

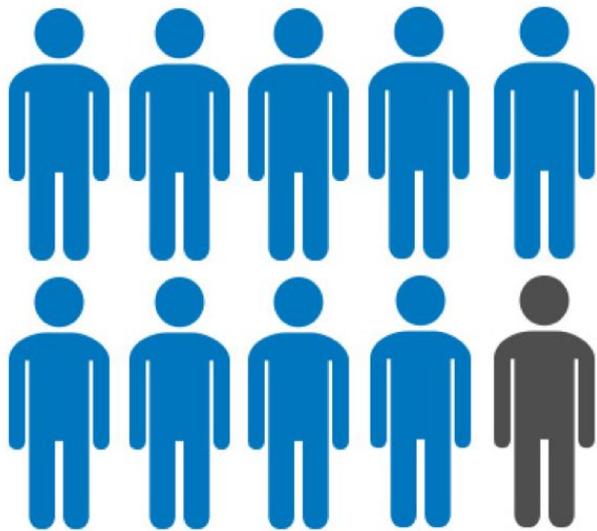


Keeping Our Water Systems Public

Mary Grant
Public Water for All Campaign Director
March 27, 2025



Water Privatization Overview



Nearly

9 out of 10 people

in the U.S. receive their water service from

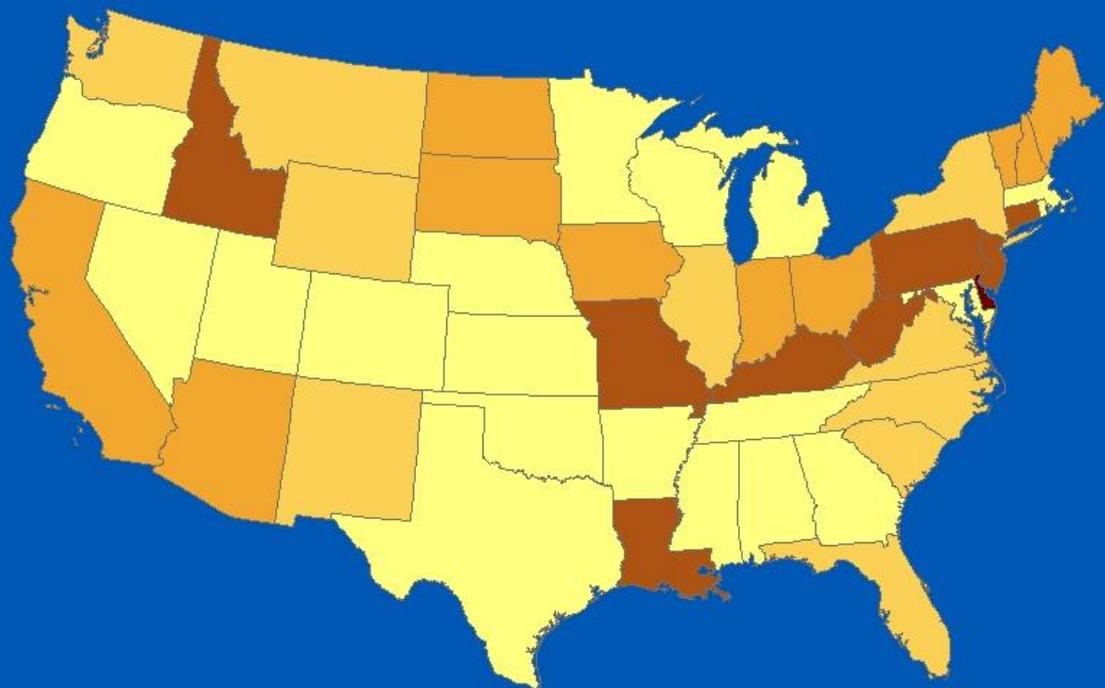
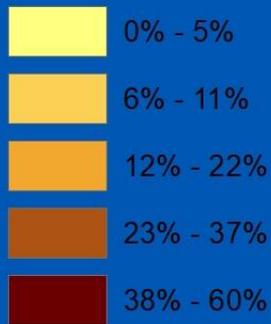
a publicly owned utility.

