

Wilmington, Delaware
April 2, 2026

#XXXX

WHEREAS, adequate access to water and sanitation is a fundamental necessity for all

Sponsor:

residents of the City of Wilmington; and

**Council
Member
Darby**

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington provides water and wastewater services to its residents and businesses, ensuring access to clean and safe water; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmington City Council recognizes the importance of maintaining and improving water infrastructure, ensuring regulatory compliance, and protecting public health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Council further recognizes that infrastructure investment must be balanced with affordability, transparency, and meaningful consideration of alternative revenue-generation strategies; and

WHEREAS, increasing the water rate for Wilmington residents has become a standard budgetary procedure for fiscal year planning, as opposed to a final recourse in extraordinary circumstances. In past fiscal years, concerns have been raised regarding the affordability, equity, and transparency of water rate increases for residents and local businesses. Water rate increases have a disproportionate impact on low-income households and vulnerable populations. The additional costs of water bills, compounded with the rising costs of living, undermine the financial stability of households and exacerbate the economic hardship experienced by our business community; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that alternative funding mechanisms, operational efficiencies, phased implementation strategies, or external funding sources should be fully

explored before increasing water and sewer rates for residents in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget cycle.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that this Legislative body strongly opposes the approval of a water rate increase in the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Legislative body urges the Administration to explore alternative revenue options, cost-saving measures, grants, and state or federal funding opportunities to address infrastructure needs without increasing the financial burden on residents.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution opposes the approval of a water rate increase in the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget and urges the Administration to explore alternative revenue options, cost-saving measures, grants, and state or federal funding opportunities to address infrastructure needs without increasing the financial burden on residents.