



GLWA Federal Government Relations

Board of Directors Update

Presented by Mary Beth McGowan and Andy Buczek

December 10, 2025

Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Appropriations

- Current CR runs until January 30, 2026
- Any progress in December and January alleviates pressure for a large government shutdown.
- Three of 12 bills have full-year FY 2026 funding; nine bills await congressional action.
- Appropriators have an agreement for top-line spending levels of five bills.
- Each chamber is working to package bills:
 - House low-hanging fruit = T-HUD, Interior/Environment, and C-J-S (which contain community projects)
 - Senate is working to package five bills in a “mini-bus” before year-end (Defense, T-HUD, Interior, C-J-S, L-HHS-Ed)
 - Could be reduced to four bills because of challenges with L-HHS-Ed
- GLWA has six earmarks (totaling ~ \$6.5 million) pending in FY 2026 bills.
 - Freud & Conners Creek and Oakwood are in both the House and Senate bills.
 - Other projects: Fox Creek Enclosure, 7-Mile Sewer, Downriver Loop Water Main, 54” Detroit Water Main



PFAS Policy

Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL):

- In April 2024, EPA finalized a rulemaking setting MCLs for six PFAS in drinking water.
- EPA is continuing to fight legal efforts to overturn MCLs for PFOA and PFOS, but abandoning efforts to defend MCLs for the other four substances in court.
 - EPA is utilizing court action to nullify the MCL for the four PFAS so it can set new standards, but it is keeping the drinking water standard for PFOA and PFOS.

CERCLA:

- In April 2024, EPA finalized a rulemaking designating PFOA and PFOS as “hazardous substances” under CERCLA and announced it September it will maintain the standard.
 - Included an enforcement memo on PFAS to consider protecting “passive receivers” from third-party claims
 - In September, EPA indicated Congress must act to exempt passive receivers from Superfund liability for related contamination.
- Congress is now considering legislation to protect passive receivers, like wastewater utilities.
 - H.R. 1267, the Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act
 - November Senate EPW hearing on PFAS cleanup and disposal addressed the need for passive receiver exemptions



Water Affordability

Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs):

- By the end of 2026, Congress must reauthorize the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRFs.
- Both SRFs are authorized at \$3.25 billion, but were last funded at \$2.75 billion in FY 2024.
- The 2021 infrastructure bill provided a temporary \$50 billion boost over five years that ends after FY 2026.

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP):

- Authorized in response to the pandemic, LIHWAP was the first federal low-income water assistance program.
- Program funding has expired. Congress has not provided additional funding for the program.
- Congress continues to debate if and how to provide future water assistance.
- GLWA continues to advocate for eligibility for regional, wholesale utilities in a future program.



GLWA/Army Corp Flood Risk Study

- 2022 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) authorized an investigation for flood risk management in Southeast Michigan.
 - Congress appropriated funding for the study in FY 2024 and 2025.
- 2024 WRDA authorized \$58 million for water and wastewater infrastructure in GLWA's service area
- Working with House and Senate offices to develop a project authorization for the 2026 WRDA.
- GLWA continues to advocate for resources for the flood study that will result in actionable solutions with which it can partner with the federal government to implement.



Thank You!



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