

## INFRASTRUCTURE:

# Safe, Affordable and Reliable Drinking Water is Possible Under Proposed Michigan Water Affordability Legislation



- After decades of disinvestment in clean water, **Michigan faces a long list of challenges** including:
  - unaffordable water rates,
  - lead water service lines,
  - toxic contamination from “forever” chemicals like PFAS,
  - sewers that can’t meet demand, and
  - failing septic systems.



- There is an annual gap in water and sewer infrastructure investments is **\$800M to \$1.1B to fully upgrade** the state’s water infrastructure.
- **Most of the infrastructure** within Michigan’s community water supply systems is **more than 50 years old**.



- **More than \$18B is essential in the next 20 years** to improve the state’s sewage systems. Wastewater systems connect to two-thirds of Michigan’s four million households.



- **Your local water provider needs every customer to pay their fair share for services because those dollars go right back into the system for maintenance, repair and upgrades.**



- When shut offs and tax liens fail, the only options for water suppliers to handle the budget deficit are to **put off important infrastructure repairs** and upgrades or **add the unpaid debt to everyone’s bill** in the form of a **rate increase**.
- This increase then makes it even more difficult for customers who are already struggling to pay their bill.

**But there is a new option . . .**

# Under Proposed Michigan Water Affordability Legislation Safe, Affordable and Reliable Drinking Water is Possible

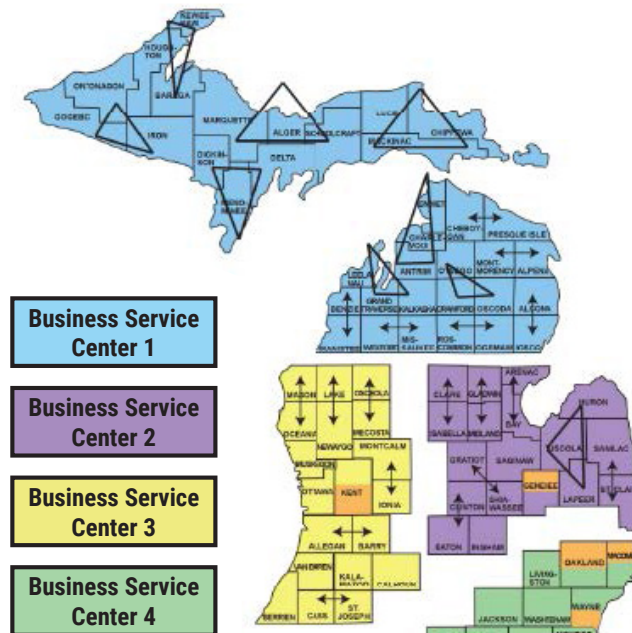


- Legislation proposed in Lansing would create a water affordability fund so that customers who are struggling to pay their bill can **pay what they can afford** at a capped rate based on household income and the fund will cover the rest of the bill. A \$2 charge on each water account per month would go into the fund.



- This will **increase collection rates** and help water systems cover their costs to provide **clean, safe, affordable drinking water** and collect and treat sewage.

- Also, the legislation will ensure that funds collected within four regions of the state will stay in those areas to help local families.



Learn more at [miwaterplan.com](http://miwaterplan.com)