



# PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED RATE CHANGES

Monday, May 15 at 6:00 PM  
Augusta City Center, Council Chambers

**We invite you to this Hearing to learn more about our proposed changes  
in water and wastewater rates to take effect on or about July 1, 2023:**

### **Drinking Water & Fire Protection\***

Proposed increase is \$1.37/month minimum, an average per residential customer of approximately \$2.43/month.

The increase would provide a total revenue increase of approximately \$471,000 to fund the following important needs:

- Replace aging pumps, pipes and equipment
- Increase operational resiliency by adding critical personnel
- Improve aging computer systems needed to operate the utility
- Address the rising costs of supplies and energy

\*The new water rates would apply to all customer classes, including public and private fire protection and private hydrants.

### **Wastewater**

Proposed increase is \$3.32/month minimum, and an average per residential customer of approximately \$9.32/month.

The increase would provide a total revenue increase of approximately \$1,081,000 to fund the following important needs:

- Increased sludge disposal costs
- Address increasing power and supply costs
- Replace old pump stations
- Replace and reline failing pipes
- Replace aging wastewater plant equipment
- Increase operational resiliency

Dear Customer,

We take pride in keeping rates stable, but rising operating costs have now made the increases detailed on the front of this card essential to our continued supply of safe and reliable drinking water, and environmentally safe wastewater handling.

Material supporting the proposed rate increases can be reviewed at [www.GAUD.ws/2023Rates](http://www.GAUD.ws/2023Rates) or at the District's office at 12 Williams Street in Augusta. For current rates, visit [www.GAUD.ws/Rates](http://www.GAUD.ws/Rates).

If you have any questions or want additional information, you may call Brian Tarbuck, General Manager, at (207) 622-3701, or the Administrative Director of the PUC at (207) 287-3831 to ask about water rates. (The PUC doesn't regulate wastewater).

We salute our team for their hard work maintaining our complex and growing infrastructure and serving you, our valued customers.

### —Your Board of Trustees

#### **YOUR CUSTOMER RIGHTS**

Pursuant to 35-A MRS Section 6104, a customer has the right to request additional information relating to the present and proposed drinking water rates from the District, the right to an open and fair hearing, and the right to assistance from the Public Advocate.

Customers also have the right to petition the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to suspend and investigate the District's drinking water rates pursuant to 35-A MRS Section 310, if, on or before thirty (30) days following the public hearing, 15% of the District's customers (or 1,000 customers, whichever is less), file with the District's General Manager and with the PUC, c/o Administrative Director, 18 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0018, a petition or petitions demanding review by the PUC of the proposed rate changes. Signatures on the petitions filed pursuant to Section 7 are invalid unless accompanied by the printed names and addresses of the signers. Upon request, the District will provide drinking water customers with petition forms that include space for the signatures, printed names and addresses of the signers.

