



**TRUTH FROM  
THE TAP**

# Water Company 101

## PRIVATE WATER IN THE U.S. AT A GLANCE

**100,000** MILES OF WATER PIPES MAINTAINED  
**200** YEARS OF OPERATING IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE U.S.  
**73** MILLION AMERICANS SERVED  
**4.6** BILLION GALLONS EVERY DAY  
**1.7** TRILLION GALLONS EVERY YEAR

### HOW DO WATER COMPANIES WORK?

Water companies deliver water to your faucet and efficiently take wastewater away. Just like a municipal system, water companies are responsible for making sure the water is clean and safe and that the infrastructure is properly maintained.

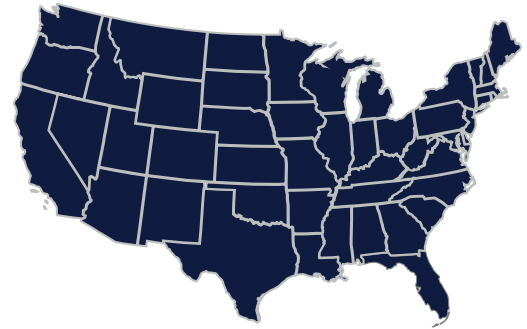
Just like utilities under public operation, a water company's rates are set and approved by public officials – the municipality, the state public utility commission, or another public authority. No matter the ownership model, rate setting is always a public process with opportunity for input by all interested parties.

### WATER COMPANIES: INVESTING IN AMERICA'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

**The 15 largest water companies in the United States collectively invested more than \$5 billion into community water systems in 2022.**

Water rates are a reflection of water utility investment and deferred or insufficient investment can have dire consequences. Each year, NAWC member companies collectively invest billions into community water systems to keep infrastructure strong and water safe and reliable.

### WATER COMPANIES: AN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY



### WATER COMPANIES = EXCEPTIONAL WATER QUALITY

Water companies comply with all state and federal water quality standards. Numerous studies have found that water companies have a stronger record of compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) than their municipal counterparts, including a 2018 study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.



An analysis of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) data found that systems operated by water companies are 24% less likely to incur health violations of the SDWA than systems operated by local governments.

Further, a Global Water Intelligence analysis of 2012 EPA data found that our country's largest water companies have "near perfect" record of compliance with the SDWA.



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A campaign of the National Association of Water Companies