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Fairfield County Commissioners Approve Water and Sewer Rate Freeze Through 2027

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, Ohio –County residents served by the Fairfield County Utilities Department can expect stable water and sewer rates through 2027, following approval by the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners to maintain current rates for the next year. The decision reflects the county's commitment to responsible financial management while ensuring residents continue to receive reliable, high-quality water and wastewater services.

The rate freeze is particularly notable given the rising costs associated with operating and maintaining essential utility infrastructure and other operational expenses. Many communities across Ohio are implementing water and sewer rate increases to address these rising costs. A 2026 statewide rate survey found that 58 of 71 surveyed jurisdictions increased their combined water and sewer rates, underscoring the significance of Fairfield County's decision to maintain current rates through 2027. Through careful budgeting, efficient operations and proactive financial management, the Utilities Department has been able to absorb these pressures while maintaining current service levels and protecting customers from rate increases.

"We recognize that every dollar matters to families and businesses, and we take seriously our responsibility to manage these essential services efficiently," said Tony Vogel, director of the Fairfield County Utilities Department. "Our team has worked hard to find efficiencies, manage expenses and make thoughtful operational decisions that allow us to maintain reliable service without increasing rates. We're proud of what this means for the customers we serve."

The Fairfield County Utilities Department serves more than 8,200 customers in the northwestern portion of Fairfield County. Its operations include three drinking water treatment facilities and five wastewater treatment facilities, supported by a team of 22 employees. Collectively, the department produces more than 2 million gallons of drinking water and treats more than 2.7 million gallons of wastewater every day. These services represent a critical investment in public health, environmental protection and the continued growth and quality of life of the communities served by the county.

"Reliable water and sewer service is something people depend on every day, and keeping those services affordable is our responsibility to the community," said Commissioner Steve Davis. "This rate freeze demonstrates that we can be good stewards of taxpayer and customer dollars while continuing to invest in the essential services and infrastructure we all depend on."

Current water and sewer rate information is available on the Fairfield County Utilities website at https://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/util/.

Founded in 1800 (three years before Ohio became a State), Fairfield County was the 8th county formed in the Northwest Territory. Today, more than 900 employees serve, connect, and protect the more than 158,000 citizens of Fairfield County, providing high-quality services and outstanding customer service at exceptional value to taxpayers. Fairfield County fosters economic and fiscal sustainability and works to enhance the County's reputation as a high performing, learning, and caring organization. For more information about the county, its services and employment opportunities, please visit https://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/

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