

2025 WATER & WASTEWATER RATE CASE

RELIABILITY • SAFETY • SUSTAINABILITY



WHY BUCKEYE IS UPDATING RATES

Over the last decade, Buckeye has made only modest adjustments to water and wastewater rates, even as operating costs have risen significantly due to inflation, aging infrastructure, and higher costs for electricity, chemicals, materials, equipment, and labor. Updating rates is essential to:

- Maintain safe, reliable water and wastewater service
- Keep up with rising operational and services
- Replace aging infrastructure citywide
- Prepare for future water supply needs

Buckeye's utilities are enterprise funds where all revenue stays within the system, and no property tax dollars support water or wastewater services.

THE WATER & WASTEWATER RATE COMMITTEE

City Council created the 2025 Water & Wastewater Rate Committee (WRC) to ensure a transparent, community-driven process.

Who they are:

- 7 voting members, 2 alternates
- Represent all 6 Council districts and the development community
- Met July–October 2025

What they did:

- Reviewed financial data, operating costs and infrastructure needs
- Examined asset management and major cost drivers
- Evaluated multiple rate scenarios
- Recommended phased adjustments balancing affordability and long-term sustainability

INVESTING IN SYSTEM EFFICIENCY AND RELIABILITY

We execute initiatives and tasks daily to secure Buckeye's water supplies and service delivery.

Portfolio: Investments in wet and dry water rights strengthen Buckeye's water supply as well as its buying power.

Asset Management: Major rehabilitation and replacement of critical system components ensures asset efficiency and reliability.

System Improvements: Capital improvement projects reduce operational demands by improving system efficiency and service delivery.

FOCUSING ON COST MANAGEMENT

The proposed rate structure ensures each customer pays their fair share based on usage and meter size, while keeping bills predictable.

- Gradual, multi-year rate adjustments recommended by the Water & Wastewater Rate Committee
- Operational efficiencies to manage rising costs and extend asset life
- Rate structure alignment so larger users pay more due to greater system demand
- Fee update: The \$3.05 repair and replace fee will be removed; the environmental fee stays the same

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR BILL	GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT	HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS (HOAS)
<p>Typical residential customers will see an increase of 5% per month in combined water and wastewater charges each year for five years.</p> <p>Actual bills depend on water use, meter size and billing cycle length.</p> <p>Without adjustments, the utility could fall below sustainable funding levels, delaying maintenance, increasing long-term costs and limiting investment in future water supplies</p>	<p>Current customers do not pay for new development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developers fund and build all new water and wastewater infrastructure. • Once dedicated, the city operates and maintains the system, and new customers pay their utility bills. • Growth adds both revenue and operating costs (pumping, chemicals, storage, maintenance). <p>Rates cover only the cost to provide service, not the cost of growth.</p>	<p>HOA fee structures vary by community based on use and size of pipes used. Opportunities were offered for HOAs to explain the new rates, answer questions and provide guidance on reducing landscape water use. HOA leadership who was not able to meet with Water Resources who is still interested in learning more or has questions is invited to email Jaymie Parker at jparker@buckeyeaz.gov.</p>

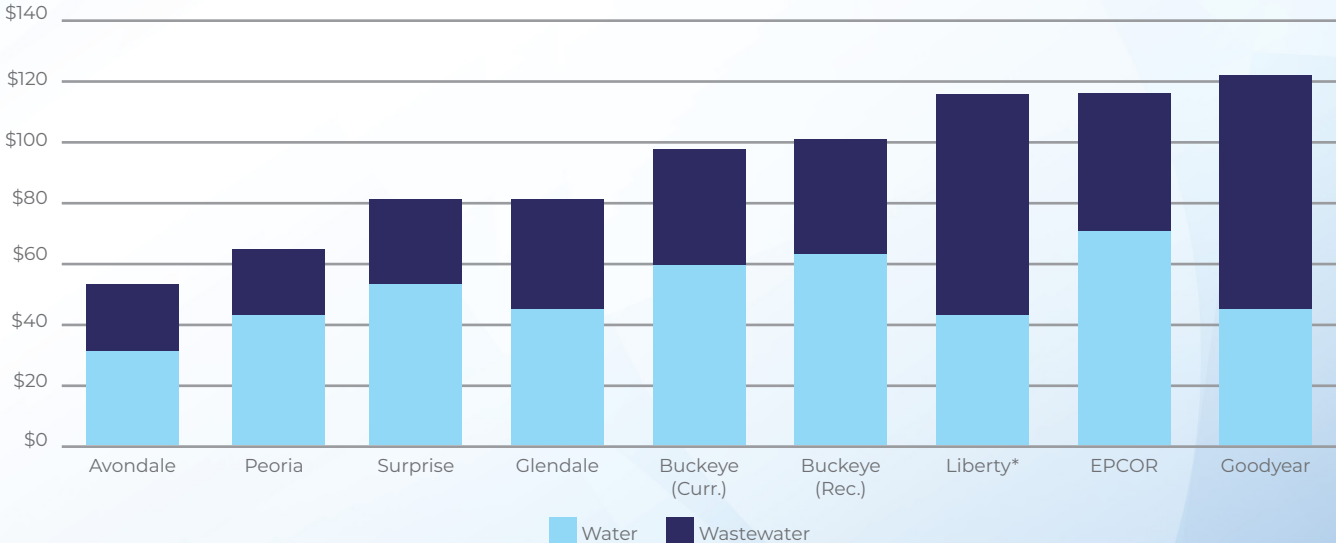


HOW BUCKEYE COMPARES

Buckeye is not the highest-cost provider in the region.

- Some utilities, including EPCOR and Goodyear, have higher 1" meter water rates.
- Surprise has lower sewer rates but higher water rates.

MONTHLY RESIDENTIAL TOTAL (1" METER, 6K WATER, 4K WASTEWATER)



* Liberty Application with ACC filed 6/30/2025