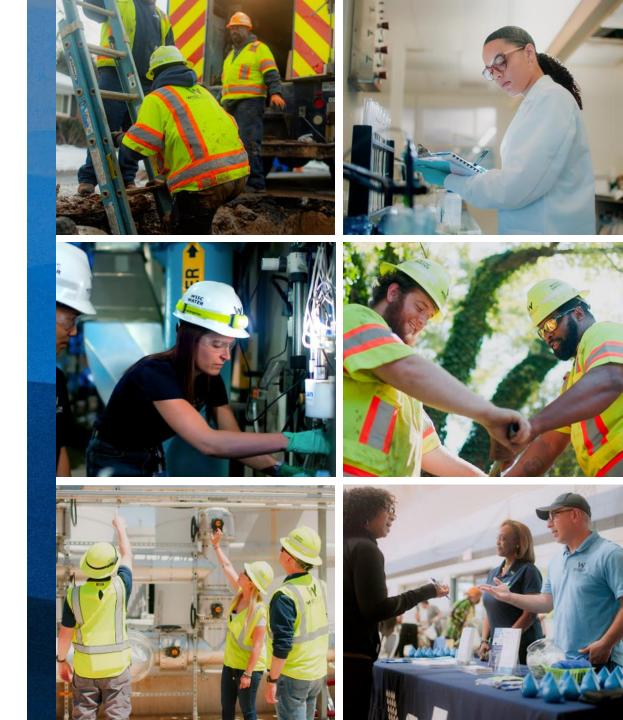


WSSC Water's

# FY2027 Proposed Budget

October 9, 2025



## **Sustained & Transformative Change**

THE WORKFORCE & THE WORKPLACE



THE **INFRASTRUCTURE** 



**INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY** 



THE **SERVICE** 



#### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Workforce Development



**Asset Management** & Infrastructure Reliability



Culture Shift



Affordability & Financial Viability



Sustainability & Resiliency



**Optimizing** Operations



Customer & Partnerships



Digital Engagement Transformation

# WSSC Water is an **Anchor Institution**



\$8.8M

Financial assistance for income-constrained customers in FY26



11,650

Customers received financial assistance in FY25



11,000+Miles

Water and sewer mains in service area



**\$9E** 

In infrastructure assets maintained on behalf of our customers



1,800+

Members of Team H<sub>2</sub>O deliver on our mission



**45**%

Members of Team H<sub>2</sub>O live in service area





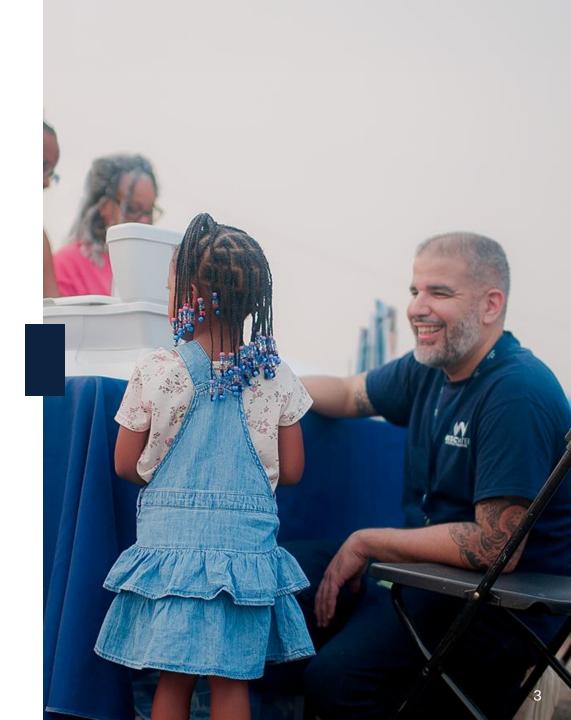
\$634.5M

Over the past 5 years (FY21-FY25), WSSC Water's work has contributed to businesses in Montgomery & Prince George's counties



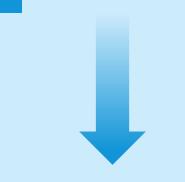
**225** 

Community events annually



## **Bottom-Line Upfront**

WSSC Water formulated a balanced budget with millions in cuts and cost containment