PUBLIC
WATER
PREVAILS
IN THE
UNITED
STATES

Portion of People Served by **Privately Owned** Water Systems, March 2025

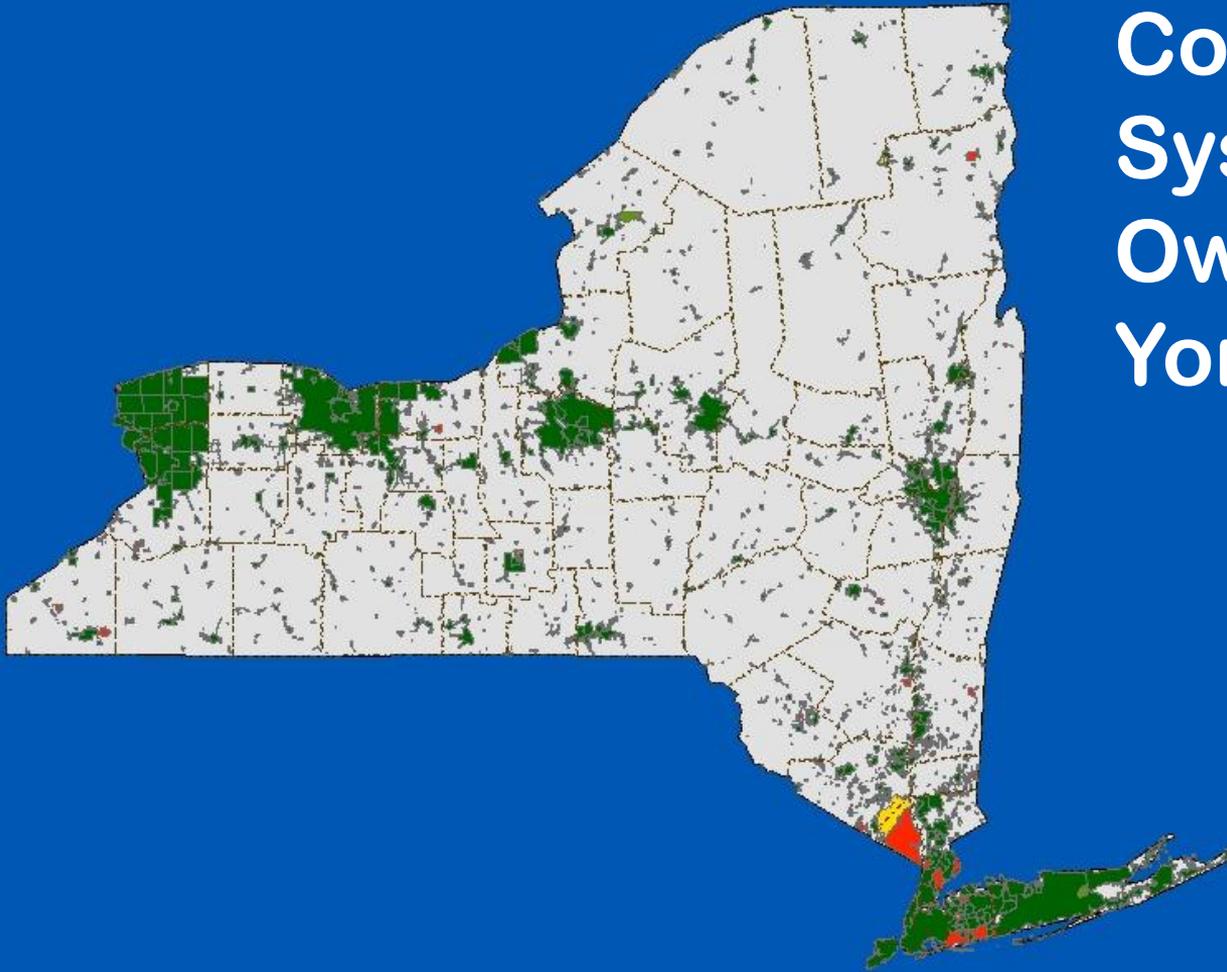
Legend

Population with Private Ownership



Source: EPA, Safe Drinking Water Federal Information System, March 25, 2025

Community Water System Ownership in New York State



Legend

- Local government
- Federal government
- Native American
- State government
- Public/Private
- Private

