



# VOTE YES ON THE WATER SYSTEM REFERENDUM

## WHY IS THIS REFERENDUM SO IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE OF SOUTH ORANGE?

South Orange voters have the opportunity to secure \$69.7 million to benefit the community for decades to come through the sale of the water system to New Jersey American Water, the same company that has been contracted to manage the water system and provide water to the Village.

## THE BENEFITS OF VOTING YES!

- ✓ Pay off all utility debt and a portion of the municipal debt
- ✓ Ensure rate predictability
- ✓ Repair and modernize the water system infrastructure
- ✓ Replace all lead service lines

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF VOTING YES ON THE WATER SYSTEM REFERENDUM?

### RATE PREDICTABILITY

Customers will experience rate predictability under New Jersey American Water.

- Five-year rate schedule upon taking ownership, with a rate hold for the first two years and 3% annual increases in years 3-5
- Rates regulated by the NJBPU

### CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

H2O Help to Others Program™:

- Includes grants up to \$500 toward overdue water bills, and service charge discounts to customers with qualifying incomes

### INVESTING IN SOUTH ORANGE

New Jersey American Water is committed to investing \$69.7 million in South Orange if voters approve the sale:

- \$19.7 million purchase price to pay off all the water utility debt, with the remainder applied to municipal debt
- \$50 million in infrastructure investments by 2035 that include:
  - o Identification and replacement of all lead and galvanized service lines starting immediately after taking ownership
  - o Replacement of the Crest Drive Standpipe within five years of ownership to address NJDEP requirements and secure this important water storage facility
  - o Rehabilitation of the Main Reservoir and the Newstead Watersphere to strengthen the system's resiliency and address deficiencies identified by the state regulators and the Village
  - o An aggressive water main replacement and rehabilitation program
  - o A comprehensive analysis of the system to prioritize other system improvements



VOTE YES ON THE WATER SYSTEM REFERENDUM to prioritize infrastructure investment with predictable rates.

TO LEARN MORE VISIT [VoteYesSouthOrange.com](http://VoteYesSouthOrange.com)



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## LONG-TERM RATE PREDICTABILITY IN SOUTH ORANGE

Upon sale of the system, current water rates will be held steady for two years, followed by minimal increases of 3% per year over the next three years, while critical system improvements are made. In the long-term, customers' rates will increase modestly every two to three years due to New Jersey American Water's ability to spread costs across its entire customer base. If the Village was to keep and maintain the system, rates will immediately increase significantly.

Year	1	2	3	4	5
Rate Increase	0%	0%	3%	3%	3%

At the end of the five years, customers with average water usage will pay approximately \$78 more annually for water service while New Jersey American Water invests tens of millions of dollars in South Orange.



**\$78**

more annually for water service at the end of the 5 year rate plan



**\$35,000,000**

invested by New Jersey American Water water into South Orange in the first 5 years

## PROVIDING COMMUNITY SUPPORT & HIGH-QUALITY SERVICE FOR SOUTH ORANGE

Based in Short Hills with approximately 100 local employees, New Jersey American Water offers high-quality customer service and is committed to the community.

- Monthly billing with convenient online and in-person bill-paying options
- 24/7 emergency support system to notify customers of issues
- Support for local community organizations through grant opportunities and educational outreach programs



New Jersey American Water was ranked

**#1 IN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION**

with Large Water Utilities in the Northeast Region and #1 in Trust

For J.D. Power 2024 award information, visit [jdpower.com/awards](https://www.jdpower.com/awards)

**VOTE  
YES**  
SOUTH ORANGE  
WATER REFERENDUM

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