

Understanding your Water Bill



As an enterprise fund, the Village's Water and Sewer Fund is created to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises. The intent is that costs of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges. All activity necessary to provide such services are accounted for in this fund, including administration, operations, maintenance, billing and collection.

The Village has contracted with Raftelis to perform a water rate study in 2025. This activity will evaluate the current rate structures for the five components of the water bill to ensure the Village can continue to pay for water purchased from Evanston, repay debt service, maintain the water system, and make improvements. Findings and recommendations for rate changes beginning in 2026, will be presented to the Committee of the Whole this summer. **All monies collected for water and sewer service must go back into the Water and Sewer Fund, as no property tax dollars are utilized.**

Five Components of a Water Bill

A typical water bill has five components

Water Usage



The basic water user charge is calculated based on consumption. As of January 1, 2025, the base rate is \$6.52 per 1,000 gallons of metered water consumed. This is a 2.8% increase in basic water use charges for 2025.

Capital Improvements



As of January 1, 2025, each bill includes a charge which is allocated to fund large capital projects, such as, water main replacements. Water bills for residential properties are issued quarterly and reflect a charge of \$10.56 for the three-month period. Water bills for commercial properties are issued monthly, therefore they reflect the monthly charge of \$3.52.

Water Meter Fund



As of January 1, 2025, residential properties will be charged a water meter fee of \$5.03 quarterly. Commercial properties are charged a monthly water meter fund fee of \$10.05. These fees are assessed for the use of the Village's water meters.

Debt Service Fund



As of January 1, 2025, the Debt Service Charge is calculated at \$3.80 per 1,000 gallons. This charge is allocated to pay debts incurred to improve the water delivery system for projects such as water main replacements.

Sewer Use



As of January 1, 2025, the Sewer user fee is \$1.12 per 1,000 gallons. Funds generated from the sewer user charge are utilized for maintenance of the Village's combined sewer system as well as any improvements or repairs that are needed.

For additional information, please contact the Lincolnwood Finance Department at (847) 673-1540 or visit lincolnwoodil.org.

