

City Hall should reward, not sanction, New Yorkers for using less water. The City introduced water metering as a conservation too in 1988 when I served as [Counsel](#) to the Chair of the Council Committee on Environmental Protection. Many always saw through that and warned how the City would use metering to raise the rates. Since 1988 – over more than two decades – the City raises our rates 220% increasing our water bills a whopping 525%. I [testified](#) against the rate increase last Spring.

Queens Civic Congress developed [recommendations](#) – already supported by the Queens Borough Board – and we continue to “ride the circuit” [presenting](#) it to community boards in the other boroughs. Community Board 5X unanimously endorsed it last month following our joint [presentation](#) with the Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition. CWCWC and QCC present to two more Bronx boards this week.

Whether the release of this information in October before the main event earlier this month would have affected the outcome matters less the failure to own up to New Yorkers about City Hall's failure by disclose this information when it got it. New Yorker's have a right to know this information.

The City Council must engage the administration in [a debate on water rate setting and discuss](#) reforms advocated by Queens Civic Congress to prevent the gouging. State legislators can also enter the debate since pending state [legislation](#) can end City Hall's ability to raise rates with abandon. The City Council can pass a [similar](#) law. - Corey Bearak, President, Queens Civic Congress

Crains Insider, November 10, 2009  
Water Rates to Spike

Water customers can expect rates to rise more than the 12% previously projected for next year because Water Board revenues have been lower than expected. Water use fell 11% in June and July from 2008 levels and is down 6% year-to-date. The declines have been known since last month, but insiders say the Bloomberg administration was not about to acknowledge an additional increase in water rates right before the mayoral election. Challenger Bill Thompson made rising rates a campaign issue.