



# The City of Lorain, Ohio

## UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

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*Director of Utilities*

### **The City of Lorain is Committed to Improving the City's Infrastructure**

As many of you already know, the City's water and sewer infrastructure is in need of repair and replacement. Some parts of the water and sewer system are well over 100 years old. The City is tasked with repairing or replacing much of the aging system. This need for improvements to the water and sewer system is one of the City's greatest challenges moving forward. The City must provide safe and reliable drinking water and provide environmentally sound wastewater collection and treatment in a way that takes into account customer affordability and meets current and future environmental regulations.

In 2015 the City began the first of two water and sewer rate studies to determine the future economic obligations of the City's water and sewer systems. In 2017, the City approved a ten year plan to increase water and sewer rates, based on the rate studies, to meet this challenge. The rate increases will ensure the City of Lorain will be able to fund the needed improvements.

The water and sewer rates consist of two parts. One is the usage charge. This is the amount you pay per 100 cubic feet of water (750 gallon) you use. The second part of the monthly charge is a fixed charge. This charge is called the Regulatory Capital Improvement Compliance Charge for sewer and the Readiness to Serve Charge for water. These charges help us pay for fixed costs that do not change with the amount of water you use. The fixed charges help pay for capital improvement projects that ensure the City is in compliance with the latest environmental regulations. The fixed charges also protect the City in the event of the loss of significant water users. Without the fixed charges, normal customers would be forced to pay more in the event of a loss of customers.

This month the water usage rate will increase, for 2019, from \$5.66 per 100 cubic feet to \$ 5.76 per 100 cubic feet. The Water Readiness to Serve Charge will increase from \$15.00 per month to \$21.00 per month. The sewer usage rate will increase from \$6.29 per 100 cubic feet to \$6.38 per 100 cubic feet. The Regulatory Capital Improvement Compliance Charge will increase from \$10.00 per month to \$15.00 per month. The average customer will see an increase of about \$12.00 per month in 2019.

In 2019, you may notice contractors lining sanitary sewers in South Lorain. This is to extend the life of the sewers without having to dig up the roads. This also helps to lessen the amount of storm water that enters the sanitary sewers. This will help reduce the number of occurrences of customers having sewage in their homes during heavy rains. You may also notice, in 2019, contractors replacing water mains through the City. We are in our eighth year of water main replacement program. The City has spent over \$50 million replacing old, undersized and leaky water mains. Replacing old water mains improves water quality, reduces water main breaks, improves water pressure and extends the life of the water system. The City will post more information on upcoming projects on the City's website [www.cityoflorain.org](http://www.cityoflorain.org) in the future.