



Phoenix Water and Wastewater Rates FAQs

What is the water sewer rates increase?

On January 6, 2016, the Phoenix City Council approved a three percent increase for water rates and a two percent increase for sewer rates, which results in a combined 2.6 percent increase for 2016. Phoenix City Council also approved a two percent increase for water and a two percent increase for wastewater, a combined two percent increase for 2017.

How much will my monthly bill go up?

The new rates roughly translate into a 2016 monthly increase of \$1.59 for the average water customer. With the new rates in place, the average single-family residential water customer will pay \$30.00 per month, and the average single-family residential sewer customer will pay \$24.68 per month. The 2017 rates will go into effect on March 1, 2017 and roughly translate to a monthly average of \$1.07. The 2016 and 2017 rates are still among the lowest in the nation.

Why is a water and sewer rates increase necessary?

While we like to think of Phoenix as a young city, but in reality, we've been providing water and sewer services for 100 years. Our critical infrastructure is aging and needs to be replaced. Phoenix operates one of the largest water and sewer utilities in the country, running and maintaining 7,000 miles of water pipelines, 5,000 miles of sewer lines, 8 water treatment plants, dozens of pump stations, wells, and reservoirs.

What will the extra funding from the rates increase be used for?

Phoenix Water spends 60% of its annual budget on capital infrastructure, to ensure the delivery of water supplies, and to safely remove wastewater from our homes. In order to ensure reliable deliveries of clean, safe water to our community, we must continue to invest in the replacement and rehabilitation of our infrastructure. In addition to aging infrastructure, the cost of raw water supplies, electricity and chemicals are increasing. We also expect the cost of Colorado River water to increase as we face shortages in the coming years.

When was the last water/sewer rates increase?

The last rate increase was almost four years ago for water rates and six years ago for wastewater rates.

How is the Phoenix Water Services Department funded?

The water and wastewater utilities of the City of Phoenix do not operate for profit, they are owned by the citizens of Phoenix. The Phoenix Water Services Department, which runs the utilities, aims to earn enough revenue to cover the cost of debt service, operations, needed rehabilitation, replacement and development of capital infrastructure. This all needs to be done with enough revenue left over to end the fiscal year with a cash fund balance large enough to pay for catastrophic and unforeseen needs and to maintain a triple-A rating, which keeps the cost of borrowing low.

For more information, visit: phoenix.gov/water and click on the tab "Water Rates" or email: watersmart@phoenix.gov.

