



Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

For Immediate Release

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Bloomington Water Rate Case: Public Comments Invited *IURC Hearing Feb. 25 in Bloomington*

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting public comments on the City of Bloomington's pending water rate request through Mar. 3, 2026.

In addition, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) will hold a public field hearing in Bloomington on Feb. 25, 2026.

The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the IURC – is using its technical and legal resources to review the utility's proposal. Formal testimony from the OUCC is due Mar. 10, 2026.

Written Consumer Comments

Consumers who wish to submit written comments for the case record may do so via the form on the OUCC's website at www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm, or by mail at:

Public Comments
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC)
115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 SOUTH
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Consumer comments will be included in the formal case record for Commission review. Comments **should not** contain sensitive or personal information as comments will become viewable and searchable online once posted to the IURC's online case file. Consumers with questions about commenting can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff at 1-888-441-2494.

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments **no later than Tuesday, Mar. 3, 2026**, so that it can: 1) Consider comments in preparing its testimony and 2) File them with the Commission to be included in the case's formal evidentiary record. Comments should include the consumer's name, city, zip code, and a reference to either "**IURC Cause No. 46330**" or "**Bloomington Water**." Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

Public Field Hearing

The IURC has scheduled a public field hearing in this case for Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026, in the Bloomington City Hall Council Chambers (401 North Morton Street, Bloomington).

The hearing will begin at **6:00 p.m.** Consumers are encouraged to arrive by 5:45 p.m. for an overview of field hearing procedures and the rate case process. No final decisions about the case will be made at the hearing.

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The sole purpose of a field hearing is to receive public testimony. A final decision is expected in late Summer 2026.

- Consumers can speak directly to the Commission under oath and on the record.
- Oral comments presented during the field hearing will become part of the case record. They will carry the same weight as written consumer comments submitted to the OUCC by Mar. 3, 2026.
- Utilities do not make presentations or answer questions during field hearings. The focus, again, is on public input. In this case, the city filed testimony and exhibits in November 2025.
- Commissioners are not allowed to answer questions about the case. They will ultimately render a decision after weighing evidence from the utility, the OUCC, and intervening parties. OUCC staff will be available to answer questions at the hearing.

Case Overview

The City of Bloomington's water utility is seeking a \$6.5 million increase in its annual operating revenues.

The utility is seeking approval to issue up to \$71 million in long-term debt in this case, along with the rate increase. According to its testimony, the city is seeking changes due to higher operating and maintenance costs and to pay for infrastructure repairs and improvements. Specific items repairs and replacements to water distribution system, a new service center, and improvements to water treatment.

Under the city's pending proposal, monthly water charges for a residential customer using 4,000 gallons would rise from \$26.22 to \$31.35. Out-of-town customers using 4,000 gallons would rise from \$27.69 to \$32.04. These calculations include the fire protection charge.

Only the city's water rates are at issue in this case. The IURC does not have jurisdiction over municipal sewer rates, which are set by locally elected city and town councils throughout the state.

A settlement agreement is possible in any legal proceeding; such an agreement, if reached, would require IURC approval.

The OUCC is posting case updates online at www.in.gov/oucc/watersewer/key-cases-by-utility/bloomington-municipal-water-rates/. Case updates are also available through the agency's monthly electronic newsletter. Consumers can subscribe at www.in.gov/oucc/news/.

(IURC Cause No. 46330)

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) represents Indiana consumer interests before state and federal bodies that regulate utilities. As a state agency, the OUCC's mission is to represent all Indiana consumers to ensure quality, reliable utility services at the most reasonable prices possible through dedicated advocacy, consumer education, and creative problem solving.