



Columbus Water Works

2026 Rate Update

October 28, 2025



Agenda

Review of 2025

Rate Priorities

5-Year Financial Plan

Recommended 2026
Rates

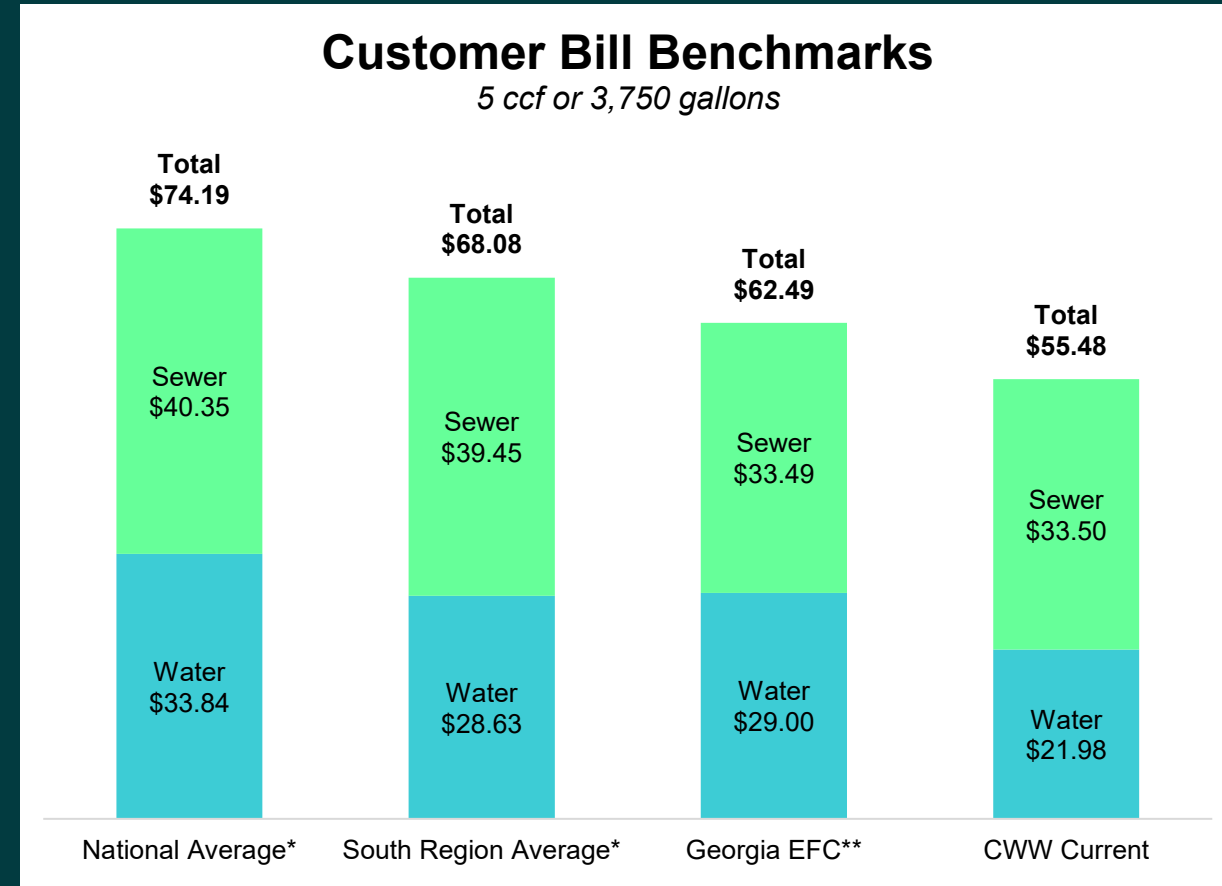


North Columbus Water Resources Facility



Historic Rates & Benchmarks

- Currently, CWW customers pay \$5-20 less per month compared with regional and national averages
- Industry benchmarks for annual rate increases since 2010 is over 5.0%
 - › CWW has historically been below 4%



CWW service is approximately one penny per gallon of service

* Based on 2024 data from approx. 400 utilities collected by Raftelis.

