



To the Executives and Governing Body of the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA),

My name is Joanna Whaley, and I am a candidate for the Michigan House of Representatives, committed to advocating for the financial well-being of our residents. I am writing today to express the profound disappointment in the wasting of our time at the last meeting. After hearing three hours of public testimony to ask you not to raise rates, you did anyways.

The communities I seek to represent, including Lincoln Park, Melvindale, Allen Park, and Southgate, are facing immense financial pressure. GLWA operates as a monopoly, leaving our residents with no choice for a water provider. This position of unilateral power must be exercised with a commitment to public service and fiscal responsibility, not with continuous demands for more revenue.

GLWA's pattern of year-over-year rate hikes, often coupled with increases in executive compensation, is fundamentally inconsistent with the best interests and economic stability of our community. It constitutes an unacceptable burden on hardworking families.

I am calling for an immediate reversal of the increase from the Great Lakes Water Authority and to pause all proposed rate hikes. These cuts are necessary to provide municipalities with the means to lower the critical utility cost burden currently placed on every home.

We urge GLWA to demonstrate creativity, true leadership, and genuine compassion for the people it serves. It is a moral failure when residents are forced to make an impossible choice between affording their water bill and putting food on the table. This is a choice that the GLWA's current policies are actively forcing upon our citizens.

We expect a public and firm commitment to reverse this harmful course of action.

Sincerely,

Joanna Whaley  
Candidate for the Michigan House of Representatives