

# Water Supply District of Acton

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Dear Customer,

The Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) budget for the Acton Water District failed to pass at the Annual District Meeting held on March 18, 2026. As a result, on April 3, 2026, a **Special District Meeting was called to be held on April 22, 2026, with just one article to be voted on; the FY27 budget. This meeting will be held at the Acton Water District, located at 693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton and will begin at 7:00 P.M.** Allow extra time to be checked in and seated. Any registered voters in the Town of Acton are allowed to vote at this meeting, even if you are not a customer of the District. Please share this notice with other voters in your household or in a multi-unit building.

Voters will be presented with a revised expense budget of \$9,568,431 that allows us to promptly address urgent needs identified since the Annual Meeting. This revised budget results in a \$988,000 increase over the original FY 27 budget proposal.

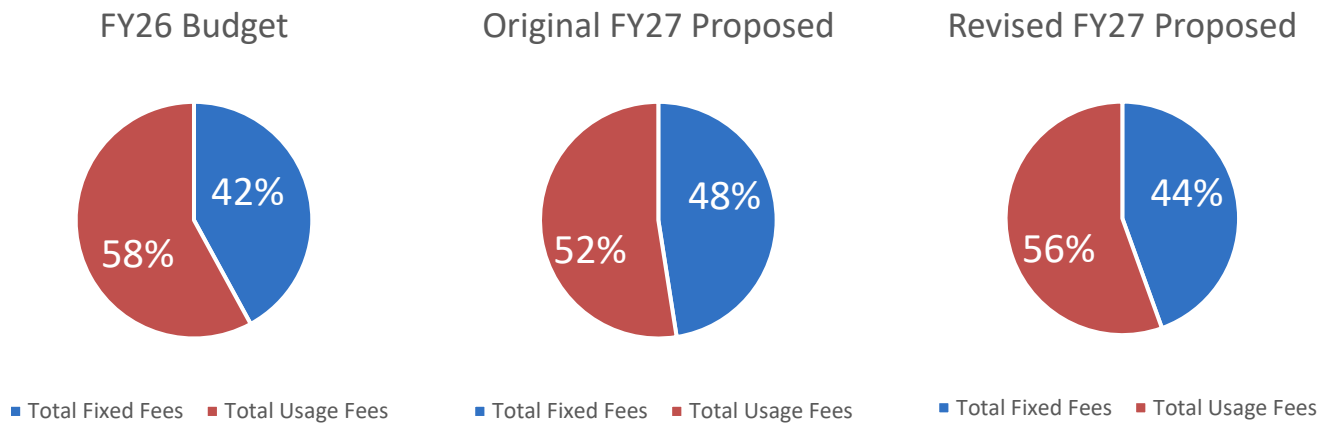
Summary of differences between Original and Revised FY27 budgets. [Full FY27 budget proposal available online.](#)

Revised Line Item	Original FY27 Proposed Budget	Revised FY27 Proposed Budget
Health/Life Insurance Active	330,190	313,000
Maintenance & Operations	750,000	650,000
Meters	400,000	600,000
Salaries & Wages	1,725,000	1,742,190
Well Maintenance/Replacement	0	888,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,580,431</b>	<b>9,568,431</b>

As compared in the table above, Employee Health Insurance came in \$17,190 below the original estimate, Maintenance & Operations has been reduced by \$100,000, Meters increased by \$200,000, Salaries & Wages was adjusted upwards by the \$17,190 saved on Health Insurance, and a new line item, Well Maintenance/Replacement, has been added with \$888,000 of anticipated expenses for FY27. The \$200,000 increase in the meter budget is necessary to accelerate the District's meter replacement program before many of the oldest existing meters can no longer be read due to obsolete technology. The new \$888,000 line item for well maintenance/rehabilitation is necessary to address the rapidly deteriorating well infrastructure in North Acton. This cost is being included as part of the variable rate to avoid additional debt service and will be supplemented by previously appropriated funds.

While rehabilitation of the North Acton wells has been on the District's radar for a few years, using the wells continuously was necessary during our proactive and rapid respond to the impact of PFAS contamination on all sources in the water system. This use prevented us from taking the North Acton wells offline for the multiple months required to properly rehabilitate them. The naturally corrosive nature of the groundwater in North Acton has now led to the imminent failure of these wells, identified just a few weeks ago, necessitating action in the coming months. With PFAS treatment now in place at other locations in Acton, we are able to focus our full attention on these wells. We will be conducting repairs and upgrades which will allow them to perform at a higher level of service and reliability for many years to come. The work required for the North Acton wells is a prime example of how Acton's water system requires ongoing investment to remain safe and reliable. Approving the FY27 budget protects these critical projects and secures the water supply for our community.

Voters have the power to approve the \$9,568,431 expense portion (money to be spent) of the budget. The revenue portion (including amounts users are charged), including water rates and fees, is determined separately by the Board of Commissioners during regular public meetings. Unfortunately, this was not clear to voters at the March 18 Annual Meeting, where concerns about the increasing fixed versus decreasing variable proportions of customers' water bills were brought to the forefront of the discussion. However, with the proposed revised budget, these concerns have largely been addressed, as the charts below demonstrate. Median annual water bills for residential customers are anticipated to increase from \$747 in FY26 to \$881 under the revised FY27 budget, an increase of \$134 per year. Yet, the fixed/variable proportions of the bill will remain very close to FY26 levels compared to the original FY27 proposed budget.



Although more than half of the typical water bill is comprised of usage fees, which vary based on water use and help to incentivize conservation, more than 90% of a water utility's costs are fixed because they are tied to maintaining safe, reliable service so that water is there when you need it. Customers are not just paying for the amount of water they use, they are paying for "readiness to serve": the people, pipes, pumps, and treatment systems that must be in place before any water is used. We urge all voters to attend the Special District Meeting on April 22 and approve the FY27 budget so that we can continue to ensure that Acton continues to have safe, reliable water for many years to come.