** Georgia rates based on 2023 data from 376 utilities collected by UNC Environmental Finance Center.

2024-2025 Key Accomplishments

NATIONAL

GWEF Arthur Sidney Bedell Award (Jeremy Cummings)

WEF Volunteer Service Award (John Peebles)

STATE

GAWP Plant of the Year (Fort Benning Water Treatment Plant)

GAWP Plant of the Year (Camp Darby Range)

GAWP Platinum Compliance Award (North Columbus Water Resource Facility)

GAWP Platinum Compliance Award (Fort Benning Water Treatment Plant)

GAWP Platinum Collection System Excellence Award

GAWP Platinum QA/QC Laboratory

GAWP Top Op Water Plant (Dalton Milner)

GAWP President's Volunteer Service Award – Bronze Level

GAWP Lifetime Achievement Award (John Peebles)

LOCAL

Chamber of Commerce PIE Partner at Large

Rate Priorities



Delivering safe/clean water to customers and returning clean water to the river



Infrastructure maintenance and improvements for an aging system (SCWRF)



Regulatory Compliance
- CSOs, Nutrients, PFAS



Cost of operating the systems affected by recent inflation



5-Year Financial Plan



Financial Plan Assumptions

- Forecasted revenues based on conservative water consumption
- Operating costs based on FY2026 budget
- Master capital plan includes projects currently identified
 - › Funded with PAYGO, GEFA, Revenue Bonds and/or Phased Bonds
- Compliance with financial metrics is maintained

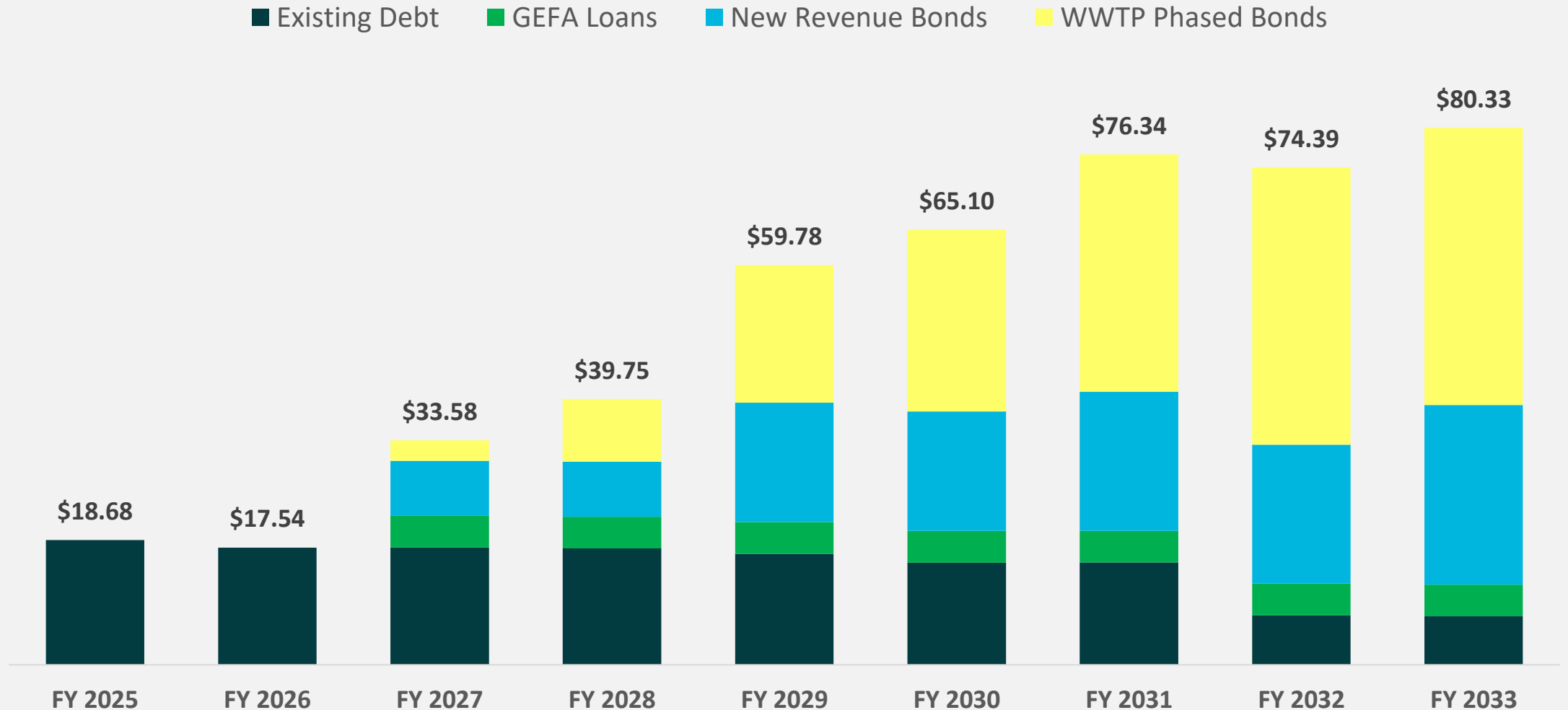
Capital spending focused on renewal of aging infrastructure and regulatory compliance