WSSC Water targeted a cut of 5% below FY26 Approved Budget; FY27 Proposed Budget is an 8% reduction



**\$27M cut** from the discretionary portion of departmental budgets across 6 strategic priorities



Focused on **cost containment** and

sought efficiencies

over new headcount



Prioritized capital budget programs to **maximize outcomes** and use of the available funding

## Outcome-Based Budget

The FY 2027 budget will deliver on specific outcomes:



Protect Public Health



Smart One Water Management



Improving the Customer Experience



Financial Management, Cost Reduction and Containment



Increase Non-Rate Revenue Sources



Climate Instability Mitigation



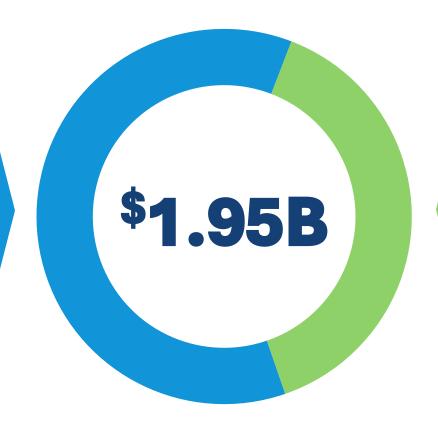
Maximizing Opportunities to do Business with WSSC Water



Workforce Development

Operating Sources	\$1.193B
Customer Rate revenue	\$1.109B
Other Sources of Revenue	\$82M
External Funding	\$2M
Operating Uses	\$1.193B
	<b>\$1.193B</b> \$705M
Uses Operating	

## FY27 Proposed Budget



Capital Sources	\$759.3M
State	\$133.1M
Debt	\$493.2M
PAYGO	\$100M
Other	\$33M
Capital Uses	\$759.3M
WSSC Water Infrastructure	\$628.7M
Inter-jurisdictional Investments	\$104.4M
Developer Funded	\$26.2M

## FY27 Proposed Budget Drivers



#### **Debt Service & PAYGO** (Pay-As-You-Go)

- Make steady payments on past borrowing
- Directly fund new projects to keep our water and sewer system strong



#### **Competitive Wages**

- Livable Wage is minimum
- Carries forward newly negotiated CBA raises
- Competitive wages critical to hiring and retaining skilled staff



#### **Federal Funding Constraints**

- Federal support is limited compared to overall needs
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) ends after Fiscal Year 2026



#### **Rising Costs**

- Increases in core operating items like regional sewage disposal fees, employee health care, and utilities (heat & light)
- Budget pressures arising from inflation and tariffs

