



**KRIS COONS**  
COUNTY CHAIR

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**REPUBLICAN PARTY OF BEXAR COUNTY CALLS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY  
BEFORE ANY SAWS RATE INCREASE**

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS — The Republican Party of Bexar County today announced its opposition to the proposed San Antonio Water System (SAWS) rate increase and called for immediate reforms to improve accountability, transparency, and operational efficiency before asking working families to pay higher utility bills.

SAWS is seeking approval of a multi-year rate plan that could increase the average residential water bill by approximately 33 percent over the next four years. SAWS leadership has stated the increase is necessary to support approximately \$3.2 billion in infrastructure investments and system upgrades.

While we recognize the importance of maintaining critical water infrastructure, San Antonio families deserve to know that every effort has been made to reduce waste, improve efficiency, and control spending before another burden is placed on ratepayers.

At a time when residents are struggling with rising costs for housing, groceries, insurance, and energy, government entities should first look inward before reaching deeper into the pockets of taxpayers and utility customers.

“Accountability must come before rate increases,” said Chair Kris Coons. “San Antonio families are expected to live within their budgets. SAWS should be expected to do the same.”

The Republican Party of Bexar County believes approval of any rate increase should be delayed until the following reforms are completed:

- Independent Performance Audit — Conduct a comprehensive third-party operational and financial audit to identify inefficiencies, duplicative spending, and opportunities for cost savings.
- Water Loss Reduction Benchmarks — Establish measurable goals and annual reporting requirements to address billions of gallons of water lost through leaks and aging infrastructure.
- Administrative Spending Review — Require a top-to-bottom review of administrative expenses and identify areas for budget reductions before increasing customer rates.
- Public Transparency Dashboard — Create an online public dashboard showing project costs, water-loss metrics, infrastructure progress, and budget performance.
- Zero-Based Budget Review — Require departments to justify expenditures from the ground up rather than relying on automatic budget growth.
- Quarterly Public Accountability Hearings — Allow residents and ratepayers to directly question SAWS leadership regarding spending, project performance, and system reliability.

Recent public discussions have highlighted concerns regarding transparency, affordability, executive compensation, and significant water losses within the system. Even members of the City Council have publicly called for additional review and accountability measures before approving higher rates.

San Antonio residents should not be forced to choose between paying higher utility bills and meeting other household needs while legitimate questions remain unanswered.

The issue before our city is not whether infrastructure investments are necessary. The issue is whether accountability should come before asking residents to pay more.

The Republican Party of Bexar County calls on the San Antonio City Council to postpone approval of the proposed rate increase until SAWS demonstrates meaningful cost reductions, improved operational efficiency, and a clear commitment to transparency and accountability.

San Antonio families deserve responsible stewardship of their utility dollars. They deserve proof that every available reform has been implemented before another rate increase is approved.

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