The biggest driver of future rate increases!

- Wastewater Treatment Facility rebuild given its age and condition
- Nutrient permit limits based on State requirements
- Reducing and mitigating PFAS in Columbus and at Ft. Benning
- Continuing to control and limit CSOs

Capital Improvements Plan	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Master Planning Projects	\$110 M		\$40 M		\$40 M		\$80 M
Admin Building and Campus	\$15 M						
WWTP Rebuild		\$75 M	\$150 M	\$150 M	\$150 M	\$80 M	\$45 M
FB PFAS Improvements			\$100 M				
<i>Cash Placeholder</i>			\$3 M	\$3 M	\$3 M	\$3 M	\$3 M
Grand Total	\$125 M	\$75 M	\$293 M	\$153 M	\$193 M	\$83 M	\$128 M

Forecast of Existing and Future Debt

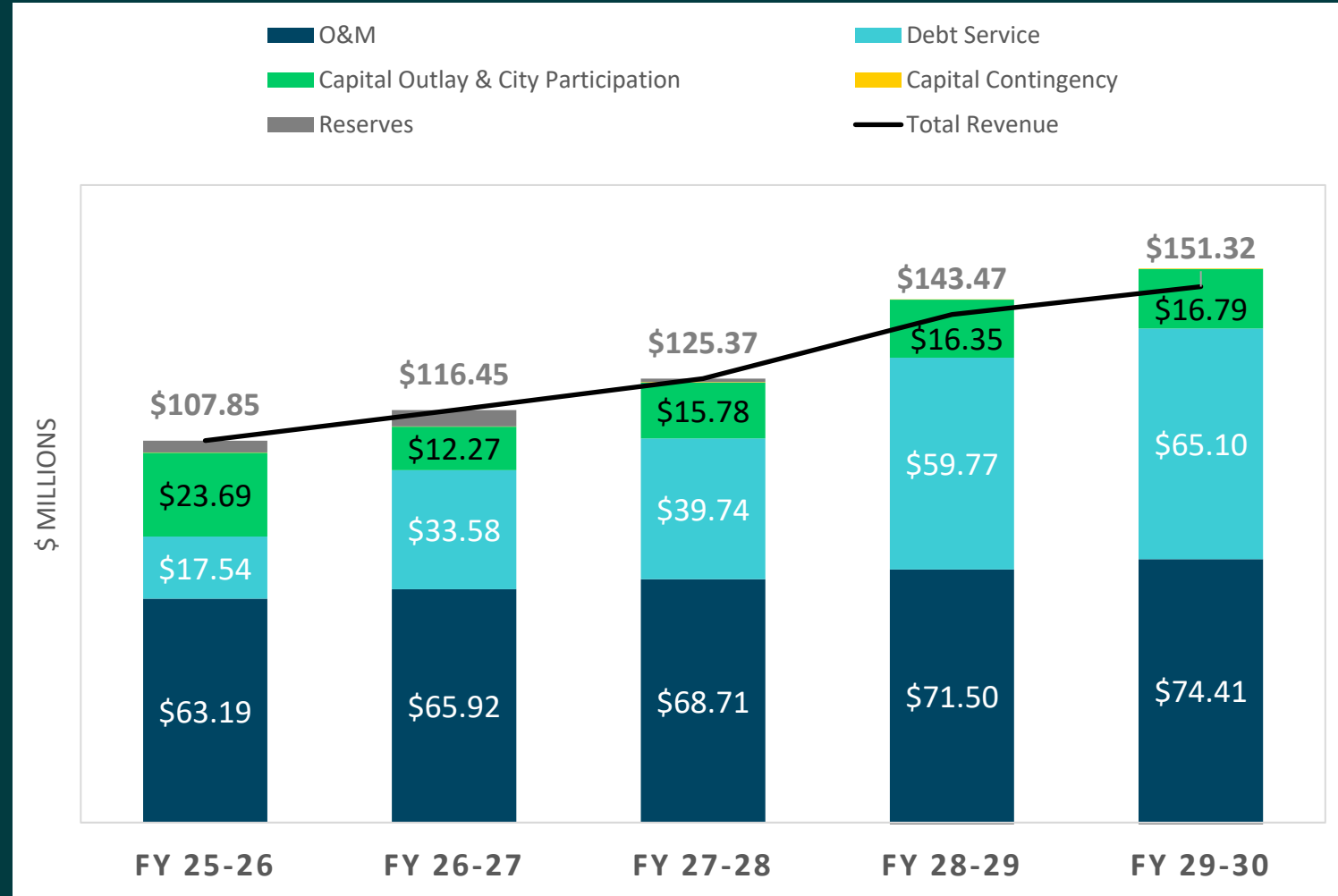


Recommended 2026 Rates



Financial Plan Summary

- Capital plan leads to increasing debt service
- 4.95% annual rate increases
- New Regulatory Compliance Fee
 - › \$5 for residential
 - › \$10 for small non-residential
 - › \$25 for large non-residential
 - › Will gradually increase at same time as debt service



Monthly rates increase at historical levels, supported by Regulatory Compliance Fee

- Rate adjustments in 2027 and beyond are estimated
- CWW will continue to evaluate future rate needs annually

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Water Rates	4.95%	4.95%	4.95%	4.95%	4.95%	4.95%
Wastewater Rates	4.95%	4.95%	4.95%	4.95%	4.95%	4.95%
CSO Charge	4.95%	4.95%	4.95%	4.95%	4.95%	4.95%
<u>Regulatory Compliance Fee</u>						
Residential	\$ 5.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
5/8" & 1" Non-res ¹	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
Large Non-res	\$ 25.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 85.00	\$ 100.00

