

PREP WEBCAST

National Water Policy Fly-In

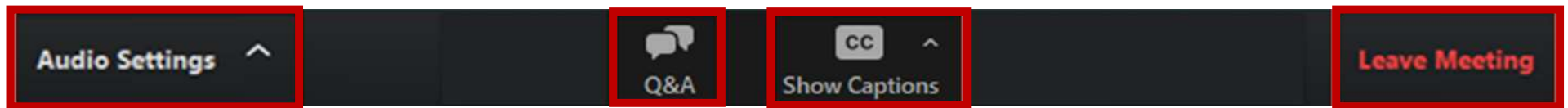
APRIL 1 | 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

Water Advocacy Update & How to Lobby Congress





How to Participate Today



Audio Settings

Adjust your speaker output
(you can also optionally join
via phone audio)

Submit your
questions using the
Questions panel

Enable auto-caption feature
(may not be 100% accurate)

Leave the webcast early

**A recording will be available for replay shortly after this webcast
and will be shared with all registrants**



Webcast Speakers

Host: Scott Cummings

Development Services Executive Director, City of Auburn, AL

Steve Dye

Managing Director of Government Affairs
WEF

Kaitlyn Montan

Director, Legislative Affairs
National Association of Clean Water
Agencies (NACWA)

Matt McKenna

Director, Government Affairs
National Association of Clean Water
Agencies (NACWA)

Greg Fogel

Director of Policy and Government Affairs
WaterReuse Association

Julie Minton

Senior Account Manager, Strategic Engagement
The Water Research Foundation

Megan Seymour

Manager of Legislative Affairs
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

Scott



Webcast Agenda

- **Water Week 2026 Events**
- **2026 Funding and Policy Requests**
 - Water Funding Reauthorization
 - Clean Water Funding Requests
 - Drinking Water Funding Requests
 - Water Reuse Funding Requests
 - R&D Funding Requests
 - Policy Recommendations
- **Congressional Office and Federal Agency Meetings**
- **Q & A**

Scott

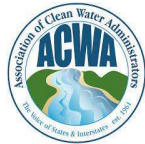


Water Week 2026 Partners





Water Week 2026 Partners



Scott



Special Thanks to Our Sponsors



National Water Policy Fly-In Agenda





Water Week 2026 Events

Monday, April 13, 2026

- National Stormwater Policy Forum
 - Co-hosted by WEF, NMSA, NLC & NACo
 - Register at: www.WaterWeek.us
- AMWA's 2026 Water Policy Conference
 - 12:00 – 4:30 PM
 - Keynote address by Mike Allen, Axios
 - Register at: www.amwa.net/events

Water Week 2026 Events

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

- **WEF Fly-In Scholars Welcome & Networking Breakfast** (invite only)
 - 8:30 – 9:30 AM
 - Sponsored by Black & Veatch
- **AMWA's 2026 Water Policy Conference**
 - 9:00 – 11:30 AM, *L'Enfant Ballroom BCD*
- **WEF Government Affairs Community Meeting**
 - 10 – 11:30 AM, *Archives Room*
- **National Water Policy Fly-In**
 - 1:30 – 5:00 PM, *L'Enfant Ballroom*
- **Water Week 2026 Reception**
 - 6:00 – 7:30 PM, *DC Water Headquarters & Rooftop at HQO*

Water Week 2026 Events

Wednesday April 15, 2026

- **Congressional Office and Federal Agency Meetings**
 - 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- **WWEMA's 55nd Washington Forum**
 - 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM



National Water Policy Fly-In

Hilton Washington DC National Mall The Wharf | April 14, 1:30 - 5:00 PM

EPA Updates

Featured Keynote Speaker

- **Jessica Kramer**, *Assistant Administrator, Office of Water*

EPA Senior Staff Panel: Water Priorities Discussion

- **Andrew Sawyers**, Director, Office of Wastewater Management
- **Jennifer McLain**, Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water
- **Brian Frazer**, Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds
- **David Travers**, Director, Office of Water Emergency Response and Cybersecurity