How Our **Revenue Sources** Compares to Others

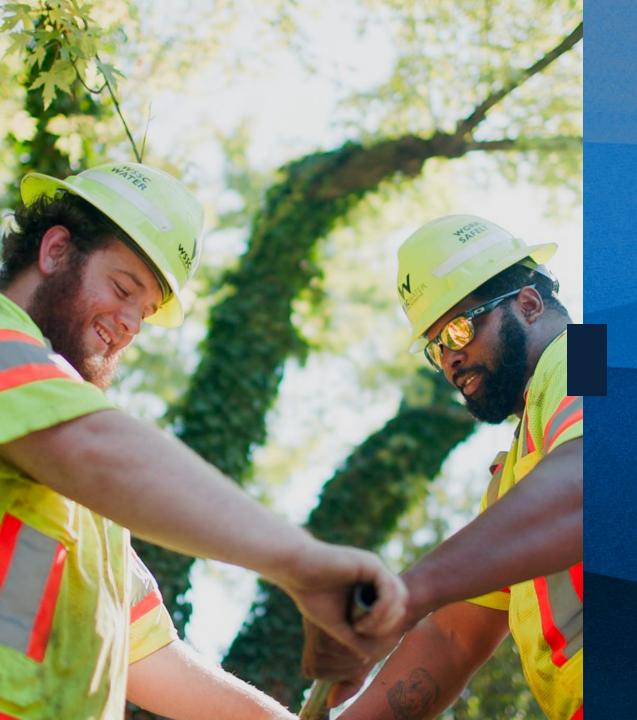




#### **WMATA**

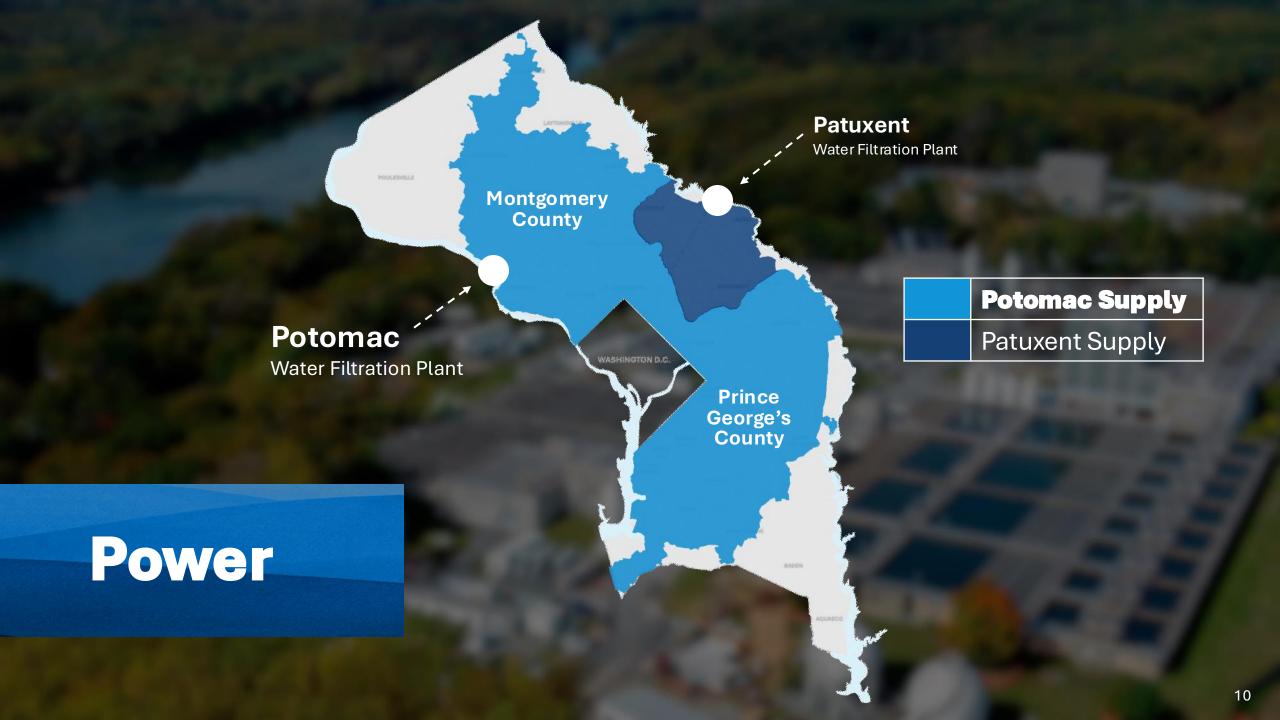
**Fare/Advertising Revenue: 11.4%**Federal, State, & Local Funding: 70.9%