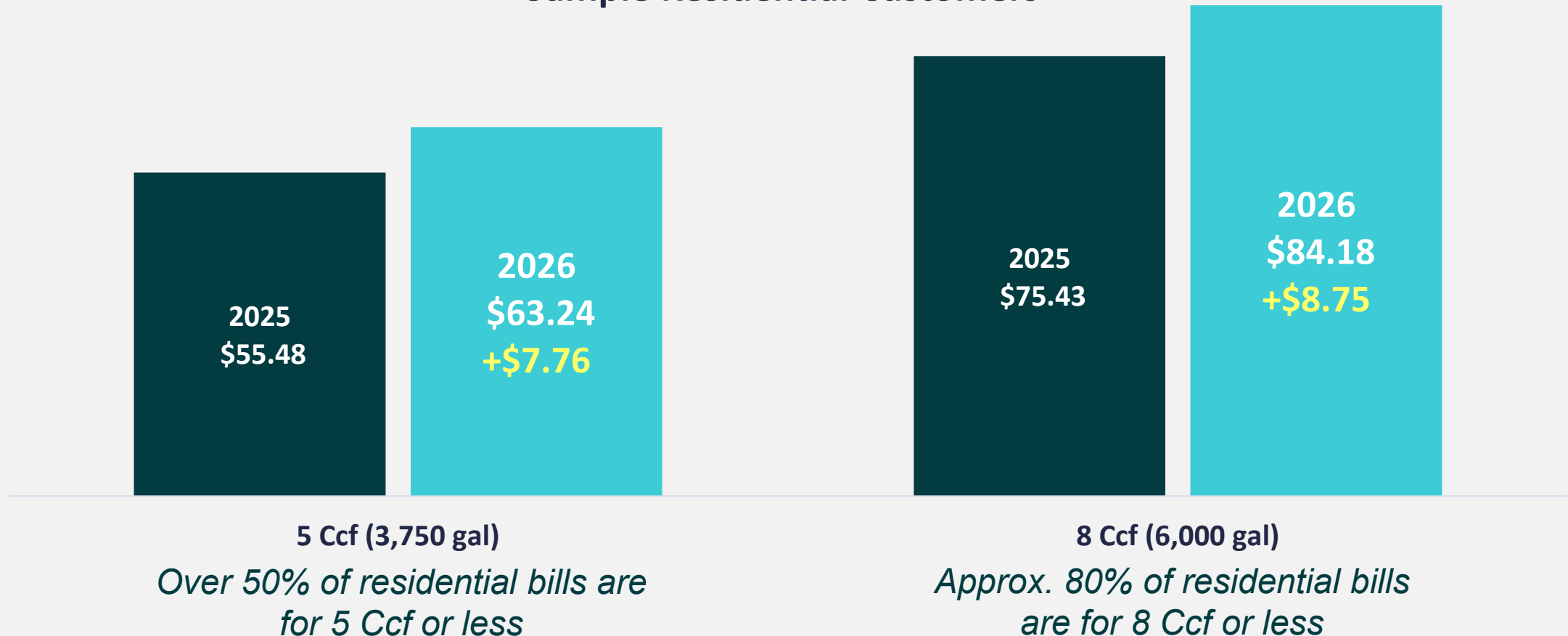
¹ Schools and City government accounts will be assessed the small non-residential charge

Monthly Residential Customer Bills

Water, Sewer, and CSO

A monthly increase of \$7.00 to \$9.00 is expected for most residential customers, primarily driven by the new Regulatory Compliance Fee of \$5.00.

