

# 2018 Local Government Investment in Water & Sewer Utilities

\$ 130 Billion Expenditure

Water \$72.6 Billion  
Sewer \$57.4 Billion



**The United States Conference of Mayors  
October, 2020  
Washington, DC**

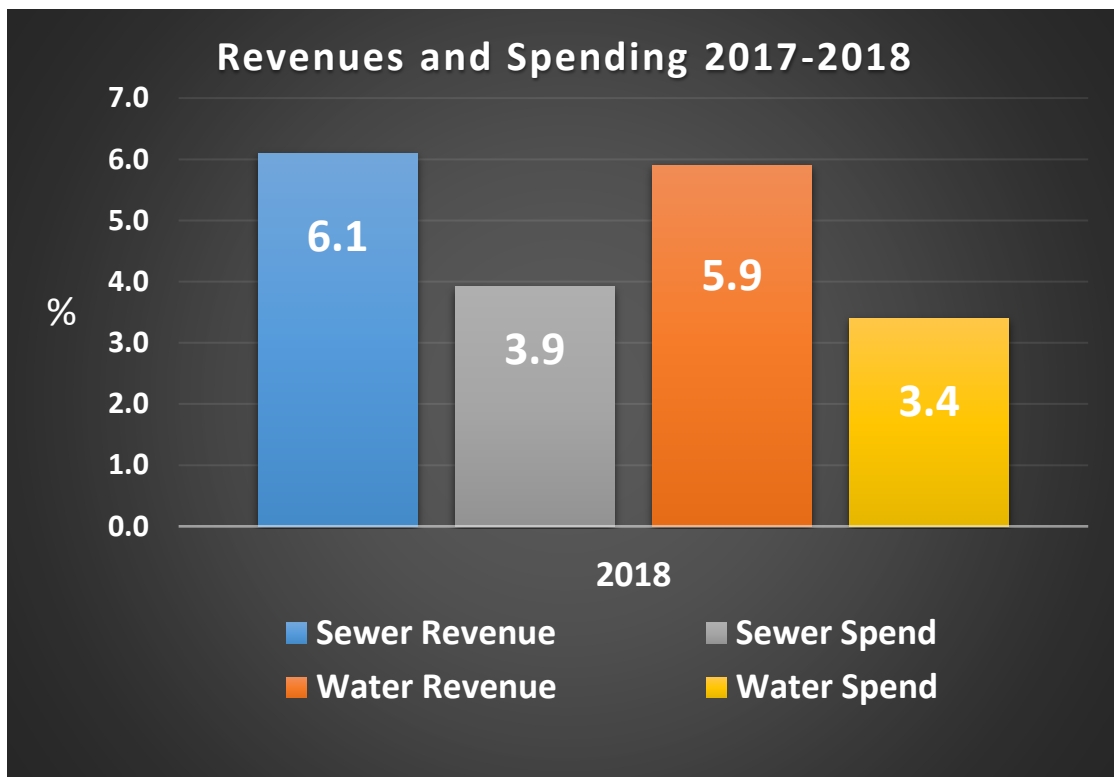
# The Numbers:

- States and the Federal Government are minor financial contributors to local infrastructure but both have taxing authority over the local fiscal base, and the ability to regulate and restrict local activities.

<b>2018 LOCAL WATER AND SEWER FINANCES</b>	<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>PERCENT LOCAL</b>
	<b>(\$Thousands)</b>	<b>(\$Thousands)</b>	<b>(%)</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>			
<b>SEWER</b>	<b>59,888,771</b>	<b>1,041,712</b>	<b>98.3</b>
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	<b>68,865,648</b>	<b>326,497</b>	<b>99.5</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>128,754,419</b>	<b>1,368,209</b>	<b>98.9</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
<b>SEWER</b>	<b>57,446,187</b>	<b>1,324,149</b>	<b>97.7</b>
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	<b>72,606,119</b>	<b>428,281</b>	<b>99.4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>130,052,306</b>	<b>1,752,430</b>	<b>98.7</b>

SOURCE: Census.Gov – 2018 State and Local Government Finances

- Local Utility Revenues are Growing at a Higher Rate than Expenditures.



- 2018 Combined Utility Revenues Increased 6%.

**Long-Term 1993-2018 Average Annual Revenues:**

Sewer Utilities Revenue increase is 5.5%,  
Median value of 5.1%.

Water Supply Utilities Revenue increase is 5.0%,  
Median value of 5.2%.