- **Moderator: Jean Block**, CEO, Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority

Matt



National Water Policy Fly-In

Hilton Washington DC National Mall The Wharf | April 14, 1:30 - 5:00 PM

Data Centers & AI: Federal, Local, & Industry Perspectives

- **Pouya Lavian**, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, US EPA
- **Kishia Powell**, General Manager/Chief Executive Officer, WSSC Water
- **Kristen Atha**, Director of Public Utilities, Columbus Water & Power
- **Beau Schilz**, Principal, Water Technology & Strategic Partnerships, Amazon Web Services

- **Moderator: Lauren Barbir**, Associate Vice President, HDR, Inc.

Congressional Leaders Updates

- Remarks from Key Members of the House and Senate



Water Week 2026 Reception

April 14, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Rooftop at HQO - DC Water Headquarters
1385 Canal Street SE, Washington, DC 20003

Invite your Member of Congress and their
staff to the Water Week 2026 Reception!

All attendees must show valid form of ID

Matt



Policy & Funding Requests

Ask Document and Talking Points Document available at: www.waterweek.us

WATER WEEK 2026

Invest in Water, Invest in America: Prioritize Water Infrastructure in 2026

Congress must empower local water systems to fulfill their mission of protecting public health and the environment while supporting economic growth.

Improve Public Health and Grow the Economy through Water Infrastructure

Water is essential for life and is critical to support public health. Investing in water systems that deliver these benefits also has cascading effects throughout the economy. Every million dollars invested in water infrastructure generates \$2.6 million in economic output, and \$1.4 million worth of GDP growth.

Robust federal investment in drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and water recycling infrastructure should be an easy sell, but Congress must act to prevent several core water infrastructure programs from expiring.

- The authorizations for key programs like the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs), Title XVI-WIN Water Reuse Grants Program, Pilot Program for Alternative Water Source Grants and other water infrastructure assistance programs will lapse in September if Congress fails to act.
- These targeted water infrastructure assistance programs help water, wastewater, stormwater, and water reuse systems respond to specific challenges like cyber threats, resiliency and adaptation, aging infrastructure, extreme weather impacts, and local service line replacement.
- As the FY27 budget process gets underway, we urge leadership and appropriators to pursue full funding for these programs to advance investment in water across the country and ensure rural and urban communities alike have access to clean, safe water.

For too long, water, wastewater, and stormwater service has been taken for granted. Today, Congress must prioritize new investments in water infrastructure, while also pursuing policies that protect water sources against pollution and help communities comply with workable regulatory mandates. To ensure all communities—urban and rural—can affordably maintain and upgrade their critical water infrastructure, we call on Congress to commit to heightened and sustained federal support.

¹The Value of Water Campaign: <https://thevalueofwater.org/learn/research-resources/value-of-water-2026/>

A bipartisan commitment is vital to support communities addressing pressing water challenges, including:

- Providing affordable water services in the face of aging infrastructure, rising operational costs, supply chain disrupt, and labor shortages.
- Navigating a rapidly evolving regulatory environment on issues ranging from emerging contaminants like per- and polyfluoralkyl substances (PFAS) to nutrient management.
- Ensuring resilience to threats such as drought, flooding, and cyber attacks.
- Advancing water research to develop innovative, cost-effective solutions to critical water challenges.

Address PFAS Responsibility

The water sector faces significant technical and financial challenges managing PFAS contamination. The looming costs under the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act are enormous and will significantly impact ratepayers. Drinking water utilities face an costs of as much as \$7.5 billion to comply with EPA's new drinking water standards for PFAS. Clean water utilities likewise anticipate enormous costs once Clean Water Act PFA standards are set by EPA.

- Congress must prioritize source control measures that will help reduce the on of PFAS entering water systems and their environment.
- Federal PFAS policies must be ground accurate cost estimates and inform water sector expertise to ensure effective implementable solutions.
- Regulations must hold polluters—not I water systems—financially responsible cleanup costs. In particular, without enforcement under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), water systems and their ratepayers will unfairly bear costs of cleaning up environmental PFAS pollution. Congress must enact liability protections for drinking water, wastewater utilities, and technology providers while holding polluters accountable.

