



CITY OF AUBURN HILLS
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024
Special City Council Meeting ♦ 3:00 PM

Council Chamber, 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills MI
248-370-9402 ♦ www.auburnhills.org

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL**
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - 5a. Resolution to oppose Water Affordability Proposed Bills.
6. **ADJOURNMENT**

THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN in accordance with Public Act 267 of 1976 of the Open Meetings Act.

City Council meeting minutes are on file in the City Clerk's Office. NOTE: Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is asked to contact the City Clerk's Office at 248.370.9402 or the City Manager's Office at 248.370.9440 48 hours prior to the meeting. Staff will be pleased to make the necessary arrangements.

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE PASSAGE OF MICHIGAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILLS 5088-5093 AND
MICHIGAN SENATE BILLS 549-554**

- WHEREAS,** the City of Auburn Hills recognizes the need for water assistance for some individuals throughout the state; and
- WHEREAS,** Auburn Hills acknowledges the existence of various assistance programs of which Auburn Hills subscribes; and
- WHEREAS,** Auburn Hills has undertaken significant actions to enhance water affordability for its residents, including instances where water rates remained stagnant despite increases from GLWA, collaborative efforts with neighboring communities through NOCWA to procure water at reduced rates, implementation of payment plans by city staff, and reduction of penalties for unpaid balances to alleviate financial strain on our residents; and
- WHEREAS,** Auburn Hills has confirmed that our community has minimal participation in existing assistance programs, thereby questioning the benefit of the proposed legislation to our residents; and
- WHEREAS,** imposing an additional fee on residents' water bills would disproportionately burden those that are ineligible for the program, exacerbating financial hardship; and
- WHEREAS,** the proposed legislation and its companion bills are deemed burdensome due to bureaucratic processes and impede local control over water services, contravening Auburn Hills' belief in autonomous governance; and
- WHEREAS,** Auburn Hills opposes state-level regulation of local water services and the imposition of taxes and fees collected from our residents that substantially benefit other communities, disregarding the needs of our residents; and
- WHEREAS,** the North Oakland County Water Authority (NOCWA) for which Auburn Hills is a member has demonstrated success in reducing costs and increasing water pressure for Auburn Hills and its consortium members of Orion Township, Pontiac, and Rochester Hills, since its inception in 2015; and
- WHEREAS,** GLWA's representation on the WRAP board and local administration by Oakland County ensure localized attention and control over assistance programs; and
- WHEREAS,** the WRAP program effectively covers 40% of state customers under GLWA, and other areas outside GLWA's jurisdiction could establish their own WRAP programs tailored to local needs within their respective water distribution systems; and

WHEREAS, the WRAP program is funded through water rates already charged to Auburn Hills' water customers; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the City of Auburn Hills City Council formally opted into another water assistance program called LIHWAP, giving residents a second option for water assistance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Auburn Hills opposes the proposed "Water Affordability" legislation and urges our state elected representatives and Oakland County representatives to resist this legislation, safeguarding local autonomy and prioritizing the needs of Auburn Hills residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff is directed to send this Resolution to the offices of State Representatives Brenda Carter and Donni Steele, Senator Jeremy Moss, and Governor Gretchen Whitmer.