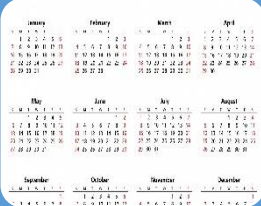
- 2018 Combined Utility Expenditures Increased 3.6%.

**Long-Term 1993-2018 Average Annual Expenditures:**

Sewer Utilities Expenditures increase is 4.1%,  
Median value of 4.3%.

Water Supply Utilities Expenditures increase is 4.5%,  
Median value of 3.2%.

# Local Utility 2018 Expenditures



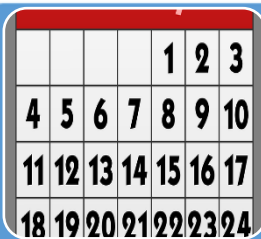
**2018 Annual Local Spending  
Water and Sewer Utilities  
\$130 Billion**



**2018 Daily Spending  
\$356 Million**



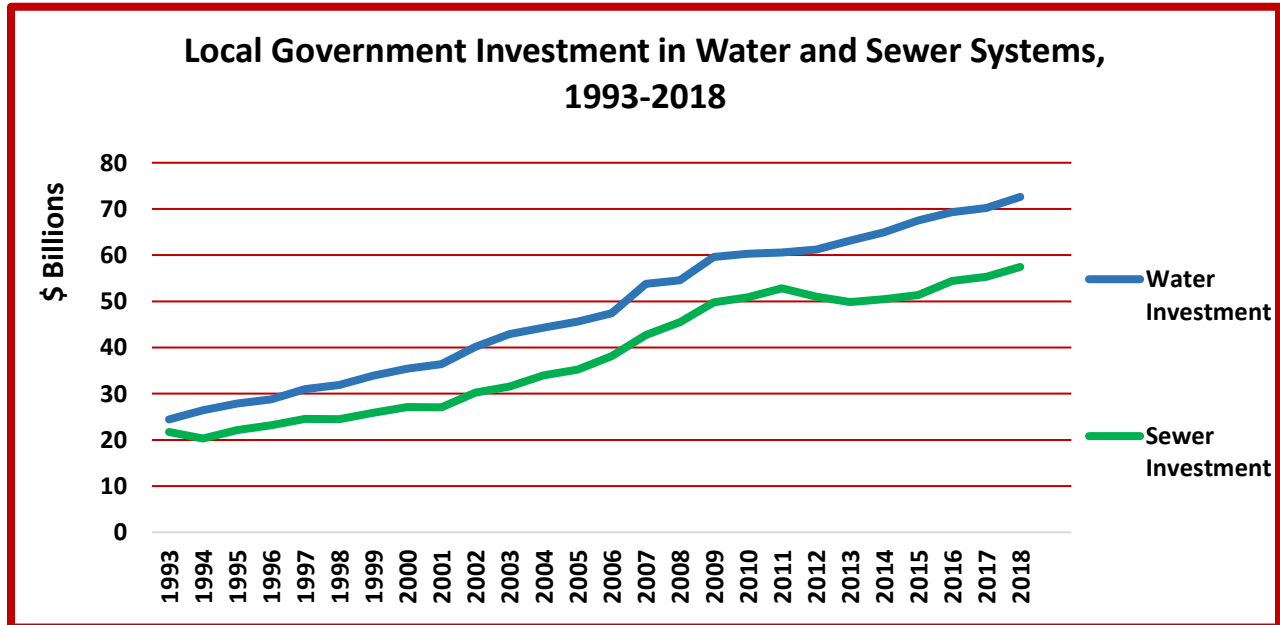
**2018 Weekly Spending  
\$2.5 Billion**



**2018 Monthly Spending  
\$10.8 Billion**

# 2018 and Long-Term Trends

- Local government spending on water and sewer utilities continues to grow at a modest<sup>1</sup> pace, contributing to recovery from the Great Recession.
  - This review period is prior to impacts related to the Covid-19 pandemic induced recession.



<sup>1</sup> The combined utility average annual growth in expenditures from 1993-2018 is 4.4% compared to the 2018 increase of 3.6%

**Cumulative Local Spending  
on Water and Sewer Utilities,  
1993-2018**

**\$2.251 Trillion  
Combined Water and Sewer  
Utilities**

**\$1.225 Trillion  
Water Supply Utilities**

**\$997 Billion  
Sewer and Wastewater Utilities**