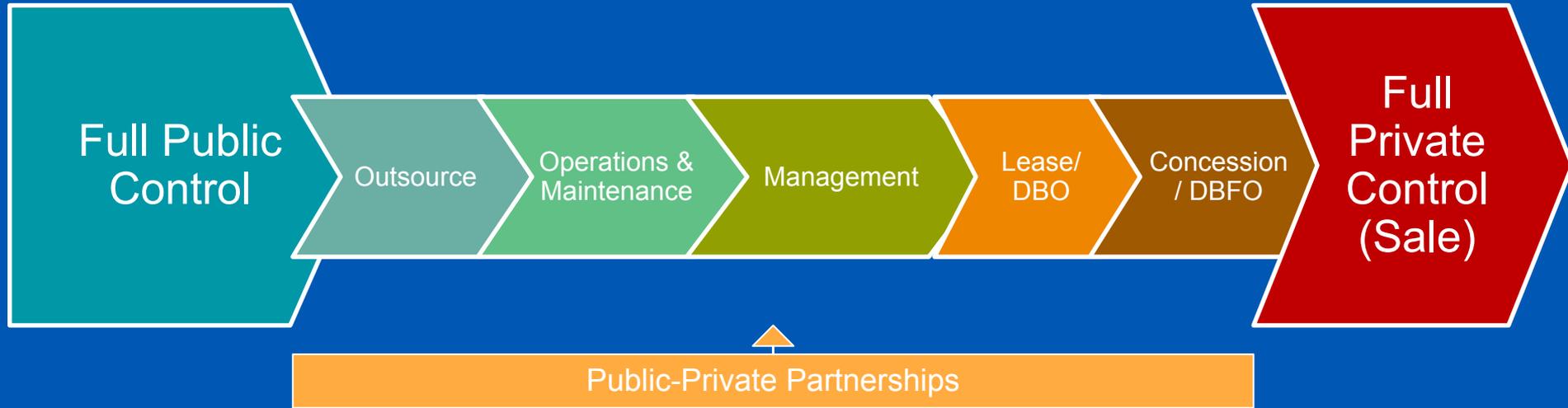
Source: EPA, Safe Drinking Water Federal Information System, March 25, 2025



Benefits of Public Control

- Control of water investments and programs
- Smart growth & regional stormwater planning
- Watershed protection and conservation
- Long-term water resource management
- Transparency
- Ballot-box accountability

