

A clean water future is slipping away

URGE SUFFOLK LEGISLATURE: LET VOTERS CHOOSE A CLEAN WATER FUTURE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

On June 21, nearly 50 constituents, representing thousands of members, supporters, and residents of Suffolk County, spent hours in Riverhead urging the County Legislature to let voters choose a clean water future. The ask was simple: allow residents to vote on the Water Quality Restoration Act in the November general election. But legislators refused to advance the measure.

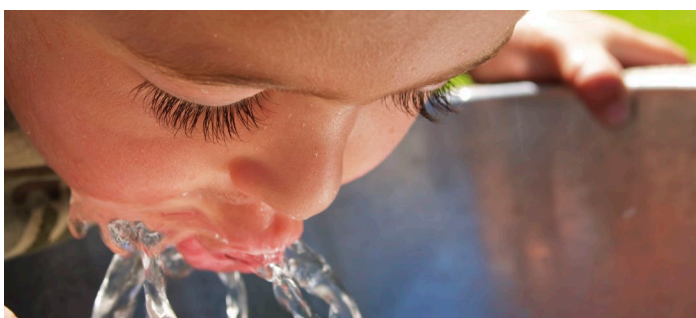
Legislators have one last chance to restore clean water and let voters decide: July 25.

If they do not approve the measures on July 25, Suffolk County will not be able to access billions of dollars from federal and state grant programs. Right now, there are unprecedented funds available for wastewater infrastructure projects that improve water quality. But those funds will not be available for long. Suffolk County has a huge need for wastewater infrastructure updates, and we may never get this chance again. We cannot wait. Not moving clean water measures forward on July 25 would deny communities a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring clean water back to local families..

A broad range of stakeholders including scientists, labor unions, public officials, building trades, and business leaders have collaborated for years to develop a long-term solution to fix the county's water quality crisis. Now that we have broad approval, the legislature is using delay tactics to deny voters the right to decide. Join us to demand county legislators put the Water Quality Restoration Act on the 2023 November election ballot.

The Suffolk County Water Quality Restoration Act would restore clean water by updating old, failing, or inadequate wastewater systems. This would finally stop nitrogen pollution from contaminating our drinking water and harming our beaches, bays, and harbors. Scientific research shows that nitrogen pollution from untreated sewage is the cause of beach closings, fish kills, and harmful algal blooms. As proposed, the Water Quality Restoration Act would leverage \$2.1 billion to expand sewers and \$2.1 billion to finance clean water septic system replacements.

Urge your local legislator to approve IR 1512 and IR 1573, as proposed, on July 25.





SEPTIC GRANTS

The Water Quality Restoration Act would expand and sustain tax-free grants to homeowners replacing a polluting wastewater system to a clean water septic system. Together, the county and state provide up to \$25,000 per household. Visit reclaimourwater.info to learn more.

SEWER EFFICIENCY

The Water Quality Restoration Act would consolidate 27 sewer districts and restructure sewer fees to streamline investments, reduce costs, and stabilize sewer rates. All residential users will pay the same amount for the same service, and businesses will be charged by usage.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Clean water funds can only be used to improve water quality in Suffolk County. A lockbox ensures funds cannot be used for any other purpose. An advisory committee will oversee the fund, and annual, independent audits will be made public.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Modern wastewater infrastructure will restore clean drinking water, protect our way of life, improve public health, and repair bays and harbors. The Water Quality Restoration Act will also create thousands of good, local jobs, revitalize business districts, and increase property values.

WHAT CAN I DO?

We need your help to ensure Suffolk residents get the chance to vote.

- 1. Write or call your county legislator** and urge them to put the Water Quality Restoration Act on the 2023 general election ballot. Ask them to vote yes on IR 1512 and IR 1573.
- 2. Attend a hearing at 2:30pm on July 25** in Smithtown to demand a vote for a clean water future.
- 3. Share your support** for the Water Quality Restoration Act with your family, friends, and neighbors in person and on social media.

For more information, contact:

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The Building and Construction Trades Council of Nassau & Suffolk Counties, AFL-CIO

