

From: [Laura Mikulski](#)
To: CEO@GLWATER.org
Subject: City of Ferndale Opposition to Proposed FY 2027 GLWA Water and Sewer Rate Increases
Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 6:31:44 PM

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Dear Ms. Coffey,

On behalf of the City of Ferndale, I am writing to formally express concern regarding the Great Lakes Water Authority's proposed FY 2027 wholesale water and sewer service charge increases.

As presented, the proposed average system increases—approximately 6.83% for water service and 5.98% for sewer service—represent a significant financial impact to member communities. Because municipalities do not control GLWA wholesale rates, these increases are ultimately passed directly to residents and businesses, many of whom are already experiencing substantial cost pressures.

These proposed increases are particularly concerning when viewed in the broader context facing local governments. Cities across Michigan, including Ferndale, are already absorbing major infrastructure costs associated with state-mandated lead service line replacement requirements—an obligation that carries no permanent, dedicated funding source. While these investments are critical for public health, the cumulative effect of unfunded mandates, rising construction costs, inflation, and now higher wholesale water and sewer rates places increasing strain on local ratepayers.

We also note that the proposed charge increases exceed GLWA's overall budget growth and are driven in part by declining water demand and reduced investment earnings, which result in higher per-unit costs even as communities conserve water. While we recognize the challenges of maintaining and modernizing regional infrastructure, affordability and predictability for residents must remain central considerations.

For these reasons, the City of Ferndale intends to present a resolution at its February City Council meeting formally opposing the proposed FY 2027 GLWA rate increases as currently structured, and urging GLWA to reconsider the magnitude and pacing of these increases, explore cost containment strategies, and more fully account for the compounding financial burdens faced by member communities.

We appreciate the opportunity for public input through the scheduled February 25, 2026

public hearing and encourage continued dialogue between GLWA and its member partners. Ferndale remains committed to being a constructive regional partner and to advocating for solutions that protect both essential infrastructure and the affordability of basic services for residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to continued engagement as this process moves forward.

Sincerely,

Laura Mikulski
Mayor Pro Tem & City Council Member
City of Ferndale