Types of Privatization



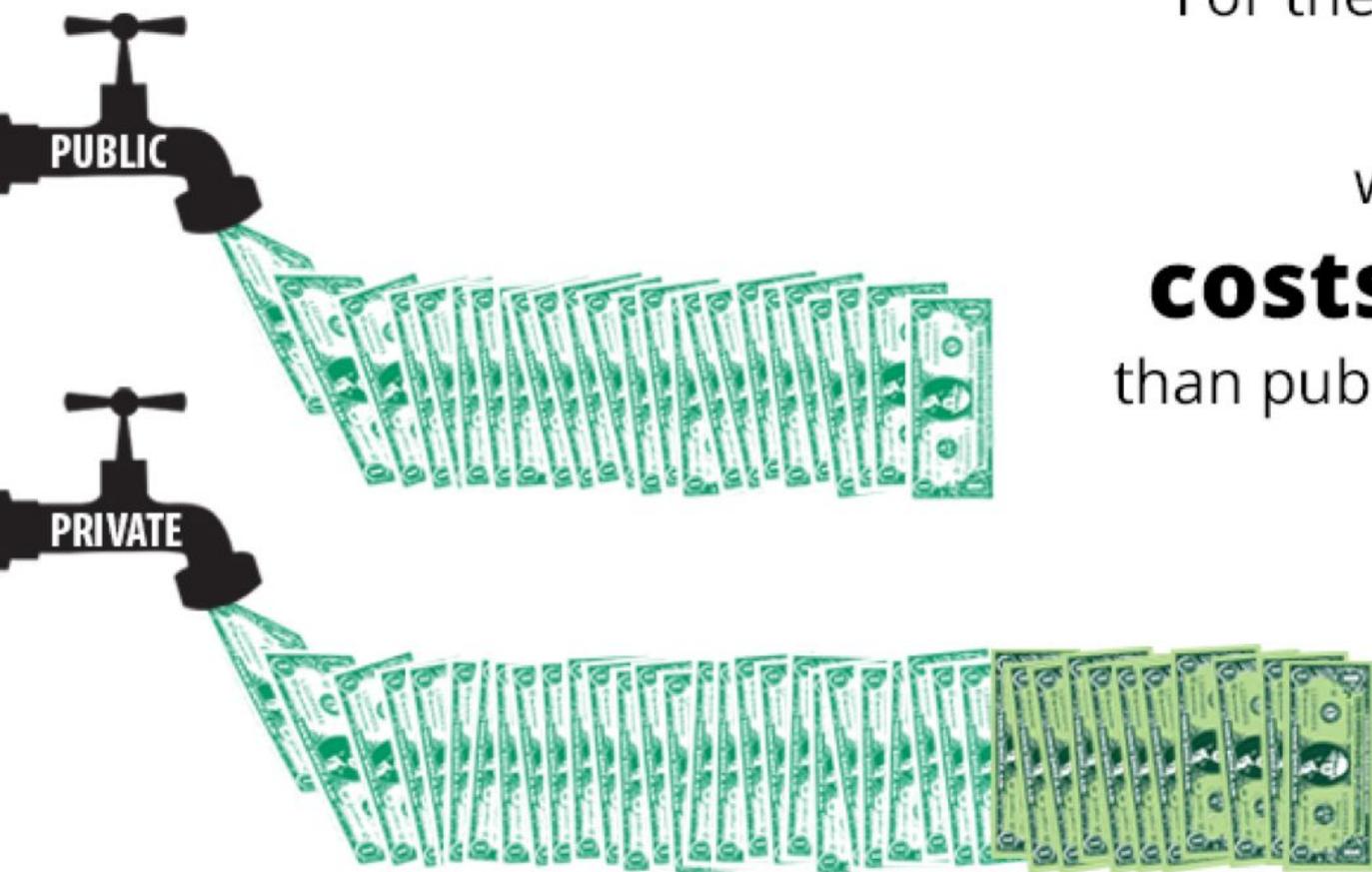
Key Risks



Residents defeated water privatization in Atlantic City, 2017

Loss of Local Control

- ❑ Lost public accountability
- ❑ Lost access to information



For the typical household,
privately owned
water utility service
costs 59% more
than public water service —
about \$185
each year.

Rate Impact of Private Ownership

What factors lead to higher water prices in US cities?

Private Water
Ownership

State Regulation
favorable to
Private Providers

Severe Drought

Aging
infrastructure

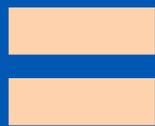
What factors lead to less water affordability for low-income families?

Poverty

Private Water
Ownership

Aging
Infra.

Profit Motive



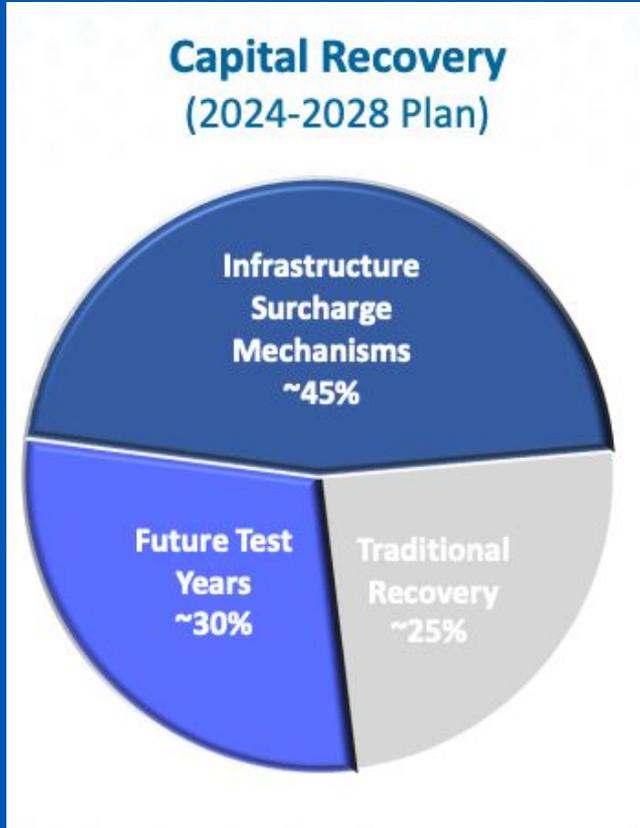
Threats & Corporate Strategies



Key Corporate Targets

- Cash-strapped Communities
- Sewer systems
- Tuck-ins
- Corporate-friendly state rules

