

# America's Water Challenges

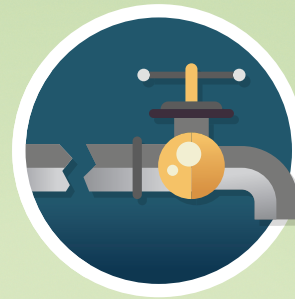


## Water Quality is a Serious Challenge for Millions of Americans

- As many as 45 million Americans per year drink water that violates health standards
- Water quality violations disproportionately impact communities of color and rural Americans
- Source water faces new threats from emerging contaminants like PFAS

### HOW WATER COMPANIES CAN HELP

Systems run by water companies are significantly less likely to violate federal drinking water standards compared to systems run by local governments.



## Old, Leaky Pipes Lead to Waste & Disruptions

- 300,000 water mains break per year in U.S. = one break every 2 minutes
- Nearly 20% of treated water - 2 trillion gallons - is lost before reaching customer
- U.S. water systems lose over \$6.4 billion in treated water annually

### HOW WATER COMPANIES CAN HELP

America's 15 largest regulated, regulated private water companies collectively invested nearly \$6.8 billion in 2025 to improve infrastructure infrastructure- and more than \$43.5 billion over the past decade - to enhance the safety and reliability of water and wastewater in their communities.



## Many Americans Struggle to Afford Their Water Bills

- Water rates have increased 6-8% each year to fund critical infrastructure investments
- Deferring necessary investments to keep rates low can jeopardize water quality and public health

### HOW WATER COMPANIES CAN HELP

From flexible payment plans and deferred payment options to discounts on various charges and fees, water companies have been leaders in addressing water affordability challenges.



## America's Water Grid is Highly Fragmented

- U.S. has 3,300 electric utilities compared to 52,000 community water systems with more than half serving just a few hundred customers
- Leads to cost inefficiencies, limited investment capacity, and a lack of operational expertise

### HOW WATER COMPANIES CAN HELP

Larger systems have fewer water quality violations and lower water rates. Water companies help consolidate small systems across the country.