Ensure Affordable Water Services for All

In most communities, drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure investment needs outpace inflation and income growth, putting disproportionate pressure on low-income households.

- Congress should establish a permanent low-income water assistance program to help water systems modernize aging infrastructure while keeping rates affordable for vulnerable families.
- Congress must also provide oversight of EPA actions to ensure they address affordability concerns and do not impose unsustainable financial burdens.

Advance Regulatory Flexibility and Reform

Communities across the country face rising regulatory compliance costs while grappling with increasingly complex water quality challenges. A transparent, science-based regulatory framework which considers costs and benefits is essential to enable water systems to meet their obligations effectively while ensuring affordability for ratepayers.

Invest in Water Research for Innovative Solutions

Federal investment in water research is critical to addressing new threats to water quality, scarcity, and affordability. Water research offers a proactive approach to tackling future challenges, fostering long-term sustainability, and promoting the global competitiveness of U.S. water systems.

- Congress should maintain robust funding for water research programs to develop innovative, cost-effective solutions that enhance public health, safety, and water system resilience.
- Investing in water research will create new jobs and ensure equitable access to modern water systems nationwide.

Protect Sewer Systems from Improper Wipes Disposal

The mismanagement of disposable wipes, including falsely labeled "flushable" products, imposes significant burdens on wastewater systems. Improperly flushed wipes cause clogs that pollute the environment, damage expensive equipment, and create health and safety hazards for water utility workers. This issue costs utilities millions of dollars annually in repairs and operational disruptions.

- Congress should require clear, standardized "Do Not Flush" labeling on all non-flushable wipes to reduce consumer confusion and improper disposal.
- Federal agencies must be empowered to establish and enforce rigorous, science-based flushability standards for products marketed as "flushable."

Support Tax Incentives to Ensure Long-Term Water Supplies and Economic Development

Industrial and agricultural operations account for most water consumption in the United States, yet few incentives exist to encourage sustainable water use in the private sector.

- Congress should establish tax credits to support water recycling, reuse technologies, and conservation practices in industry and agriculture, ensuring long-term, reliable water supplies while supporting economic growth.
- Congress should eliminate tax burdens on water conservation rebates offered by local utilities, thereby incentivizing more consumers to preserve critical water resources.
- Congress must preserve the tax exemption for financing municipal water infrastructure.

2026 Water Week Partners



2026 Requests to Congress: Water Programs

**119th
Congress**

Reauthorize:

- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund
- Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)
- Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants (OSG)
- Alternative Water Source Grants Program
- Title XVI-WIIN Water Reuse Grants Program
- Large-Scale Water Reuse Projects Grant Program
- Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program
- Clean Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program
- Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program
- Other Expiring Water Infrastructure Funding Programs



2026 Requests to Congress: Clean Water Programs

Provide FY27 Funding For:

- \$3.25 billion* for Clean Water State Revolving Fund
- \$280 million* for Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants (OSG) program
- \$27 million for the EPA Small POTW Technical Assistance Program which is level with FY 23 funding
- \$5 million* for Water Infrastructure and Workforce Investment Grant Program

* = *Authorized Level*



2026 Requests to Congress: Drinking Water Programs

Provide FY27 Funding For:

- \$3.25 billion* for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
- Minimum of \$75 million for Water Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act (WIFIA)
- \$100 million* for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water grants
- \$50 million* for Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability grants

* = *Authorized Level*



2026 Requests to Congress: Water Reuse Programs

A photograph of a water treatment facility. The image shows a long, narrow channel of water with a metal grate across it. The water is dark and reflects the sky. In the background, there are industrial structures and a sunset sky with orange and blue tones.

