THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Monday, November 9, 2026

PRESENT: Commissioners John Avedisian, Alberto Cortes, Dimple Desai (virtual attendance), William DiBella, John Gale, Byron Lester, Petrel Maylor, Dominic Pane, Pasquale Salemi (virtual attendance), Edwin Vargas, District Chairman Donald Currey and Citizen Member Awet Tsegai (12)

ALSO PRESENT:
Victoria Escoriza, District Clerk
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer (Virtual Attendance)
Jonathan Perugini, Chief Financial Officer/ Director of Finance (Virtual Attendance)
Janet Murphy, Controller (Virtual Attendance)
Christopher McLellan, Stock Specialist
Keith Sanabria, IT Consultant (Virtual Attendance)
Daniel Gallahger, IT Consultant
Elizabeth Tavelli, Independent Consumer Advocate

CALL TO ORDER

The public hearing was called to order by District Chairman Currey at 5:30PM

Chairman Currey read the following statement:

"This is a public hearing of The Metropolitan District. The District Board will receive public input on the proposed 2027 budget for The Metropolitan District, Water & Sewer Rates, and Revisions to Ordinances."

"On October 16, 2026, the 2027 proposed budget was made publicly available and posted on www.themdc.org. At its October 5th 2026 meeting, the District Board referred the proposed budget to the Board of Finance. A final decision on the 2027 proposed budget, rates and ordinances has yet to be made. The District Board will consider and approve a final budget at its December 7, 2026 public meeting, and will take into account what is said at this hearing."

Victoria Escoriza, District Clerk, read the following into the record:

The following hearing notice was published in the Hartford Courant on October 28, 2026 and again on November 4, 2026; and the notice was filed, for public inspection, in the office of the town clerk in each municipality that is a member town of The Metropolitan District.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
PROPOSED 2027 BUDGET, WATER & SEWER RATES AND
REVISIONS TO ORDINANCES

The Metropolitan District Board Room
555 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut

Pursuant to Special Act 01-3, as adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, and Section 2-14 of the Compiled Charter of The Metropolitan District ("District"), the District will hold a public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2027 budget, water and sewer rates, and revisions to the District's ordinances. The hearing will be held at The Metropolitan District Board Room, 555 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut, on **Monday, November 9, 2026 at 5:30 PM.**

Members of the public that would like to participate remotely may call into the public hearing at **(415) 655-0001 Access Code: 2309 640 7155 #** or via **Meeting Video Link** available on the District's website. Anyone from the public wishing to submit public comment on the budget, rates or ordinances is encouraged to submit written comments to DistrictClerk@themdc.com prior to the hearing. Comments received in advance of the public hearing will be available to District Commissioners during the public hearing and incorporated into the record. Submitting written comments does not prevent any member of the public from also speaking during the hearing.

The proposed fiscal year 2027 budget, rates and ordinance revisions are available for public inspection at www.themdc.org/budget or by request to DistrictClerk@themdc.com. Proposed changes to the following sections of the ordinances will be considered:

WATER SUPPLY ORDINANCES:

§ W1a	**WATER USED CHARGE (TREATED WATER)**
§ W1b	**CUSTOMER SERVICE CHARGE**
§ W1c	**SURCHARGE OUTSIDE THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT**
§ W1f	**SURCHARGE OUTSIDE THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**
§ W5c	**SERVICE PIPE DETAILS**
§ W6f	**CHARGES FOR PRIVATE FIRE PROTECTION**

All interested parties from The Metropolitan District's member municipalities may appear to be heard.

Victoria S. Escoriza
District Clerk

Victoria Escoriza, District Clerk, read the public hearing guidelines:

1. Only one person will be allowed to speak at any given time.

2. Members of the public, when speaking, are requested to state for the record their name, address, and the name of the company they represent, if applicable.

3. Members of the public are requested to speak directly into the microphone, due to the fact that these proceedings are being recorded.

4. Statements from the public should be limited to **THREE** minutes each. The Chair reserves the right to interrupt comments that extend beyond **THREE** minutes in order to afford everyone an opportunity to express an opinion.

