

January 19, 2026

E.L. Robinson Engineering recently completed an in-depth water rate analysis for the Village of Albany. The results of this analysis has shown that it is imperative that rates are adjusted to ensure our system remains financially secure.

Each year, the Village implements a very modest rate increase to keep the financial impact to our customers at a minimum. However, these prior increases have not been sufficient to deal rising operational costs, necessary system upgrades, and mandated compliance with EPA standards.

Why is this happening?

- **Increase in Cost of Purchased Water:** The Village purchases our water from the Le-Ax Water District. Each year, Le-Ax implements an approximate 3% rate increase upon the Village, to which the Village applies an additional 2% adjustment. *Water costs are going up nationwide; we are not immune to that trend.*
- **Declining Water Fund Balance:** While these very small increases have certainly been welcomed over past years, the Village's water fund has steadily decreased.
- **Debt Payments:** To provide ongoing support for water system debt payments.
- **System Operational Costs and Improvements:** To provide sufficient resources for regular operational expenses, including the repair and replacement of damaged or aging infrastructure, wages, supplies, and other expenses related to operating the water distribution system. System operational costs are shared among ALL users. *The Village is committed to the maintenance and continued improvement of its systems. The Village has new water system software to help better serve water customers efficiently and provide improved monitoring of water use.*
- **Other key contributing points to the current financial issues:**
 - Changing, in 2022, from billing for 1,000 gallon minimum to 2,000 gallon minimum WITHOUT adjusting rates thus “giving away” 1,000 gallons of water, which the Village had purchased from our supplier, to every user before charging for overage. *This was an attempt to help consumers with rising costs during the Covid era price hikes, and to address a long standing point of confusion among Village residents as to why the sewer discharge was so much greater than the water.*
 - Failure to ensure, per Village ordinance, that every dwelling or user has a separate account, allowing for proper billing for each, such as, but not limited to the following;
 - ✓ Each Individual apartment or dwelling unit,
 - ✓ Multiple structures on the same parcel,
 - ✓ Structures connected to structures on a separate parcel,
 - ✓ Other unauthorized or improper connections.
 - Delinquent and unpaid bills and fees contribute to additional costs to the system;
 - ✓ Failure to assess delinquent late charges on both water AND sewer accounts.
 - ✓ Failure to charge shutoff fees to delinquent accounts.



- Failure to authorize adequate debt service collection to cover annual payments.
 - ✓ While the current \$10.00 debt retirement payment does cover the 2012 water line loan payment, there are no debt retirement provisions currently available for the 2009 water meter loan payment. *Council resisted the need to increase the Debt Service Fees as long as possible in an effort to keep water bills lower.*

In the coming months, the Village will continue to work on strategies to improve how we bill for water used which will ensure that costs are shared across all users based on their individual usage habits.

The new fee schedule to be implemented this year beginning in March follows this notice. While 2026 and 2027 may pose challenges, we cannot permit our system to fail. Water really is our most important resource. It is far too important to risk not having a reliable system that is always available by simply turning on a faucet!

Thank you for your understanding and support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Village Administrator Kevin Brown for more information or you may attend either of the two monthly Village Council meetings held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

Albany, Ohio Monthly Water and Sewer Rates (0-2,000 Gallons, rates subject to change)										
Year →	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
Water 0-2,000 gal.	23.24	24.41	33.00	35.00	36.75	38.22	40.13	42.50	44.75	47.00
Debt Service Fee	10.00	10.00	15.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00
Short Lived Asset Fee			3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Minimum Water Charge	33.24	34.41	51.00	60.00	61.75	63.22	65.13	68.50	70.75	73.00
Minimum Sewer Charge	52.17	53.21	54.27	55.36	56.47	57.60	58.75	59.92	61.12	62.34
*Minimum Monthly Bill	85.41	87.62	105.27	115.36	118.22	120.82	123.88	128.42	131.87	135.34
Dollar Increase	2.13	2.21	17.65	10.09	2.96	2.60	3.06	4.54	3.45	3.47
Percentage Increase	2.6%	2.6%	20%	9.6%	2.5%	2.2%	2.5%	3.7%	2.7%	2.6%
WATER: each add'l 100 gals.	1.40	1.47	1.25	1.33	1.39	1.45	1.52	1.60	1.68	1.76
SEWER: each add'l 100 gals.	1.00	1.04	1.06	1.08	1.10	1.12	1.14	1.16	1.20	1.24
*A 10% Surcharge will be added to the Monthly Bill for customers outside Corporation limit.										