Sample Residential Customers



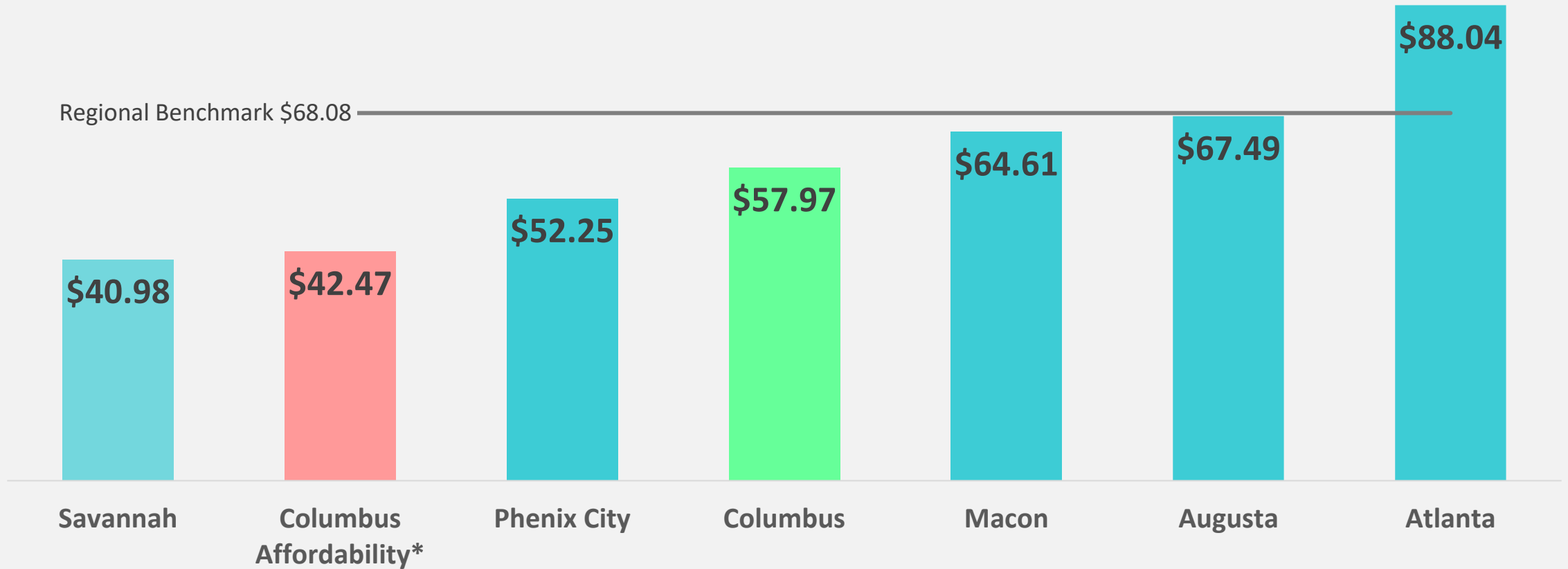
Customer Assistance Options

- Existing Low Income Credit Program
 - › Provides a monthly \$10.50 credit for qualifying residential customers (288 participants)
 - › New Regulatory Compliance Fee will not be charged to enrolled customers
 - › Automatically applied for customers enrolled in City's reduced rate trash program