5. All persons present are requested to register an opinion with the Clerk, either in favor of or opposed to the proposed budget, rates and ordinance amendments, prior to leaving the hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ambur Watson-Fork, East Hartford Resident, spoke regarding concern for residents to pay more for water and sewer services. She stated that the Clean Water Project Charge is higher than the water itself, and that it all comes out of the same household paycheck. She stated that she supports clean water and maintaining the sewer system, but inquired on what MDC has done to conserve its own spending. She asked that executive expenditures be eliminated and inquired about vehicle benefits. She stated that rate payers should not be the first place to look when more money is needed.

Darnella Massey, Windsor Resident, stated the Connecticut residents have to pick up additional money that they do not have, and that MDC and Eversource want more money. She stated that she wants clean water and great sewage, but the money should not come from the taxpayer. She inquired about using the Governors rainy-day fund.

Hyacinth Yennie, Hartford Resident, stated that she's been receiving phone calls from residents in her neighborhood about their water bill increasing. She hopes that when the MDC asks for more, that they understand the seniors are not making more money. She has been telling residents how to save water, but she also stated its important for the MDC to know what seniors are going through in the City of Hartford. She also wanted to the MDC to be aware of a company from Pennsylvania sending letters to seniors and residents in Hartford.

Elizabeth Tavelli, Independent Consumer Advocate and West Hartford Resident, stated that her information is available on the MDC website and she wants all customers to have a voice. She stated that it's very important for the MDC Commissioners to look at the high budget costs on a zoomed out level. She asked that the District re-examine the Riverfront Recapture budget to come out of the water rate, as well as look at the tunnel projected costs, and hopes the MDC is not being too conservative in the projected numbers. She hopes that the Commissioners carefully look at the items and impacts on customers.

The following public comment was submitted in writing, for the record:

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing as a ratepayer to express my opposition to the proposed water rate increases. Residents cannot afford water as is now and seeing an increase will do more harm to residents who need the essential service that you provide. While I understand that work has been needed to upgrade the systems that provide our water and get rid of our sewage, it is hard to see the sins of the past generations and deferred maintenance now having to be paid by us.

Yours,
Chance Carter
Hartford, CT 06112

Dear Commissioners,

I am an East Hartford resident and MDC customer writing to express concern about the proposed 2027 water and sewer increases. Please include this correspondence in the November 9 public hearing record and distribute it to the Board of Commissioners. Reliable water service and necessary infrastructure investment are essential. So is affordability. Residents are balancing property taxes, utilities, groceries, and other household expenses, and each additional increase puts more pressure on families. Before approving this proposal, I ask the Commission to provide clear, publicly accessible
answers to the following:

• What would the proposed changes cost East Hartford households at different usage levels, including fixed charges and surcharges?

• How much would East Hartford's municipal sewer assessment increase, and what would that mean for the town's budget? Residents deserve to understand both the direct bill impact and the potential property-tax impact.

• Which proposed spending increases are required for safety, compliance, or essential operations, and which could be reduced, deferred, or phased in?

• What cost savings, grants, or other funding options have been evaluated to limit the increase, and why were those alternatives accepted or rejected?

• What assistance or affordability measures are available for households struggling with these costs, including working families who may not qualify for existing assistance?

I ask East Hartford's commissioners to explain what steps they will take to minimize the burden on our community. Before adopting the budget, please publish a comparison showing the proposed increase alongside a lower-cost alternative and the practical tradeoffs involved. Residents should have a meaningful opportunity to review

those answers before a final vote. Please acknowledge receipt of this comment and advise when and where responses will be available.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Shonda Martinez
East Hartford resident and MDC customer

ADJOURNMENT

The public hearing was adjourned at 5:50 PM

ATTEST:

Victoria S. Escoriza
District Clerk

Date of Approval

*Video of the full November 9, 2026 Public Hearing is available at https://www.youtube.com/@MetropolitanDistrictCommission**