



1600 West Hill Street | Louisville, KY 40210-
1750 502.540.6000 | louisvillemsd.org

NEWS RELEASE
July 28, 2026

CONTACT:
Monica Hardin
Monica.Hardin@LouisvilleMSD.org
502.820-5787

Louisville MSD Board Approves One of the Lowest Rate Increases in 20 Years

*Budget funds critical improvements
to wastewater, stormwater and flood protection services*

LOUISVILLE, KY – The board of the Louisville and Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) has approved a rate increase that will support public health through infrastructure investments that enhance wastewater management, stormwater drainage and flood protection across the community.

The July 27 board action finalized a 3.9 percent rate increase for residential customers in Jefferson County, which will go into effect on September 1. That matches the lowest rate increase of the last 20 years, as last year's adjustment was also 3.9 percent.

The average monthly residential bill is expected to go up by an estimated \$3.23.

The adjustment comes at a time when MSD continues to address federal clean water requirements, increasing construction costs and aging infrastructure — some of which was built before the Civil War. MSD engineers have identified approximately \$1.2 billion in critical infrastructure investment needed over the next five years.

MSD Board Chair Ricky Mason said that rate adjustments are carefully weighed.

"The daily work that MSD does is pivotal to protecting our community," Mason said. "We must continue to invest in resilient infrastructure to reduce sewer overflows, to protect our local waterways and to be prepared for major floods, but MSD strives to do everything possible to limit the financial burden on ratepayers. This is an important balance in MSD's role as a steward to the community."

MSD has several major projects underway in Jefferson County including upgrades at Paddy's Run Flood Pumping Station that will double flood-pumping capacity, as well as continued construction of the new biosolids processing facility at the Morris Forman Water Quality Treatment Center to increase efficiency at the community's largest treatment facility.

"Like everything MSD does, rate increases are handled with care and compassion," MSD Executive Director Tony Parrott said. "We must efficiently operate and maintain the sewer and flood protection systems on a daily basis, but also invest in the future of those systems, so when a natural disaster or a crisis happens, we're ready."

The July 27 board action also finalized a 2 percent rate increase for Oldham County customers. The average monthly residential bill is expected to go up by an estimated \$1.59 for wastewater charges. Oldham County operates under a rate schedule set before MSD took over the county's wastewater services. Oldham

County rates are currently higher than Jefferson County, and that long-term rate schedule will eventually equalize with that of Jefferson County.

In Oldham County, an expansion project at the KSR Water Quality Treatment Center on KY 146 will increase the treatment capacity to serve future growth in the area, while also upgrading with new technology to enhance performance and efficiency. Completion is expected by fall 2028.

Customer Assistance Available

Through the Drops of Kindness program, MSD provides approximately \$2 million annually in bill assistance. To learn more, visit the program's website — www.dropsofkindness.com — which is a one-stop shop for customer bill assistance.

About MSD

The Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) works to achieve and maintain clean, environmentally safe waterways for a healthy and vibrant community. More than 800 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro and wastewater service in portions of Bullitt and Oldham Counties. In addition to operating and maintaining Louisville Metro's sewer system, floodwall system, water quality treatment centers and flood pumping stations, MSD invests in hundreds of infrastructure improvement projects each year, plants more than 1,000 trees and other vegetation annually to enhance water filtration and reduce runoff and provides numerous outreach programs to inform and educate the community about protecting our waterways.



1600 West Hill Street | Louisville, KY 40210-
1750 502.540.6000 | louisvillemsd.org

BY THE NUMBERS

Key Facts Surrounding MSD Rate Increase:

- MSD's administrative costs represent only 5 cents of every dollar spent. The rest is applied to the operations, maintenance and improvement of the facilities, systems and services that protect the community.
- The need for continued investment was reinforced last year when the community experienced the eighth-largest flood event in local history, requiring an unplanned \$13 million for response and recovery efforts to protect the community from that flood, and restore the system to readiness for the next event.
- Despite significant cost increases, such as fuel (up 40 percent) and medical insurance (up 16 percent), the \$512.7 million budget to operate and maintain existing facilities and services increased just 3.7 percent from last year's budget.
- MSD eliminated 36 positions across the organization.
- MSD actively pursues grants, low-interest loans and alternative funding sources to manage costs for capital improvement projects. This includes more than \$250 million in funding for critical infrastructure projects over the next five years.
- MSD has delivered \$1.3 billion in new infrastructure to serve the community while adding just \$384 million in debt since 2020.
- MSD is steadily increasing emphasis on "pay-as-you-go" funding (from 5 percent in 2015 to 22 percent this year) to support long-term affordability and limit the growth of outstanding debt.
- The Drops of Kindness program – a partnership between MSD and Louisville Water – has assisted more than 50,000 customers who need help paying their bill.