- Payment plans available and other flexible billing arrangements

Key Bill Comparison

Water and Sewer

5 Ccf or 3,750 gallons residential bill – Proposed
CWW Rates



Note: Rates for comparison communities are current as of October 2025, but do not include increases they may implement in 2026.

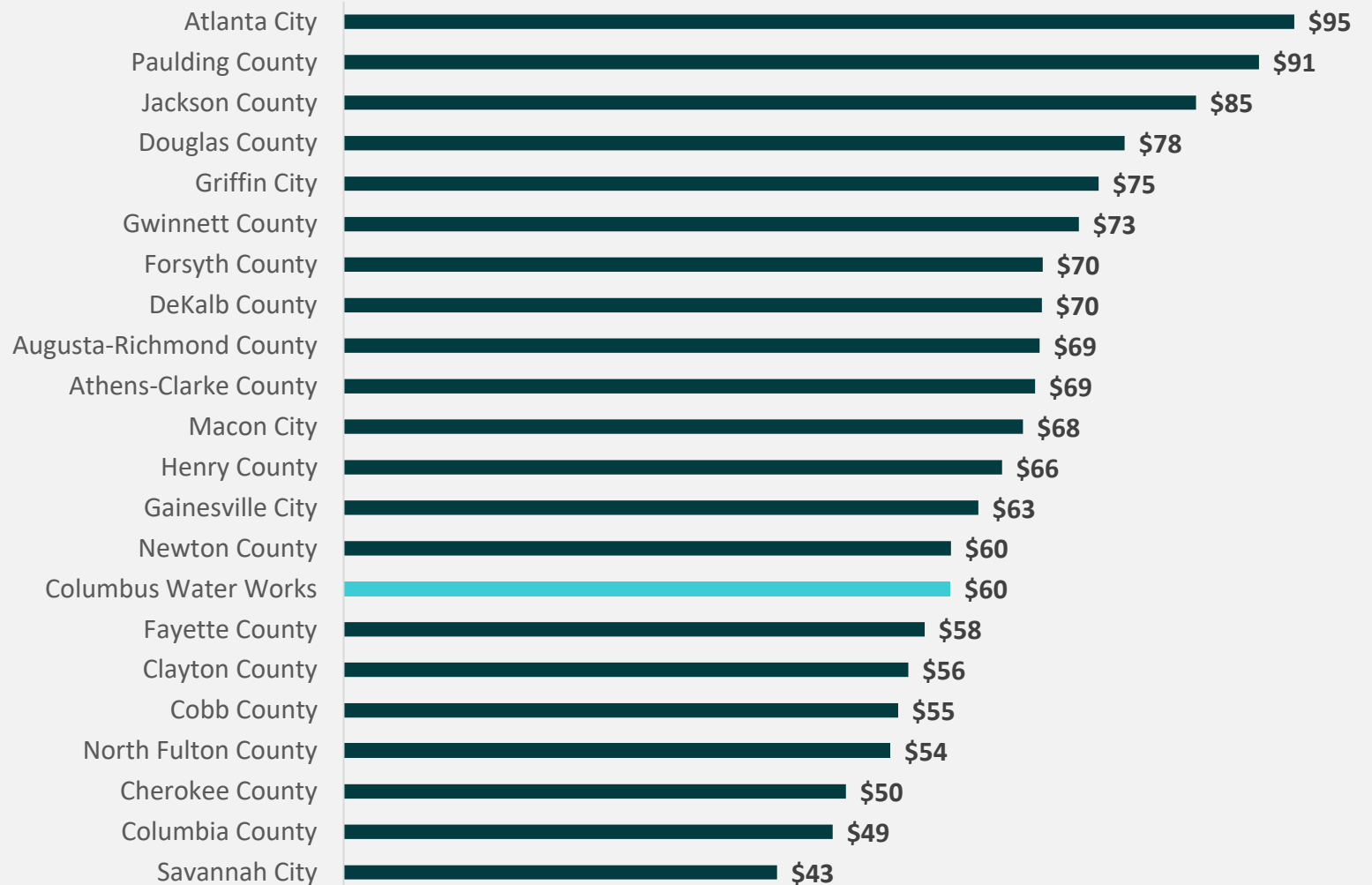
* The Low-Income Credit Program provides a monthly \$15.50 credit for qualifying residential customers

