



WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

No one should be without clean, safe, affordable drinking water in their home. No one should suffer harm from lead service lines. No one should have to worry about sewage backing up into their basement or chronic community flooding that damages homes, businesses, and community gathering places. Yet, communities across the Great Lakes region continue to grapple with antiquated drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater infrastructure.

These harms are compounded by the growing unaffordability of water and sewer services to households, driven in part by the rising costs of maintaining water infrastructure to address such challenges. Burdens fall especially hard on households served by small water utilities in rural areas, communities with a declining customer base, less-wealthy households, and communities with longtime disinvestment rooted in historical redlining or other forms of discrimination. With climate change causing more extreme storms and periods of drought throughout the region, our communities face heightened threats to well-being from inadequate and/or failing water infrastructure.

Sample candidate questions:

- How will you fund much-needed improvements to our drinking water, sewage, and stormwater infrastructure?
- How would you balance the need for increased funding to pay for water infrastructure improvements while also keeping water bills affordable?
- What is your plan to ensure that water infrastructure funding reaches the communities where it is needed most?
- What is your plan to replace lead drinking water pipes?
- How would you involve the community in conversations about water infrastructure needs and improvements?