



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Clean Water Referendum: Creating Jobs. Improving Infrastructure.

On Election Day, a majority of voters in 64 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties chose to approve the \$400 million ballot question that will invest in important infrastructure improvements for the good of the economy and Pennsylvania's quality of life.

The systems that deliver these services are aging and need repairs. With \$400 million, we now can invest in our economy by supporting 12,000 Pennsylvania jobs that will help rebuild our infrastructure.

Your family and community would benefit from the Clean Water Referendum.

Every day more than 10 million Pennsylvanians depend upon a supply of clean and safe drinking water from public systems, but many of our drinking water and wastewater plants and miles of water and sewer pipes are nearing the end of their useful lives. Voters chose to approved the borrowing of \$400 million for repairs and upgrades to our water infrastructure. This money will be available to municipal water systems statewide, large or small, urban and rural.

The need is clear.

The state's water systems are also facing new federal mandates and declining subsidies, leaking and deteriorated collection systems, deferred rehabilitation and replacement work and a shortage of treatment capacity. This combination of factors have set the stage for a 'perfect storm' of costly repairs and system failures that will jeopardize public health and safety and limit economic development in the commonwealth. The longer we wait to begin these critical repairs, the higher the costs will go.

Pennsylvania's future depends on a safe and reliable supply of water. If the state's water infrastructure is allowed to deteriorate, so too will Pennsylvania's business climate and property values. And most importantly, the health and safety of Pennsylvania's families could be threatened by inadequately treated drinking and wastewater if a substantial investment in these systems is not made soon.

A down payment on PA's future

Although the \$400 million available through Clean Water Referendum is an important investment in our economic future, it represents a down payment to fix Pennsylvania's aging infrastructure. The staggering price tag for these unmet needs has been estimated at \$36.5 billion. This total does not take into account the additional millions of dollars that are needed in ongoing operation and maintenance costs.

Governor Rendell and the General Assembly have laid the groundwork for an historic effort to rebuild this vital infrastructure by targeting new resources to repair and upgrade the state's drinking water and wastewater systems, flood control projects and high-hazard dams.

In addition, the Governor convened a 30-member Pennsylvania Sustainable Infrastructure Task Force, which conducted a series of meetings around the state this spring to gather recommendations from the public about ways to promote the long-term sustainability of the state's water infrastructure. This group of business leaders, legislators, government officials and industry experts found that every county in the commonwealth is facing significant water infrastructure needs.

An opportunity for cleaner water, new jobs, stronger economy

The \$400 million investment approved by Pennsylvania's voters is critical if the commonwealth is going to continue growing its economy, creating jobs, and provide for the safety, health and welfare of its citizens.

For more information, visit www.depweb.state.pa.us.

FACT SHEET