Corporate Legislation



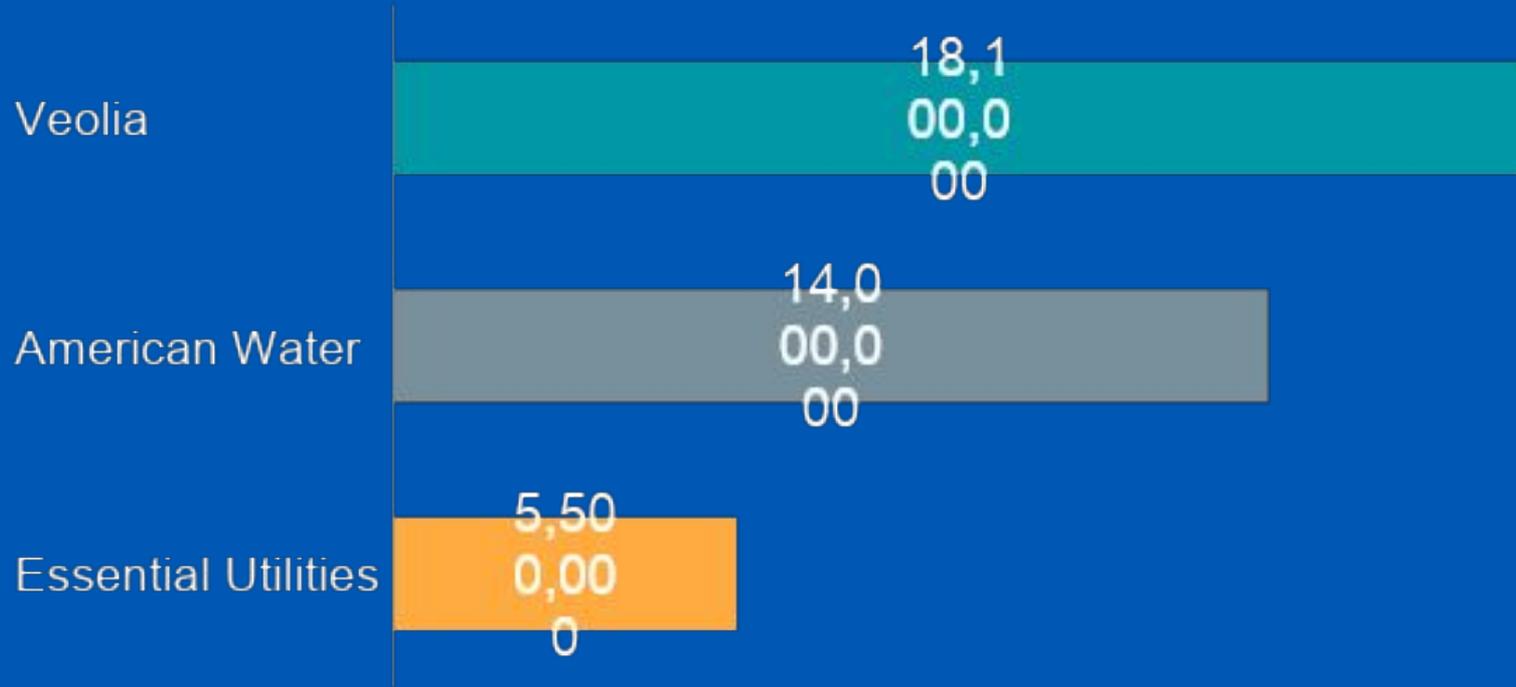
- Fair market value legislation (WIPA)
- Removing referendum requirements (WIPA)
- Water Quality Accountability Act
- Surcharges (e.g., DSIC, RESIC)
- Consolidated water, wastewater rate bases

Warning Signs

- Infrastructure Issues
 - Consent decrees
 - PFAS
- Budget Deficits
 - Anti-tax sentiment
- Mayor's politics, activities
 - Privatization champions