**Provide FY27
Funding For:**

- \$10 million for the Alternative Water Source Grants Pilot Program
- \$41 million for the Title XVI Water Reuse Grants Program



2026 Requests to Congress: Water Research Programs

Provide FY27 Funding For:

- \$10 million for EPA's National Priorities Water Research Grant Program, independent of the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) grant program, for extramural water research grants to not-for-profit organizations
- \$5 million for the Innovative Water Technologies Grant Program through EPA's Science and Technology Account



2026 Requests to Congress: Water Research Programs

Provide FY27 Funding For:

- Maintain funding for ongoing activities related to the **energy-water nexus** at the Department of Energy
- Funding includes grant and partnership opportunities for applied research, development, and demonstration focused on transformational technology and innovation necessary to provide efficient, affordable, safe, secure, and reliable water



2026 Requests to Congress: Stormwater Programs



**Provide FY27
Funding For:**

- \$5 million for the Centers of Excellence for Stormwater Control Infrastructure Technologies program
- \$10 million for community planning and implementation grants for stormwater or watershed-based planning investments*

*= program has not yet received initial funding



2026 Policy Requests: PFAS

Hold PFAS generators, and not local water utility ratepayers, responsible for the costs of remediating PFAS

- **The Ask:** Support H.R. 1267, the Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act, by Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA) & Rep. Celeste Maloy (R-UT)
 - Protects public and private drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and water reuse systems from CERCLA liability related to proper PFAS disposal.
- Explain that water systems will be working to meet forthcoming Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act PFAS standards. CERCLA liability protection will *aid in those efforts* by protecting utilities and customers from undue costs that polluters should bear.



2026 Policy Requests: Wipes

Congress should require **Do Not Flush labeling on non-flushable wipes packaging and give federal agencies the authority to require that wipes marketed as flushable disintegrate like toilet paper when flushed.**

- **The Ask (House):** Representatives should vote for the Senate-passed Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety Act (WIPPE Act), S. 1092, when it's on the House Floor soon.



2026 Policy Requests: Investment Tax Credit for Water Reuse

Establish an investment tax credit to help scale up the use of recycled water by manufacturers, data centers, and other industrial operations

- The Ask (House): Cosponsor the *Advancing Water Reuse Act* (H.R. 2940), sponsored by Representatives Darin LaHood (R-IL), Claudia Tenney (R-NY), Brad Schneider (D-IL), and Linda Sánchez (D-CA)
- The Ask (Senate): Cosponsor Senate companion to H.R. 2940 when introduced.
- The bill will establish a 30 percent tax credit for investments made by private businesses into water reuse systems, both onsite systems and municipal systems.



2026 Policy Requests:
Reauthorize the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI Program and
Large-Scale Water Reuse Projects Grant Program

Cosponsor the MORE WATER Act (S. 3738)

- **The Ask:** Cosponsor the MORE WATER Act (S. 3738), introduced by Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA).
- The legislation would reauthorize two existing water reuse grant programs administered by the Bureau of Reclamation.



2026 Policy Requests: Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

Congress needs to authorize and fund a permanent federal water assistance program.

- **The Ask:** Co-sponsor and support H.R. 4733, the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Establishment Act, introduced in the House by Reps. Eric Sorensen (D-IL) and Reps. Dan Breenahan (R-PA)
- **The Ask:** Companion legislation by Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA) for the Senate is under development but not ready for co-sponsorship yet.



2026 Policy Requests: Reauthorize EPA's water and wastewater resilience programs

Cosponsor H.R. 5566/S. 3590, the Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Act

- **The Ask:** Cosponsor H.R. 5566 and S. 3590, the Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Act, sponsored by Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Calif.) and Sen. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.).
- The bipartisan legislation would reauthorize three existing EPA programs that help drinking water and wastewater systems fund projects and initiatives to help infrastructure withstand extreme weather threats, or build resilience to cyber threats.



Hill Meetings



What works best:

According to a Congressional Management Association survey of Members of Congress and Senior Staff:

- 95% said that "in-person visits from constituents" would have "some" or "a lot" of influence on an undecided lawmaker.
- 79% said "meet or get to know" the Legislative Assistant with jurisdiction over their issue area."

