	\$10.92

## Proposed Monthly Fire Protection Rates

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
3/4"	\$3.28	\$2.90	\$5.52	\$3.96
1"	\$5.48	\$4.83	\$9.21	\$6.60
1 1/2"	\$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 Rates

Private Fire Protection	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 ratepayers—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 in the long run.

## 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

Rank	City/Town	2020 Census	County	Combined Charges	Note - see below
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	\$145.67	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	Deleware	\$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	\$98.33	
21	Mishiwaka	51,063	St. Joseph	\$99.12	
22	Indianapolis	887,642	Marion	\$93.81	
23	Valparaiso	34,151	Porter	\$94.41	2
24	<b>Bloomington (2026)</b>	79,168	Monroe	\$93.81	3
	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	Marion	28,310	Grant	\$79.03	2
29	South Bend	103,453	St. Joseph	\$80.17	
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

Rank	City/Town	2020 Census	County	Effective Date	Water Charge
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	Terra 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	2
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	Mishiwaka	51,063	St. Joseph	2023	\$38.04	
25	East Chicago	26,370	Lake	2024	\$36.76	2
25	<b>Bloomington (2026)</b>	79,168	Monroe	2026	\$36.64	3
26	Westfield	46,410	Hamilton	2024	\$35.53	
27	Fort Wayne	263,886	Allen	2023	\$33.23	
28	Marion	28,973	Grant	2025	\$32.21	2
29	Schereville	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	50,464	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	

**Notes:**

1 - Residential 5/8" meter monthly billing for 6.68 CCF or 5,000 gallons

2 - Rate increase pending

3 - Proposed rate increase

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 **(Completed)**
- September 9/30 - City of Bloomington Common Council - Second Reading **(Completed - Approved)**
- Late November 2025 – Submission to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) **(Submitted)**
- 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 [Rate Case Information](#) page for details, reports, and updates.
- Attend public meetings: Details posted on our [Utilities Service Board](#) page.
- 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.