2027 Draft Budget

GMWSD

Where the district's money comes from, where it goes, and why some prices are changing

Based on the proposed 2027 draft budget

A budget is a plan for our money

The draft puts four years side by side so we can see what is changing:

2025

Actuals

What really happened

2026

Approved budget

The plan we agreed on

2026

Projections

Our best guess for year-end

2027

Proposed budget

The new plan

What changes from 2026 to 2027?

Costs

Some things we pay for cost more.

Revenue

We must bring in enough money to cover those costs.

Projects

New and carried-over building and repair projects.

Employees

Pay and health insurance costs go up.

Denver Water is raising its price

9.62%

increase in Denver Water's base price for water

$5.30 → $5.81

per 1,000 gallons of water

We are in a Stage 1 drought (2-day watering). Denver Water will re-check in April 2027.

Denver Water set up 3 prices so it can switch quickly if the drought changes:

1	**Starts January 1, 2027** Drought, 2-day watering	+ $2.10
2	**If the drought gets worse** Drought, 1-day watering	+ $3.90
3	**If the drought ends** Back to normal	+ $0

Extra charge is per 1,000 gallons, only on water used above the district's Average Winter Consumption (the amount we normally use in winter).

MONEY COMING IN: OUR WATER PRICE

Our price stays flat, but it goes up

Flat price

$7.31 → **$8.91**

per 1,000 gallons (2027)

Why flat? Use more water, we collect more money. Use less, we collect less. A flat price helps us avoid charging too much or too little to cover Denver Water's drought charge.

We also recommend 3 prices that follow Denver Water's drought stage, so we can change quickly:

Drought stage	Homes	Businesses
Stage 1, 2-day watering (starts Jan 1, 2027)	**$8.91**	**$9.73**
Drought gets worse (1-day watering)	**$9.77**	**$10.67**
Drought ends	**$7.91**	**$8.63**

All prices are per 1,000 gallons of water.

MONEY COMING IN: SEWER AND SERVICE FEE

Sewer costs and the monthly fee also rise

Sewer price

Homes

$5.54 → **$6.22**

Businesses

$6.05 → **$6.79**

Why? Metro Water Recovery, which cleans our wastewater, changed how it figures its yearly charges. It now uses a 3-year rolling average, which makes charges steadier from year to year, but this first change is bigger than usual.

Service fee

3.54%

Monthly

$22.60 → $23.40

Every two months

$45.20 → $46.80

Main reasons: a 2027 election, new office equipment, and credit card fees.

MONEY GOING OUT: OFFICE COSTS

Three things make office costs jump

A 2027 election

The district holds a regular election in May 2027. There was no election in 2026, so this cost is new.

Pays for: the election official, ballots and postage, and filing the results.

Credit card fees

We use Stripe to process card payments. In April 2026 it was found the fee had been figured wrong since 2022.

Fixed: the rate went from 1.1%–1.6% to 2.5%, and fees rise each year too.

Old equipment

Most radios and switches for our SCADA system (it helps us monitor and control our equipment) are nearly worn out.

Plan: replace most of them in 2027.

MONEY GOING OUT: PEOPLE

Employee costs go up 6.04%

6.04%

more than the 2026 budget for pay, taxes, and benefits

3.76% pay raise

The yearly raise for non-merit pay. Our rules say it must match a national water-industry survey (AWWA).

Health insurance

Medical insurance premiums (the monthly cost) go up from 2026 to 2027.

How we got 3.76%

3.68%

AWWA's new guess

+

0.08%

Catch-up: last year's actual 3.97% beat the 3.89% guess

=

3.76%

Our 2027 raise

OTHER MONEY COMING IN

Money that comes from capital income



Steady

Interest income

Banks pay 3.75% to 4.00% on our savings. We expect that to stay about the same through the end of 2027.



Slight dip

Capital reserve fund

This money is collected based on how much water is used. The drought means less water is used, so we expect a little less.



No change

Infrastructure replacement fee

The fee stays the same. We have been collecting it faster than we have been spending it on repairs.

MONEY GOING OUT: BIG PROJECTS

Fixing and building for the future

Office and grounds

A backup generator for the main office, so power stays on for computers, heating and cooling, and the shop. Plus security fences at the Red Pump Station and the Union Ridge and Tamarisk Lift Stations.

4 vehicles

Four fleet vehicles are due to be replaced because of their mileage and age. A business case is provided for each one.

Construction

New in 2027

26,540 ft
of old water pipe replaced

2,675 ft
of sewer pipe lining

New valves
replacing Pressure Reducing Valves across the district

Carried over from 2026

Ravine crossing, plus finishing two 2026 water pipe projects (one on Union Blvd).

Safety cushion: 10% of all construction costs is set aside in case prices run higher.

THE SHORT VERSION

5 things to remember

Water costs more. Denver Water's price rises 9.62%, so our flat price goes from $7.31 to $8.91 per 1,000 gallons.

Sewer and the service fee go up too. Sewer charges rise, and the monthly fee goes from $22.60 to $23.40.

Office costs jump. An election, higher credit card fees, and worn-out equipment all add up.

Employee costs rise 6.04%. Raises of 3.76% plus higher health insurance.

We keep building. New pipes, sewer repairs, a backup generator, and 4 new vehicles.