

## Do Not Forget to Express Your Outrage About Skyrocketing Water and Sewer Rates

As most know, City Hall seeks to gouge us again, this time through our water and sewer rates – almost the same as last year – just one half of one percent less – at 14%. That's why Queens Civic Congress [urged](#) folks earlier this month to testify against the hikes. And that's why Queens Civic Congress [teamed](#) with the Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition to propose a comprehensive [plan](#) to hold the lines on water and sewer rates. We presented to several Queens Community Boards – reached out to all 14 boards – and present today to the Queens Borough Board.

Interestingly, the NYC Water Board website includes a [chart](#) detailing the hikes since water metering began. Queens Civic Congress has included essentially the same chart with each of our testimonies including last [May](#) when we opposed the outrageous 14.5% hike.

Queens Civic Congress welcomes support from our elected officials in fighting water rate gouging. We look forward to joint hearing to be held by Council Members David Weprin (Finance Committee Chair) and James Gennaro (Environmental Protection Committee Chair). We know Assembly Member Weprin continues to carry our [legislation](#) to inject accountability in the rate-setting process in Albany where it passed the Assembly each of the last session and we look forward to action in the State Senate. In a recent [statement](#) City Comptroller Bill Thompson stated,

“Rising water and sewer rates are gouging New York City families and small businesses precisely at a time when they can least afford it,” Thompson said. “It is vitally important that we make our voices heard and urge the Water Board to protect ratepayers who are feeling the squeeze of the current downturn.” See his entire statement: [THOMPSON: NEW YORKERS SHOULD SPEAK OUT AGAINST WATER RATE HIKE](#) (April 13, 2009)

Please contact your electeds and urge your members to contact them to testify against this latest gouge. Enough is enough!