Other Sources: 17.7%



## Vulnerabilities





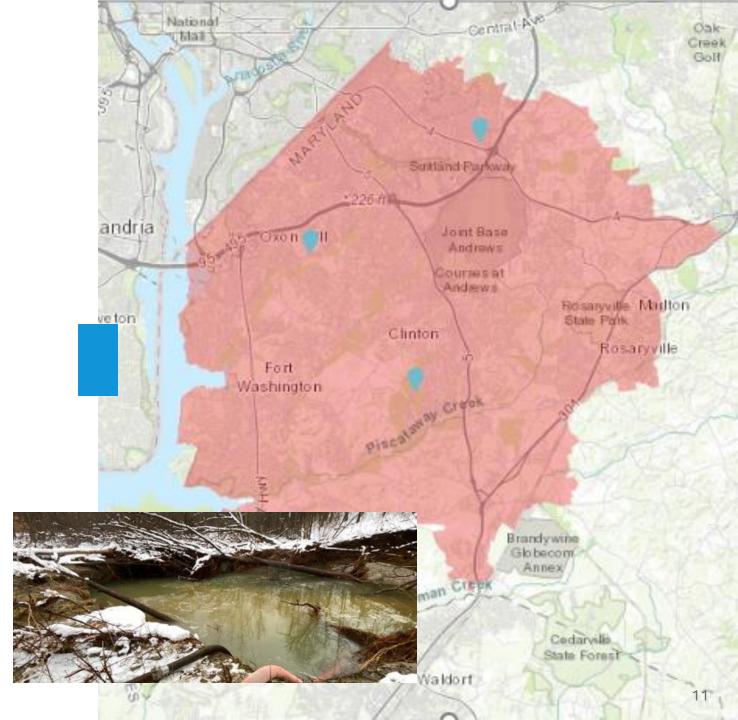


## \$9.5M

Proactive Investment to Improve Reliability and Redundancy

54" Major Break in Prince George's County

~300,000 customers affected, hospitals, schools, Joint Base Andrews, & National Harbor