- 91% said it would be helpful to have "information about the impact the bill/issue would have on the district or state."
 - Only 9% report they receive that information frequently.
- 79% said a personal story from a constituent related to the bill or issue would be helpful.
 - Only 18% report they receive it frequently.



Useful Resources

Resource: Value of Water Campaign (VOW) State Fact Sheets

- VOW works to provide public and political support for investment in America's water infrastructure
- Its recent economic impact report provides in-depth information on water infrastructure investment benefits and a roadmap to close the funding gap
- VOW developed **fact sheets with state-specific information**, a valuable resource for meeting with your Congressional representatives





Useful Resources

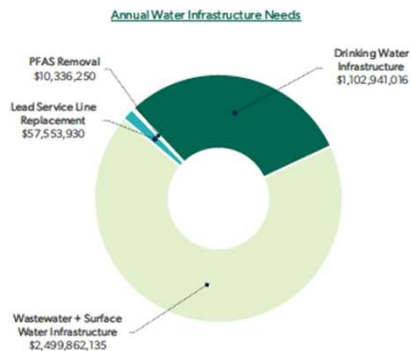
**the Value of
Water Campaign**

Investing in Water Infrastructure, Investing in *Virginia's* Future

Water shapes every facet of our daily lives, but the infrastructure we depend on to make safe, reliable water for people and the environment possible is under mounting stress.

Funding vs. Need—A Growing Gap

In 2025, Virginia received only 4% (about \$199.7 million in federal funding) of the annual funding it needs for its water infrastructure, leaving many capital needs unmet. The costs of inaction compound over time: every year that needed investments are deferred, the price tag grows, and what isn't covered by federal or state funding ultimately falls on local ratepayers.



Over the next 20 years, the state requires \$73 billion in investment to bring its water and wastewater infrastructure to a state of good repair. This equals roughly \$3.7 billion each year—or \$42.4 per resident per year.

Access your state's fact sheet and more resources using the QR code below or visit thevalueofwater.org/econimpact.



Steve



Finding Your Member of Congress

If you don't already have a relationship with your Members of Congress, visit:

- www.house.gov
- www.senate.gov
- www.govtrack.us/congress/members

Follow links to your Senators' and Representative's websites. Call their offices to ask how to request a virtual meeting with Member of Congress or staffer handling water infrastructure issues.

govtrack.us

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ZIP or ZIP+4

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Capitol Hill Is A (Relatively) Small Neighborhood

By Car

- Capitol Hill offers few public parking options; street parking is difficult.
- The nearest garage is north of the Capitol, by Union Station
- Many visitors prefer to arrive by taxi, available throughout the city

