



# MWRA Advisory Board

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## Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Questionnaire

### Background

The MWRA Advisory Board would like to invite the candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor to complete a short questionnaire either in writing or in a video outlining their position and strategies for addressing water/wastewater infrastructure needs throughout the Commonwealth. In addition to posting responses that include specific positions and plans to address the “forgotten infrastructure” on our website, all candidates are invited to the Advisory Board's annual field trip on Thursday, August 21, 2014 as well.

### QUESTIONS

1. A Committee empowered by the Legislature (Water Infrastructure Finance Commission) issued a report identifying a nearly \$40 billion funding gap to upgrade aging water and wastewater infrastructures as well as to cover additional regulatory compliance to meet the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act.

**What specific steps would you consider as part of your plan to address these needs?**

2. The MWRA was created in 1985 to clean up Boston Harbor. Since then MWRA has invested billions (\$7.9 billion to be exact) to provide 60 communities and approximately 2.8 million residents of Massachusetts the best drinking water in the country (recently voted by the American Water Works Association) and a state of the art wastewater system which received the Platinum Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. All of this has come with a heavy price. MWRA cities and towns pay some of the highest retail water and sewer rates in the country.

**Do you support the continuation/expansion of programs such as the Commonwealth Sewer Rate Relief Fund, which recognizes the state's responsibility to reduce ratepayer burden.**

3. Additional thoughts, ideas, or questions you have relative to water/wastewater infrastructure.

- To learn more about the MWRA Advisory Board, visit our website at [www.mwraadvisoryboard.com](http://www.mwraadvisoryboard.com)
- To access the Advisory Board's commissioned report on Economic Development visit this link: <http://mwraadvisoryboard.com/?p=3002>
- To see our *Comments and Recommendations* on the MWRA's proposed FY15 budgets visit this link: <http://mwraadvisoryboard.com/?p=3258>
- To access the WIFC report visit this link: [http://mwraadvisoryboard.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/WIFC\\_Report.pdf](http://mwraadvisoryboard.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/WIFC_Report.pdf)