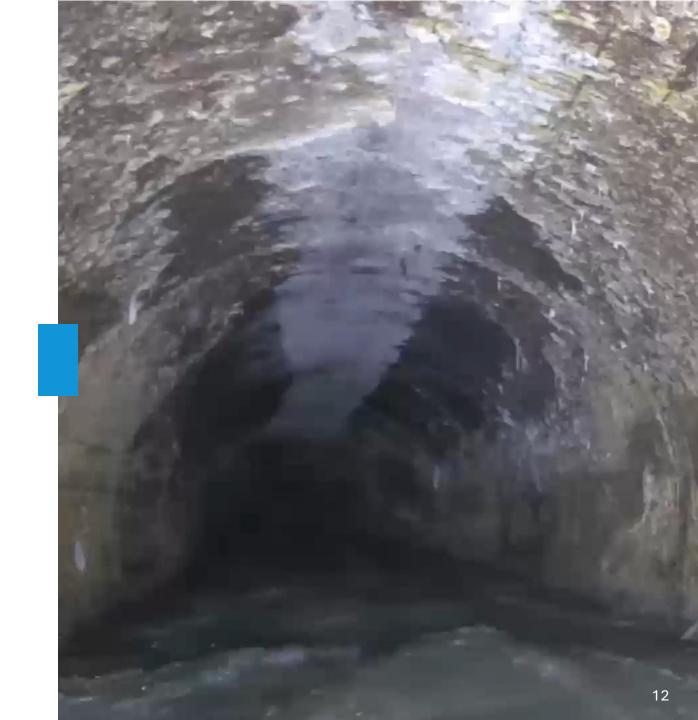
## **Pipes**

# \$8.74M

Proactive Investment to Safeguard Environment



102" Anacostia Sewer Main Corrosion

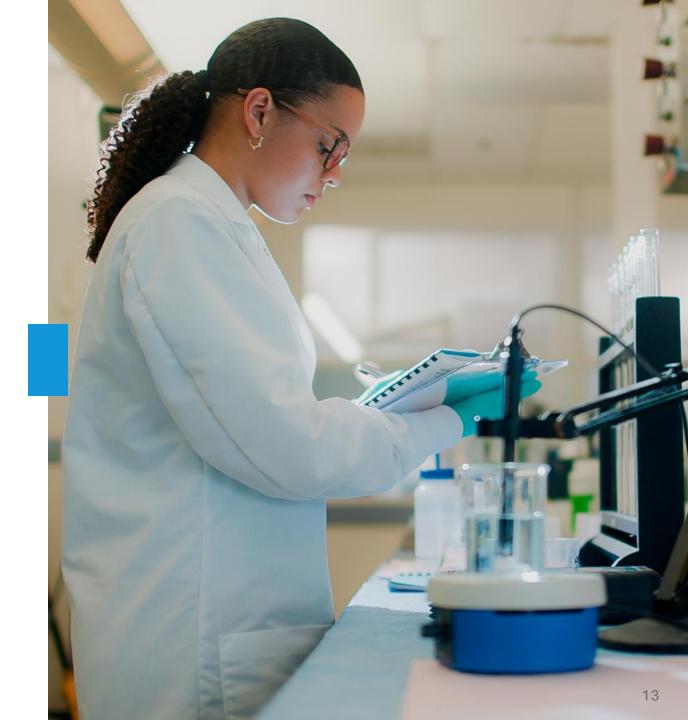


## **Pollutants**

## \$6.0M

To evaluate treatment technologies to enhance public health and customer satisfaction. This includes removal of PFAS, tastes, odors, and color.

This work ensures safe, clean, and reliable water today and **prepares our system for the next 20–25 years**.



