



Scituate Water Treatment Plant Frequently Asked Questions

What is the impact of today's vote?

- The Town vote being held May 21, 2022 is related to funding.
 - During a previous town meeting, the vote was in favor of funding the project through bond funding.
 - If the ballot vote fails, the project cost will be paid via water rates.
 - Today's ballot vote requires a majority to pass.

What is the impact of Question 1 – Debt Exclusion?

- During last month's Town Meeting, residents voted in favor of funding the project through a debt exclusion, which is a temporary tax increase that declines over the repayment period and completely goes away once the debt is fully repaid.
- If Question 1 passes, the estimated annual impact on a \$700,000 home will be \$255 or \$7,640 over a 30-year period (expected loan repayment period).
- If Question 1 fails, water rates could increase by over 45%. This funding structure is less predictable and, as a result, the new WTP project could experience significant delays, which will increase costs.

What does a "YES" or "NO" vote on Question 1 – Debt Exclusion mean?

- A "YES" vote means that the Town will temporarily increase property taxes more than 2.5% in order to fund the construction of a new water treatment plant (WTP).
- A "NO" vote means that the project cost will most likely be paid via water rates.





How much could the project cost and how will it be spent?

- The \$50 million will include design, permitting, and construction of the new water facility, rehabilitation of the raw water pump station, and demolition of the existing water treatment facility.
- Authorization tonight will allow the Town to spend up to \$50 million on this project, if the scope and cost are reduced as design progresses the Town is not required to spend all \$50 million.
- If the project cost exceeds, \$50 million, the Town will have to request an additional funding allocation.

Why do we need a water treatment plant?

- The existing plant does not meet present and future water needs:
 - It is not capable of removing iron and manganese to publicly acceptable levels, contributing to the brown water in the Town's distribution system.
 - The capacity is not sufficient for Town needs.
 - There is no redundancy, meaning if processes in the plant goes down, there is no back up.
 - It is more than 50 years old.
- The construction of a new plant was identified in the Town's water system master plan as a recommendation to address water quality issues.
 - According to the plan, the new plant would be more reliable and easier to operate, ultimately providing a higher level of service and safety for the operators.

When will we have a new plant?

- A project to replace the existing plant is being designed.
 - This is a multi-year effort.
 - The project will have phases that would include transmission piping to the new facility, upgrades to the existing Old Oaken Bucket raw water pump station, and the new water treatment facility.

What is the location of the new plant?

- In 2021, citizens voted, during a town meeting to purchase the parcel that is currently being considered for the site.
 - Other sites are being reviewed at this time.
 - Town staff will be providing additional information regarding the site evaluation in the coming weeks.

