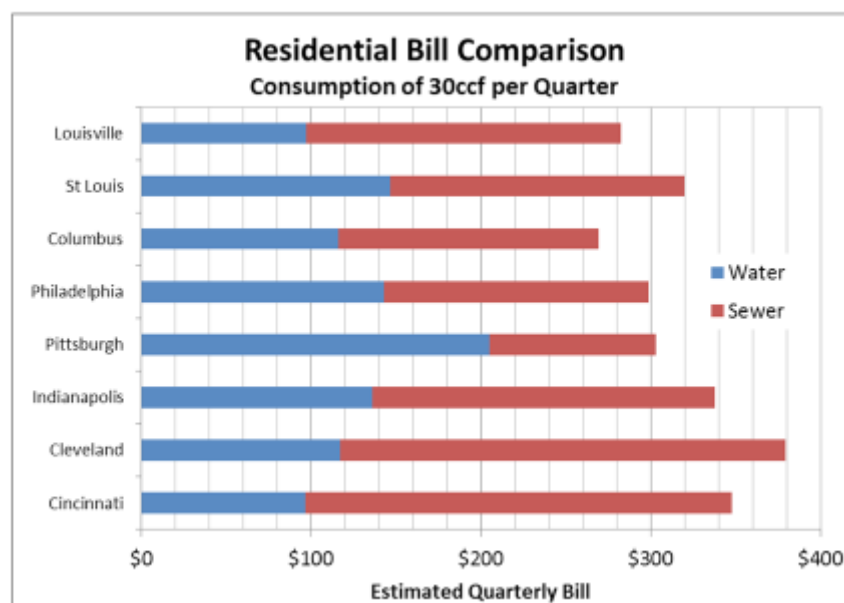


## 2019 Utility Rate Adjustments

Rates for 2019 sewer, stormwater and water utility fees were recently approved by the Columbus Sewer and Water Advisory Board and Columbus City Council, following a public hearing. The revenue generated will allow the Department of Public Utilities to continue to provide quality water and sewer services while maintaining a responsible capital improvements plan, budget and debt service that enhances the quality of life and supports economic development in the Columbus area. Major treatment upgrades to the city's drinking water plants have been completed that meet updated Ohio EPA regulations, alleviate the need for future nitrate advisories, and will also better treat taste and odor issues that can arise from algal blooms in water reservoirs. Other Division of Water improvements include upcoming ultraviolet disinfection and chlorine-to-hypochlorite conversion projects at the plants, along with continued reinvestment into the city's water distribution system. In the Division of Sewerage and Drainage, Blueprint Columbus and other wet weather management program improvements will continue to address consent orders with the State of Ohio to reduce sewer overflows and improve surface water quality, along with continued upgrades to the city's sewer collection and stormwater systems.

The 2019 rates include modest increases: a 2% increase in water, 3% increase in sewer, and a 1% increase in stormwater rates. An average consumption bill in Columbus will see an increase of about \$6.89 a quarter, contracting suburban customers about \$7.72, and for approved low income customers \$5.82 -- an overall 2.49% increase for all. Differences in bills vary based on actual water consumption. Despite these increases, Columbus' water and sewer rates remain some of the lowest in the region (please see comparison chart below). Columbus' tap water -- meeting or exceeding all state and federal drinking water standards -- remains a great value at less than a penny a gallon.



The sewer and water discount program for qualifying low income customers will continue. Customers who qualify for other assistance programs such as HEAP may be eligible. For income qualifications please visit our website at [columbus.gov/utilities](http://columbus.gov/utilities) or call Customer Service at 614-645-8276, weekdays from 7AM to 6PM. An application is on the reverse side. Customers 60 or older who qualify for the low income discount may also be eligible for an additional senior discount. For more information, please call Customer Service or visit our website, where water conservation tips are also available. Everyone can save on their bills through conservation.



Please follow us on Facebook (Columbus Public Utilities) and Twitter (@CDPU)

## 2019 LOW INCOME WATER/SEWER DISCOUNT APPLICATION

Please note: if you are age 60 or older and qualify for the Low Income Discount Program, you may also qualify for a Senior Citizen Discount. For questions regarding the discount programs or your bill, please contact Customer Service Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at 311, 645-3111, 645-8276 or visit [www.columbus.gov/utilities/](http://www.columbus.gov/utilities/).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Street/Road Apartment #

\_\_\_\_\_ City State Zip Code

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (with area code)

Number of people in household: \_\_\_\_\_

Account number (from water bill): \_\_\_\_\_

To be eligible for the low income discount program, applicants must have an active City of Columbus water or sewer account for their residence in their name (or spouse's name) AND must meet at least one of the following requirements:

1. You must be currently enrolled in a qualifying low income program and provide current letter of participation from one of the following programs (must be dated and include name):

- Food Stamp Benefits
- Ohio Medicaid
- Low Income Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- Home Energy Assistance (HEAP)
- Ohio Works First
- Public Housing Benefits - OR -

2. You must meet the Federal Poverty Level with your household income, which is defined as the total gross income of all household members over the age of 18. You must provide current proof of household income with the following for all household members over 18 (must be dated and include name):

- Income Tax Return
- W-2 Forms
- Benefit Letter from Social Security
- Pension Award Statement

Documents submitted with this application will NOT be returned. Send *copies only* to:  
Columbus Department of Public Utilities  
Customer Service Center  
910 Dublin Road  
Columbus OH 43215

The information associated with this application has been examined by me, and is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, correct and complete.

Applicant signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by signature (if different from applicant): \_\_\_\_\_