



**LI Clean Air Water and Soil and the
North & Central Merrick Civic Association
v. New York American Water Rate Hike**

**North & Central
Merrick Civic
Association**

Which communities have American Water?

Lynbrook District - Atlantic Beach, Baldwin, Baldwin Harbor, Barnum Island, Bay Park, Cedarhurst, East Atlantic Beach, East Rockaway, Harbor Isle, Hewlett, Hewlett Bay Park, Hewlett Harbor, Hewlett Neck, Inwood, Island Park, Lakeview, Lawrence, Lynbrook, Malverne, Malverne Park-Oaks, Meadowmere, North Lawrence, North Lynbrook, North Woodmere, Oceanside, Roosevelt, South Hempstead, Valley Stream, West Hempstead, Woodmere and Woodsburgh.

Merrick District - Merrick, Bellmore, N. Bellmore, Wantagh, Seaford, Massapequa, Massapequa Park, Levittown and S. Farmingdale

Sea Cliff - Village of Sea Cliff, Glen Cove, Glen Head, Glenwood Landing, Old Brookville and Roslyn Harbor

AMERICAN WATER PROPOSAL

American Water is seeking revenue increases of approximately \$8.45 million from its customers, which would increase our water bills in the Merrick District by 9.90% and the Lynbrook District by 8.3%.

ARGUMENT AGAINST WATER RATE HIKE

- 1. Our Water Rates are too high already!** We pay more than three times more than our neighbors with public water. The Towns of Hempstead and Oyster Bay shut down are pathway to affordable public water and two months later, look to raise our water bills by 9.90%.
- 2. Constitutionality of private v. public water.** We are entitled to equal protection under the law. Our towns offer one resident water and deny it to another. American Water pays \$38 million in property taxes and pass 85-90% of it onto its customers. We are paying property taxes on property we don't own!
- 3. Denied protection from the NYS Tax Cap Law.** School, fire and water districts taxes are capped at 2% or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower. This year, school, water and fire districts must remain under .012% and yet American Water, a private corporation, is not subject to said cap and passes between 85%-90% of its property tax obligation onto its customers.
- 4. American Water should pay for its Research and Development Projects.** American Water is asking for \$4.55 million as reimbursement them for a pilot geothermal system it installed in an elementary school in Valley Stream. Why should all the ratepayers pay for American Water's research and development projects that don't benefit the vast majority of its customers?
- 5. American Water must stop the insane cost of leasing its fire hydrants.** American Water seeks to raise the cost to lease a fire hydrant in the Lynbrook District by over 20%. Some fire districts are paying more than \$800 per hydrant, while the Town of Hempstead charges those same fire districts \$75 for fire districts within the Town's municipal water system. And fire districts must stay under the .012% tax cap.

Don't forget to comment on the Public Service Commission website: www.dps.ny.gov – Case No. 16-W-0259

For more info: Email Claudia Borecky at claudia@licaws.org or Dave Denenberg at dave@licaws.org or call 516-972-6988.

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