

[Queens Civic Congress](#) (QCC) opposes and will testify against the Water Rate gouge as it has done since its [formation](#). Our 14 point [plan](#) adopted Monday, April 20, 2009 by the Queens Borough Board following our joint [presentation](#) with the Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition (CWCWC) would inject sanity where none exists with respect to the City's water and sewer policymaking, reduce our water (and sewer rates, protect our water quality and waterways. New Yorkers (*everyone pays for water directly or indirectly through their rents or when they buy goods or services*) ought to rise up and testify – and urge ALL of our elected officials to stand up and be counted and oppose this gouge and embrace the Queens Civic Congress sound solutions. As I state in the Daily News article below, NYC grossly mismanages its water policy (top of next page. QCC and CWCWC continue to reach out to community and borough boards across the five borough for support. For information on how to testify and to sign a petition, click [here](#).

- Corey Bearak, President, Queens Civic Congress

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/queens/2009/04/23/2009-04-23_overflow_of_griping_on_water_hike.html

DAILY NEWS | Queens

Overflow of griping on water hike

BY [Brendan Brosh](#)

DAILY NEWS WRITER, Thursday, April 23rd 2009, 10:45 AM

QUEENS RESIDENTS already wallowing in exorbitant water bills are expected to sound off about an additional 14% increase at a hearing in [Elmhurst](#) on Monday.

The proposed hike comes on top of double-digit increases in water rates in the last two years - and local merchants say it could lead to them going under.

"I don't know how these laundry places are going to stay in business," said Miledy Albines, who co-owns Yellowstone Wash in [Forest Hills](#) with her husband. "We're in a real recession, yet all of our expenses are being jacked up."

Critics of the Water Board, including city [Controller William Thompson](#), said the \$200 million in water revenue is diverted to fund other city services.

"From a policy perspective, the board is grossly mismanaged," said [Corey Bearak](#), head of the [Queens Civic Congress](#). "City Hall has been noticeably silent when it comes to this issue. Now, it's just a cash cow for the city."

Department of Environmental Protection Acting Commissioner Steve Lawitts told the Water Board this month that revenues were 5% lower than expected.

Starting July 1, the rates for the average single-family home would increase from \$799 to \$911 a year. Condominium and co-op rates would jump from \$680 to \$775.

"It's gone up over 40% in three years," said [Costa Constantinides](#), a member of the [Long Island City Alliance](#) civic group. "We need to make people aware of what's going on. It's the biggest secret in [New York City](#)."

New Yorkers also are facing increases in [Con Edison](#) fees, slated to go up 6.1% after state regulators okayed the hike Tuesday.

"The middle class is being squeezed, and it's unfair," said [City Councilman Eric Gioia \(D-Sunnyside\)](#), who is running for public advocate. "Asking people to pay more when they can least afford it is wrong."

The Queens hearing on the proposed increase is set for 10a.m. Monday at the Department of Environmental Protection, 59-17 Junction Blvd., near the Queens Center Mall.

"It's not right that the city takes money from the Water Board for other things," said [Brian Beard](#), head of the Long Island City Alliance.

"It affects all 8 million people in New York City - renters and owners alike - because landlords will have to pass the cost on to renters."