## Public Health

# \$10.0M FY27-32

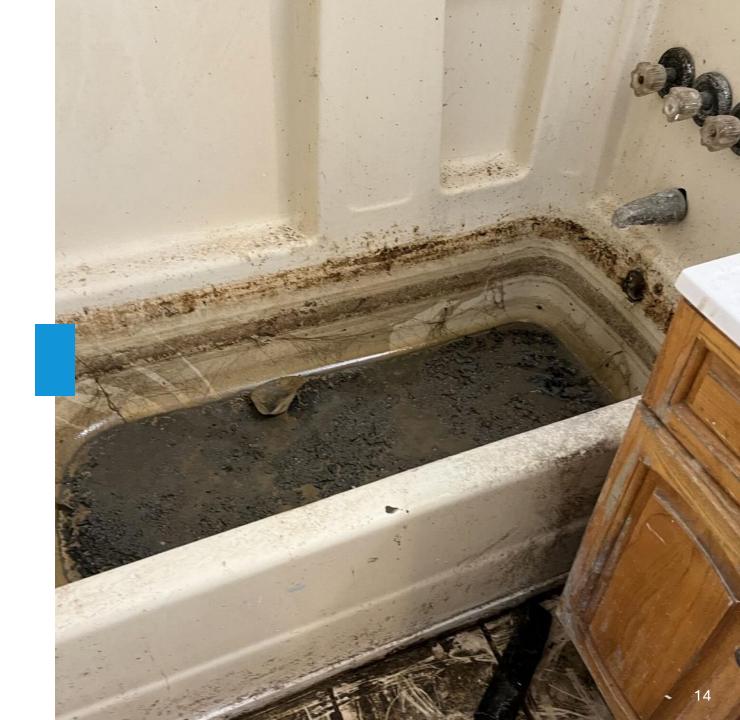
## Striving Towards Zero Basement Backups

### **North Takoma Park**

**5 miles** of repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of sewer mains, including laterals

### Lanham

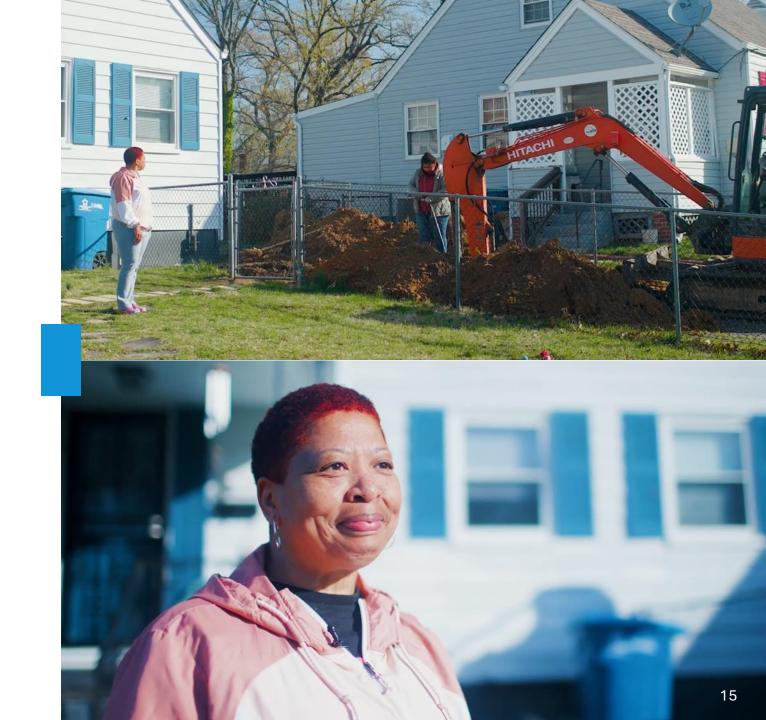
Launched comprehensive action plan to identify cause of repeated basement backups. Will fund solutions in FY 2027 budget.



