



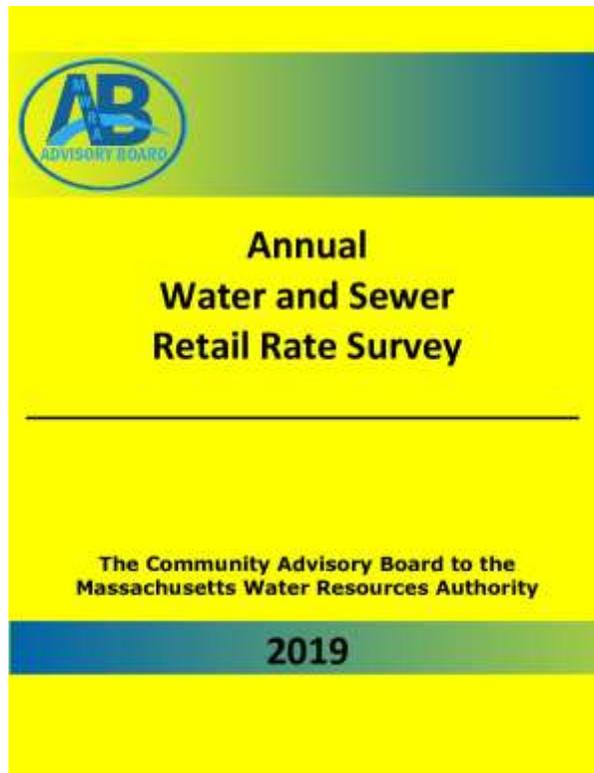
NEWS & NOTES

A Publication of the MWR A Advisory Board

January 2020

2019 Retail Rate Survey

Now Available



For the past three decades, the Advisory Board has been tracking the retail rates for the 60 MWR A communities and many out-of-system communities as well. Every year,

the survey gives the communities and the ratepayers a chance to compare their own rates to those of their neighbors. They can also see the long-term trends of their rate history. The input from all of the communities makes the survey rich in information and continually the most requested Advisory Board publication.

For the [2019 calendar year](#), using the AWWA standard of 120 HCF per household usage annually, the average combined water and sewer bill for MWRA communities was \$1,660. This is an increase of 3.54% from last year's combined bill of \$1,602. In comparison, the average wholesale rate change for wholesale communities in June of 2019 was 3.02%. When factoring in local, state, and federal data, the average household usage in the MWRA service area is estimated to be 70.5 HCF a year with an average combined bill of \$867.

We are excited to note some enhancements to the Rate Survey document in 2019, particularly the inclusion new data in the survey's Commonwealth communities section. Historically, this part of the document has shown how MWRA communities compared to non-MWRA communities in Massachusetts. This data was limited, however, providing only 22 communities for comparison. The 2019 document incorporates nearly 200 other Massachusetts communities in this section, expanding the document's resourcefulness across the state.

Governor Baker Includes DSA in FY21 State Budget

Sewer Rate Relief Fund



As part of the FY21 State Budget, Governor Baker has included \$1.1 million in line item 1231-1000, the sewer rate relief fund. We will work with members of the House and Senate to ensure that DSA remains a piece of the budget. Thank you to Governor Baker for keeping the DSA line item alive—any DSA received directly reduces community assessments.

PFAS Forum in Needham

June 18, 2020

www.epa.gov/pfas

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) | US EPA

Dec 18, 2019 - "We are moving forward with several important actions, including the maximum contaminant level process, that will help affected communities."

Top stories

-  The 'forever chemicals' fueling a public health crisis in drinking water
The Guardian · 1 day ago
-  Virtually all major U.S. drinking water sources likely contaminated with PFAS
Salon.com · 1 day ago
-  Data show high levels of PFAS pollution in Cape Fear
North Carolina Health News · 1 day ago

Join us on June 18th at Needham Town Hall for a special Advisory Board meeting. We are organizing a morning-long workshop devoted to learning more about PFAS. We're

they were in fact subject to a state-wide hiring cap.

MWRA Board members noted that the Trust was established to avoid this kind of issue from happening. Why the 100% MWRA-funded Watershed Division would be subject to a state cap is unclear. They voted to send a letter to the Secretary of Administration and Finance, emphasizing the need to exempt the Watershed Division from the hiring cap.

The remaining items from the January 15th meeting can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Events

For the Month of [February](#)

February 14 | 10:00 AM

[Executive Committee Meeting](#) at Advisory Board Offices

February 19 | 10:00 AM

[MWRA Board of Directors Meeting](#) in MWRA Board Room

February 20 | 11:30 AM

[Advisory Board Meeting](#) at Needham Town Hall

[Visit web site](#)

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