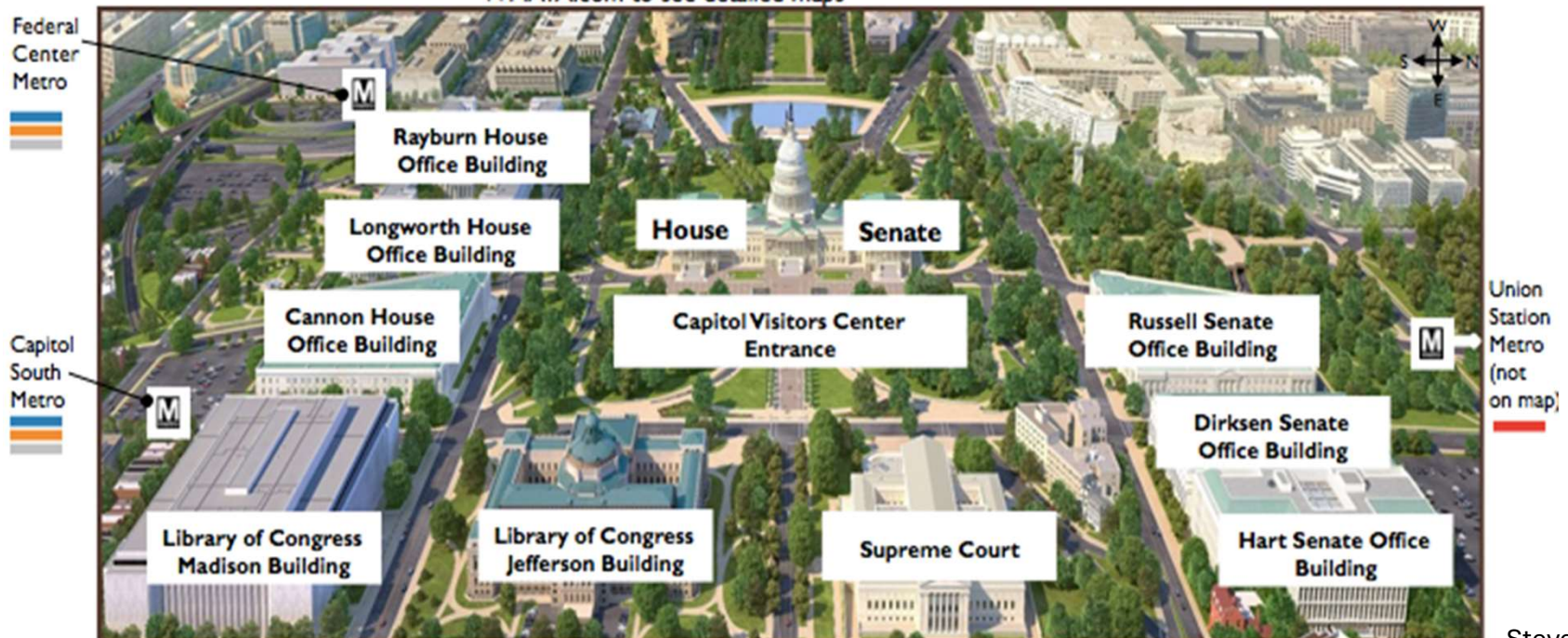
Getting To The Hill

By Public Transportation

- For most visitors, the Metro system will prove the best transportation bet.
- The Red Line (subway) serves the north side of the Capitol, while the Blue, Orange, and Silver lines offer two stations to the south
- The Metrobus serves various points around the Hill; visit WMATA.com to see detailed maps

By Foot

- D.C. is a relatively walkable city
- However, hot and humid weather may make long walks inadvisable during summer months



Steve



Important to Remember...

- Start by saying **THANK YOU!** for supporting federal funding for local drinking water, wastewater, water recycling, and stormwater infrastructure investments.





Important to Remember...

- Be punctual – and be patient!
- Tell them what they need to know about what's going on back home.
- If you don't know the answer to a question, say you don't know – promise to get back to the legislator or staff with the requested information.



Important to Remember...

- Don't look at your cellphone. Silence it!
- NEVER discuss campaigns, political contribution or pledge of political support!
- Don't use acronyms or terms that someone outside of your profession won't understand.



Important to Remember...

- **MAKE THE ASK!** Be clear and concise, and ask who the correct staff person is for following up
- Thank the legislator and offer to serve as a resource on other water-related issues.
- After the visit, write a thank you letter/email reviewing the key points discussed.



Policy & Funding Requests

Ask Document and Talking Points Document available at: www.waterweek.us

WATER WEEK 2026

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- Congress must preserve the tax exemption for financing municipal water infrastructure.

2026 Water Week Partners



Special Thanks to Our Sponsors



Questions or Additional Info:

Water Environment Federation

- Steve Dye, sdye@wef.org

National Association of Clean Water Agencies

- Danielle Cloutier, dcloutier@nacwa.org
- Matt McKenna, mmckenna@nacwa.org
- Kaitlyn Montán, kmontan@nacwa.org

WaterReuse Association

- Greg Fogel, gfogel@watereuse.org

The Water Research Foundation

- Julie Minton, jminton@waterrf.org

Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

- Megan Seymour, seymour@amwa.net