Peer Utility Comparison - Statewide

A 4,000-gallon bill in Columbus is lower than most peers in Georgia

**Data from survey is presented in gallons which is why the total bill is slightly higher than the bill presented on slide 20.*

Water & Sewer Combined Bill (4,000 gallons, 5.3 ccf)



2026 Water Base Charges & Volume Rates

Bills Rendered as of January 1, 2026

Meter Size	Current Charge	Proposed Charge
5/8"	\$ 10.63	\$ 11.16
3/4"	\$ 10.63	\$ 11.16
1"	\$ 18.59	\$ 19.53
1-1/2"	\$ 31.85	\$ 33.48
2"	\$ 47.77	\$ 50.22
3"	\$ 90.20	\$ 94.86
4"	\$ 137.95	\$ 145.08
6"	\$ 270.56	\$ 284.58
8"	\$ 429.68	\$ 451.98
10"	\$ 615.35	\$ 647.28

Block	Current Rate (per CCF)	Proposed Rate (per CCF)
Non-Industrial		
1 (to 15 CCF)	\$2.27	\$2.38
2 (> 15 CCF)	\$2.52	\$2.64
Industrial		
1 (to 15 CCF)	\$2.27	\$2.38
2 (> 15 CCF)	\$2.19	\$2.30

2026 Wastewater & CSO Charges

Bills Rendered as of January 1, 2026

Current Base Charge	Proposed Base Charge	Regulatory Compliance Fee
\$ 6.58	\$ 6.91	Residential: \$5 Small Non-Res ¹ : \$ 10 Large Non-Res : \$25

Block	Current Rate (per ccf)	Proposed Rate (per ccf)
1 (to 15 ccf)	\$ 4.38	\$ 4.60
2 (> 15 ccf)	\$ 3.54	\$ 3.72

CSO Block	Current Charge	Proposed Charge
0 to 4 ccf	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
5-15 ccf	\$ 5.02	\$ 5.27
16-204 ccf	\$ 10.05	\$ 10.55
205-1004 ccf	\$ 100.47	\$ 105.44
Over 1004 ccf	\$ 287.09	\$ 301.30

¹ Schools and City government accounts will be assessed the small non-residential charge

Changes Ahead for Your Water Bill

- 4.95% rate increase & implementation of a new regulatory compliance fixed fee
- A monthly increase of \$7.00 to \$9.00 is expected for most residential customers
- Low-Income Credit customers receive a total of \$15.50 towards bill

Q&A

Thank you!

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