Top Three Corporate Players

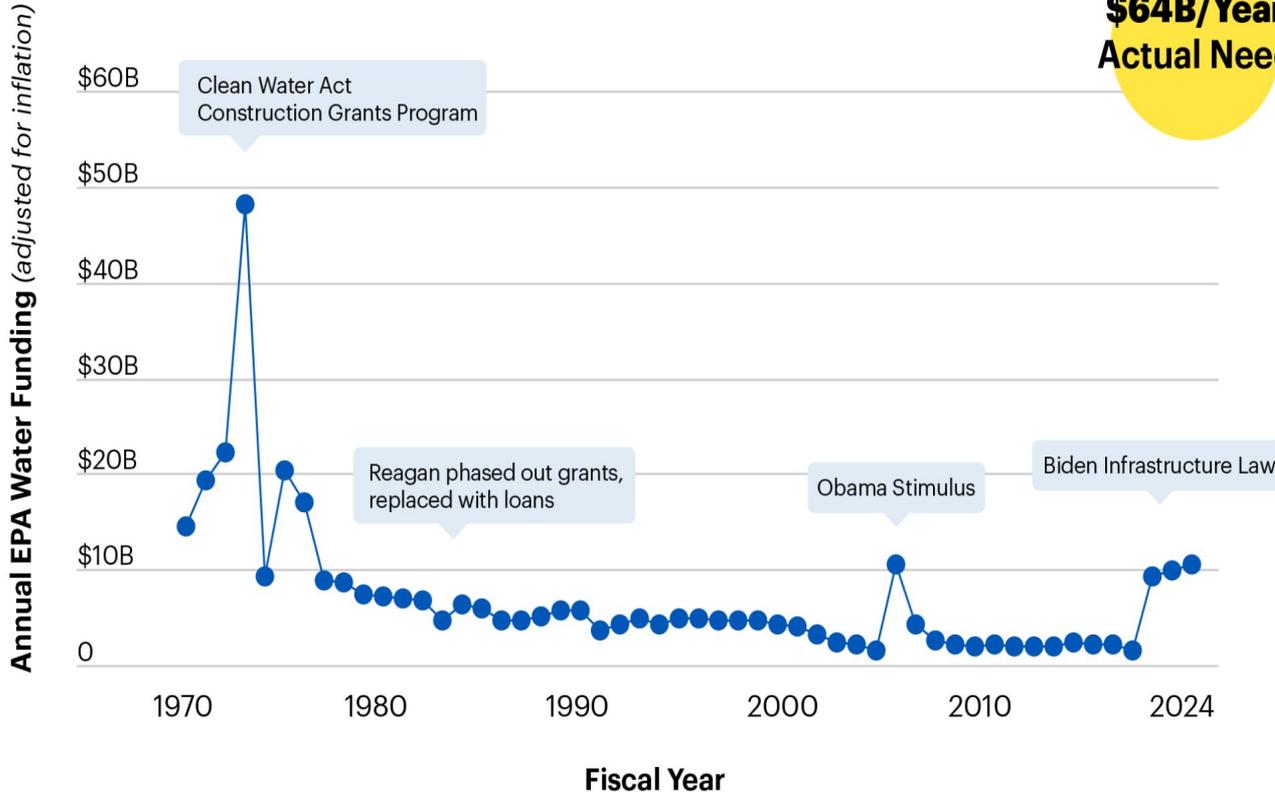


Current Federal Water Outlook



EPA Water Funding Has Plummeted Over the Last 50 Years, Far Below What We Need

\$64B/Year
Actual Need



Federal support for clean water has fallen **77 percent** since its peak in the late 1970s.

Musk-Trump Threats

- ❑ Illegally freezing and cutting water funds
- ❑ Eliminating core functions of the EPA
- ❑ Eliminating low-cost government borrowing



Stephen Moore 
@StephenMoore · [Follow](#)



 An Easy Way to Save \$250 Billion 

Instead of adding new taxes or extending costly deductions, Congress should consider closing the state and local bond loophole.

The Senate Finance Committee estimates this could generate \$250 billion over 10 years.

Currently, the [Show more](#)

Eliminate Exclusion of Interest on State a
\$250 billion in 10-year savings

VIABILITY: HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW

- Interest earned on municipal bonds is This option would end the exclusion, r taxable.

9:03 AM · Mar 20, 2025



Solutions



Community Organizing to Protect Public Water!

The **WATER** Act

- Creates a **Trust Fund** for safe and clean water
- Provides **full funding**
- Supports **public** systems, **household** wells and septics, and **schools**



Water is a human right.

FOOD &
WATER WATCH



foodandwaterwatch.org