



People Care about Water Infrastructure

Water is life. From nature to tap, from farms to food, from toilet back to river, there is just one water cycle. Modern, reliable water infrastructure lays the foundation for thriving local economies, community vitality and healthy ecosystems.

People in New Jersey and across the nation prize clean water:

- 91 percent of New Jerseyans prioritized protecting the drinking water supply, which outranked nine other issues including improving education and reducing property taxes. (2011, Monmouth University Polling Institute)
- 62 percent of New Jersey residents said water pollution was a very or somewhat serious problem (2016, Rutgers-Eagleton Poll)

They share a concern about their water systems:

- Americans have little confidence in their state governments to ensure safe water and other basic services:
 - 70 percent said they are not very confident in their state government's ability to ensure the safety of their water
 - 67 percent said they are not very confident about the public sewer system (2016, Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll)
- 52 percent of New Jersey residents said they were concerned about the quality of their drinking water, with 33 percent "very concerned" (2011, Monmouth University Polling Institute)
- 71 percent of Americans deemed it very important to improve and modernize the water infrastructure system, after being queried as to their assessment of the nation's and local water infrastructure. (2016, The Value of Water)

And they are willing to pay more to improve and modernize their water systems:

- The average household spends 8 percent of its monthly utility costs on water, wastewater, and stormwater services, compared to 47 percent on phone, internet, and cable. Given this, 86 percent of respondents were willing to pay more to improve and modernize the water systems in their community. (2016, The Value of Water)
- Six in ten Americans are willing to pay \$7.70 more each month to upgrade the nation's water system, which could potentially result in \$6.4 billion in water infrastructure investments per year. (2012, Xylem Report)

Elected officials prioritize water infrastructure investments too:

- Mayors identified "infrastructure" as the single top long-term trend or issue that they primarily think should be a state and/or federal matter and will pose the biggest challenge to their cities.
- Mayors list roads, mass transit, and water/ wastewater/ stormwater as their top three priorities for new infrastructure investment. (2015 Menino Survey of Mayors)

The Jersey Water Works collaborative is transforming New Jersey's inadequate water infrastructure through sustainable, cost-effective solutions that provide communities with clean water and waterways; healthier, safer neighborhoods; local jobs; flood and climate resilience; and economic growth.