



# City of Cambridge

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

David J. Kale  
Assistant City Manager/Fiscal Affairs

### No Water Rate Increase for the 10th Consecutive Year

May 28, 2020

Dear Water/Sewer Customer:

The City administration and City Council recognize the importance of minimizing increases in water and sewer rates. Therefore, I am pleased to announce that the approved FY21 water consumption block rate increase is 0.0%, which is the tenth consecutive year that the City has been able to produce a 0.0% increase in the water rate. The FY21 sewer consumption block rate reflects an increase of 6.3%. This results in a 4.8% combined rate increase for the period beginning April 1, 2020 and ending March 31, 2021, which is lower than the 5.2% projected last year. Approximately 88% of the FY21 sewer budget is comprised of debt service to fund infrastructure improvements and Massachusetts Water Resources Authority assessments.

The following block rates for the water/sewer usage are effective as of April 1, 2020. The rate changes will be reflected in bills issued as of July 1, 2020.

	Annual Consumption*	FY20 Water Rate	FY21 Proposed Water Rate	FY20 Sewer Rate	FY21 Proposed Sewer Rate
<b>Block 1</b>	0 – 40 CcF	\$3.02	\$3.02	\$11.77	\$12.51
<b>Block 2</b>	41 – 400 CcF	\$3.24	\$3.24	\$12.44	\$13.22
<b>Block 3</b>	401 – 2,000 CcF	\$3.44	\$3.44	\$13.36	\$14.20
<b>Block 4</b>	2,001 – 10,000 CcF	\$3.65	\$3.65	\$14.39	\$15.30
<b>Block 5</b>	Over 10,000 CcF	\$3.96	\$3.96	\$15.30	\$16.26

All rates are per 100 cubic feet (CcF). One CcF is 748.052 gallons. Therefore, if you multiply the usage on your water/sewer bill times 748 gallons, you can determine the total number of gallons of water used for the period.

#### Conservation

Please visit the Water Department's website to learn about ways you can reduce your water consumption, [cambridgema.gov/waterconservation](http://cambridgema.gov/waterconservation).

#### Senior Discount Program

The City offers a 15% discount, not to exceed \$90, to residents 65 years of age or older who own and occupy their one, two, or three family home. Please see the application on the reverse side of this letter for senior discount water/sewer program, or apply online at [cambridgema.gov/seniordiscountwatersewerprogram](http://cambridgema.gov/seniordiscountwatersewerprogram). Any resident who was granted a Clause 41C elderly exemption on FY20 real estate taxes will receive a 30% discount, not to exceed \$180 per year. The City automatically grants this discount where applicable.

If you have any questions, please contact the Finance Department at 617-349-4220, or e-mail us at [treasurer@cambridgema.gov](mailto:treasurer@cambridgema.gov).

Sincerely,

David J. Kale  
Assistant City Manager/Fiscal Affairs

## SENIOR DISCOUNT WATER/SEWER PROGRAM

Because of the impact the water and sewer rate increases may have on senior citizens, the City offers a Senior Discount Water/Sewer Program. All residents 65 years of age or older who own and occupy their one, two or three family home are eligible for a 15% discount on water/sewer charges, not to exceed \$90 per year. To qualify, you must be 65 years of age or older by July 1, 2020. **If you are currently receiving the discount, you will continue to receive it and you need NOT reapply.** To begin receiving the discount, complete the application form below if you qualify for this program. Any resident who was granted a Clause 41C elderly exemption on FY20 real estate taxes will receive a 30% discount, not to exceed \$180 per year. The City automatically grants this discount where applicable; therefore, you do not need to apply for it.

If you have any questions regarding the Senior Discount Water/Sewer Program, please contact the Finance Department at 617 349-4220. If you have any questions regarding the qualifications for the real estate tax exemption under clause 41C, please contact the Assessor's Office at 617 349-4343.

### SENIOR DISCOUNT WATER/SEWER APPLICATION FORM 15% Senior Discount Water/Sewer Program

PARCEL ID \_\_\_\_\_ ACCOUNT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

(Your account number can be found at the top of your water/sewer bill)

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF RECORD OWNER \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**If you own and occupy your one, two, or three-family home and will be 65 or older by July 1, 2020, please complete and return by June 24, 2020 to:**

#### City of Cambridge - Finance Department

795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Complete and e-mail to [treasurer@cambridgema.gov](mailto:treasurer@cambridgema.gov)

Complete the application online @  
[cambridgema.gov/seniordiscountwatersewerprogram](http://cambridgema.gov/seniordiscountwatersewerprogram)