

Union's Water and Sewer Rates (effective April, 2023)

There has been an increase in the flat rate water and sewer charges effective with the April utility bills mailed to customers at the end of April.

The flat rate water bill has increased \$10.00 and the flat rate sewer bill has increased \$6.00. The usage rate bills customers receive were not increased. (Each year residents receive 8 flat rate and 4 usage rate utility bills).

It has been over 7 years since the last water rate increase. Union's water rates have consistently been the lowest in the region for many years. Even with this rate increase, Union's water rate will remain among the lowest in the Miami Valley Region (based on the City of Piqua water rate survey of 68 Miami Valley communities).

Here are just a few of the reasons the water rate increase is needed: Operational supply costs for the water system have continued to rise. Also, Federal and State Environmental Regulations continue to change to safeguard drinking water quality. As a result, we're faced with increased testing fees to monitor for items such as lead in drinking water, PFAS contaminants and other unregulated contaminants. Water equipment replacement and upgrades are necessary. Also new monitoring requirements for the City's wells and water towers must be met. In 2022, costs for cleaning and repairing one well pump was close to \$60,000. In 2023 we're faced with another well cleaning and inspecting and cleaning of a water tower.

The most recent sewer rate increase was in 2019. This was required for the expansion of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The City issued 3.2 million dollars in bonds to construct the expansion improvements.

A second phase of equipment replacement upgrades is now necessary. This project is estimated to cost \$1,500,000. As with the first phase of improvements the City will be installing most of the equipment in an effort to save costs.

Based on the current City of Piqua combined rate survey for 2023, the increase in Union's water/sewer rates places our community at 5th lowest in combined quarterly rates out of 65 Miami Valley Communities. Union's combined quarterly rate is more than 100 dollars less than the average quarterly rate of the community's surveyed and \$374 less than the highest quarterly combined rate. The City of Piqua's combined rate survey is posted on the City's website.