## People

\$10.64M

20% increase over FY26 financial assistance program budget to help protect more income-constrained customers



## Helping Our Neighbors Water Bill Assistance

## Promise.

Sign up for an affordable, flexible and interest-free payment plan. Customers with a past-due balance of \$50 or more are eligible.

## Customer Assistance Program (CAP)

CAP assists approved residential customers by waiving fixed fees, providing free annual plumbing inspections for water leaks and much more.



Established in 1994 by WSSC Water employees, the fund helps customers in financial need pay their bill. Eligible customers can receive assistance multiple times per year, up to \$500.



Provides a loan **up to \$10,000** to finance the repair, replacement or diagnostics of sewer or water on-property service line.

The WSSC Federal Credit Union administers PipeER.

#### **Get Current**

The popular temporary water bill assistance program has been extended and enhanced. Eligible customers who pay half of their full account balance will have half forgiven! Program runs through October 31, 2025.



Customers enrolled in CAP, who suspect they have an on-property leak, can receive up to \$9,000 per year in plumbing repair services.





## Capital

## FY27 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

FY27
Budget

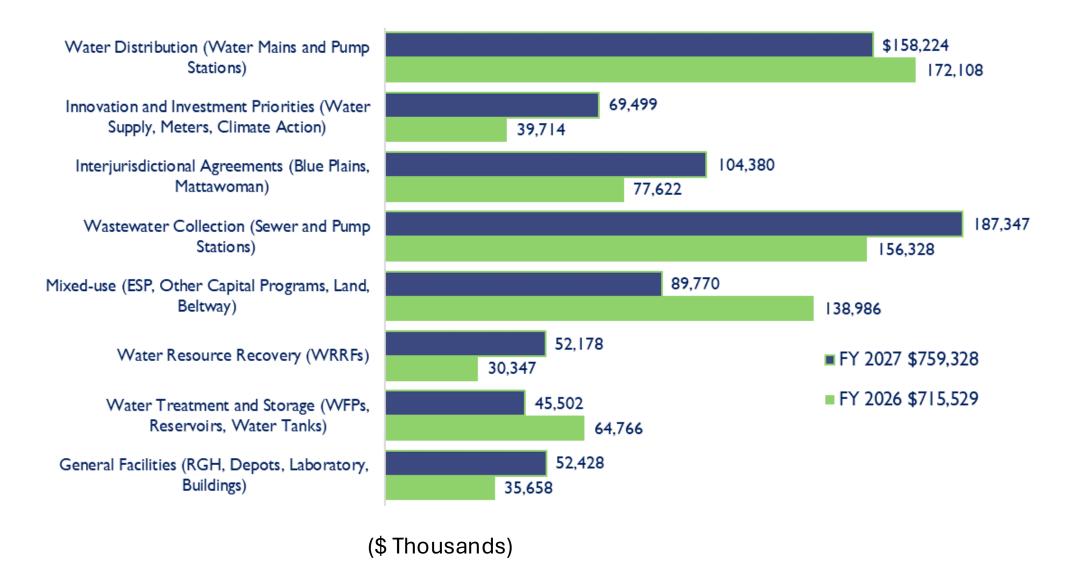
\$759.3M\*

Total Six Year
FY27-32 Budget
\$4.83B





## FY27 Proposed vs. FY26 Adopted CIP



# Water Distribution (Water Mains and Pump Stations) \$13,884 (8%) Main driver(s): • Optimizing Water Reconstruction















# Proposed FY27 vs. FY26 (\$ Thousands)

**FY26:** \$715,529

**FY27:** \$759,328





ington Suburban Sanitary Commission



## Finance

#### **Proposed FY 2027 Budget Scenarios**

WSSC Water has worked since our FY2026 budget approval in May 2025, to prepare our FY2027 budget inclusive of our 6-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and the Commission's Operating Budget. On July 30<sup>th</sup>, we kicked off the Spending Affordability Guidelines (SAG) process and work sessions with County Stakeholders by providing an overview of the CIP program updates. We then prepared for the required CIP public hearings which were held two weeks ago (September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>).

WSSC Water's internal direction to department heads for preparation of the preliminary FY2027 operating budget, was to reduce discretionary spending by 5% below the approved FY2026 budget and prioritize cost containment as a baseline. We entered the SAG process with the understanding that the workgroup is sharing preliminary financial data impacted by changes in projections we are seeing in real time. As WSSC Water works to finalize the preliminary Fiscal Year 2027 budget (operating and capital) for the upcoming hearings, WSSC Water must provide a series of scenarios to be considered by the Counties as part of the SAG process.

The Council Committees of purview for the respective counties will be conducting Spending Affordability hearings in October of 2026. As a part of this Committee review, WSSC Water will be providing current financial projections which consider significant increases in costs for Regional Sewerage treatment, employee health care, as well as increases in the costs for chemicals and energy. The draft working document which will be presented this week includes scenarios for revenue enhancement to arrive at a balanced budget that attempts to address the need to balance affordability and make the required investments to maintain our AAA credit rating.

The scenarios provided are preliminary working projections provided to allow the Council and County staffs to do their required due diligence and for deliberations. **No formal request has been made by the Commission at this time.** We look forward to our continued collaboration in this process and reaching a result that meets the needs of the customers of Prince George's and Montgomery counties.

#### FY27 6.0% Base Case vs. FY26 Approved

## Major Budget Changes

#### **Regional Sewage Disposal**

\$6 million in FY27 based on projections provided by DC Water

#### Heat, Light & Power

Cost is driven by higher natural gas usage at Piscataway and a projected rise in electricity rates due to increased capacity charges

Compensation for Collective Bargaining and Competitive Wages \$5.9 million for COLAs, \$5.5 million for merit increases, \$300,000 in one-time top of grade payouts, \$1 million for union staff step increases, and \$2.2 million for union base pay adjustments, offset by \$1.3 million in savings from retirements and terminations

#### Healthcare

Increase in cost of medical services, hospital care and prescription drugs. Note, budget does not include potential cost of mitigating the effects of the dispute between United Healthcare and Johns Hopkins

#### **Miscellaneous Other**

Costs increase of \$3 million is for expanded on-call plumber services, emergency repairs, materials for pipe maintenance, and basement backup mitigation efforts—aimed at enhancing emergency response, reducing repair times, and improving customer service.

