

From: [Damon Garrett](#)
To: CEO@GLWATER.org
Subject: Highland Park - February 25, 2026 Public Hearing on proposed FY 2027 and FY 2028 biennial budget
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 2:55:17 PM
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Highland Park Public Comments. Thank you.

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In Michigan, under Bolt v City of Lansing (1998) the excess CSO sewer/stormwater charge over actual wet weather metered deliveries to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is an unconstitutional tax. It lacks a regulatory purpose, is not proportionate to the cost of service, and is not voluntary. Highland Park charge of 2.07% of systemwide CSO revenue requirements which is ten times more than the 0.21% proportionate use amounts verified by sewer meter readings, meets all three tests making the charges between 2.07% and 0.21% illegal under Bolt v City of Lansing.

Stormwater enters the WWTP from drainage into combined sewer systems and from seepage (I&I) via improper connections, damaged infrastructure, and groundwater seepage including roof downspouts, sump pumps, foundation drains, cracked pipes, and faulty manhole covers both in separated sewer systems (called “SSO”) and combined sewer systems (called “CSO”).

Some of the cities with combined systems bearing most of the burden are Highland Park, Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Redford, Dearborn and Detroit. Communities with separated systems who have metered SSOs do not pay a CSO charge based on wet weather metered data. All charges should be accurately allocated based on the metered community.

Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) rates must be revised to reflect a reduction in Highland Park’s FY 2027 charge of \$1,618,023 and a reduction in Highland Parks future billings for CSO overcharges in FY 2025 of \$1,466,696 and FY 2026 of \$1,529,404 for a total of \$4,614,123.