#### FY 2027 Budget Increases (6.0% Scenario)

FY 2027 Bud	ige	t increases (	0.0	% Scenario	)		
Non-Discretionary Cost		FY2027		FY2026		<b>Change</b>	% of Total
Debt Service	\$	388,446	\$	373,801	\$	14,645	23.1%
Regional Sewage Disposal		89,667		83,661		6,006	9.5%
Chemicals		24,846		25,283		(438)	-0.7%
Biosolids Hauling		16,433		15,908		525	0.8%
Heat, Light & Power		31,866		29,200		2,666	4.2%
Non-Discretionary Sub-total	\$	551,258	\$	527,853	\$	23,405	36.9%
PIC-1							
Personnel Cost							
Compensation for Collective Bargaining	an	d Competiti	ve V	Vages		13,549	21.3%
FY27 Budget Neutral Position Request						3,739	5.9%
Collective Bargaining Stand-by-Pay						1,200	1.9%
Impact of FY26 6-month new positions						776	1.2%
Change in Lapse						(1,269)	-2.0%
Overtime						518	0.8%
Salaries & Wages Sub-total	\$	217,796	\$	199,283	\$	18,513	29.2%
Healthcare Benefit		37,755		30,879		6,876	10.8%
Group Life		2,129		2,022		107	0.2%
FICA		15,413		14,302		1,110	1.7%
Retirement Plan		32,326		27,105		5,221	8.2%
Employee Benefits Sub-total	\$	87,622	\$	74,308	\$	13,315	21.0%
Personnel Sub-total	\$	305,418	\$	273,591	\$	31,827	50.1%
Discretionary Cost							
PAYGO	\$	100,000	\$	93,000	\$	7,000	11.0%
Materials		16,609		14,714		1,895	3.0%
Machinery & Equipment		2,945		959		1,987	3.1%
Water Tank Painting		3,829		4,890		(1,061)	-1.7%
Professional Services		22,046		26,225		(4,179)	-6.6%
Trucks & Vehicles		11,241		11,959		(718)	-1.1%
Contract Work & Outside Engineering		28,170		28,032		137	0.2%
Miscellaneous Other		152,483		149,278		3,204	5.0%
Discretionary Sub-total	\$	337,322	\$	329,057	\$	8,265	13.0%
Total	\$1	1,193,998	\$	1,130,501	\$	63,497	100.0%

<sup>\*</sup> PAYGO at \$100M supports management's efforts to lower debt principal and reach 'AAA' debt metric targets within the six-year planning period and aligns with the Bi-Infrastructure Funding Working Group Consultant's Report recommendations.

#### **FY27** 7.0% vs. **FY26** Approved

## Major Budget Changes

PAYGO at \$105M supports management's efforts to lower debt principal and reach 'AAA' debt metric targets within the six-year planning period.

Miscellaneous Other costs increase of \$5.6 million for relief reserve fund to address noted liquidity risks from emergencies, unforeseen events, and including delinquencies.

FY 2027 Budget Increases (7.0% Scenario)								
Non-Discretionary Cost		FY2027		FY2026	5	Change	% of Total	
Debt Service	\$	388,251	\$	373,801	\$	14,450	19.6%	
Regional Sewage Disposal		89,667		83,661		6,006	8.1%	
Chemicals		24,846		25,283		(438)	-0.6%	
Biosolids Hauling		16,433		15,908		525	0.7%	
Heat, Light & Power		31,866		29,200		2,666	3.6%	
Non-Discretionary Sub-total	\$	551,063	\$	527,853	\$	23,210	31.4%	
Personnel Cost								
Compensation for Collective Bargainir	ng a	and Competi	itive	Wages		13,549	18.3%	
FY27 Budget Neutral Position Request		·		· ·		3,739	5.1%	
Collective Bargaining Stand-by-Pay						1,200	1.6%	
Impact of FY26 6-month new positions	3					776	1.1%	
Change in Lapse						(1,269)	-1.7%	
Overtime						518	0.7%	
Salaries & Wages Sub-total	\$	217,796	\$	199,283	\$	18,513	25.0%	
Healthcare Benefit		37,755		30,879		6,876	9.3%	
Group Life		2,129		2,022		107	0.1%	
FICA		15,413		14,302		1,110	1.5%	
Retirement Plan		32,326		27,105		5,221	7.1%	
Employee Benefits Sub-total	\$	87,622	\$	74,308	\$	13,315	18.0%	
Personnel Sub-total	\$	305,418	\$	273,591	\$	31,827	43.1%	
Discretionary Cost								
PAYGO	\$	105,000	\$	93,000	\$	12,000	16.2%	
Materials		16,609		14,714		1,895	2.6%	
Machinery & Equipment		2,945		959		1,987	2.7%	
Water Tank Painting		3,829		4,890		(1,061)	-1.4%	
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Trucks & Vehicles		11,241		11,959		(718)	-1.0%	
Contract Work & Outside Engineering		28,170		28,032		137	0.2%	
Miscellaneous Other		158,084		149,278		8,805	11.9%	
Discretionary Sub-total	\$	347,923	\$	329,057	\$	18,866	25.5%	
Total	\$	1,204,404	\$ 1	1,130,501	\$	73,903	100.0%	

