

PRESS RELEASE
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Lake County Commissioners Vote for 25% Discount on Water and Sewer Bills for Low Income Senior Citizens

In an effort to assist low-income senior citizens with utility costs, the Board of Lake County Commissioners and the Department of Utilities established a program to provide a 25% discount on water and sewer bills to all qualifying senior citizens. Commissioner John Plecnik proposed the senior discount earlier this year, which was unanimously adopted by the Board of Commissioners on November 18th.

“Lake County is grateful to Commissioner John Plecnik for putting our seniors first,” said President John Hamercheck of the Lake County Board of Commissioners. “His proposal for a 25% discount on water and sewer bills for seniors in need will make a very big difference in our local community.”

Although Lake County Utility customers already pay some of the lowest rates in Northeast Ohio, the discount comes at the right time. With rising fuel prices, increasing costs on many consumer goods and growing home energy expenses, routine utility bills can be challenging for senior citizens on fixed or low incomes.



“Inflation is a hidden tax and seniors on a fixed income are being taxed out of their homes,” said Commissioner John Plecnik. “My colleagues and I are committed to running our government in Lake County super efficiently to keep taxes and fees low and return the savings to the taxpayer. In working with our County Prosecutor and the Department of Utilities, we learned the Ohio Revised Code allows us to grant a discount to seniors who are eligible for the Homestead Exemption. As soon as we confirmed the Board of Commissioners had the legal authority, I said we need to make this happen for our seniors.”

“Lake County is a family, and we care deeply about our seniors,” said Commissioner Ron Young. “My colleague John Plecnik is to be commended for working hard with multiple county departments to propose and draft this resolution to provide meaningful help to seniors in need. Lake County is lucky to have John as our newest Commissioner.”

“The Lake County Department of Utilities is excited to implement Commissioner John Plecnik’s proposal for a senior discount,” said Randy Rothlisberger, Utilities Department Sanitary Engineer. “Like most programs that offer financial assistance, customers who have water and sewer services provided by the Utilities Department will need to satisfy three eligibility requirements. The applicant must be 65 years of age or older, must own and occupy the property, and must meet the income qualifier established by the Ohio Homestead Exemption. In 2021, the household income threshold is \$34,200.”

To enroll, please visit <https://www.lakecountyohio.gov/utilities/>, click Public Announcements, print the Senior Citizen Discount Application, and mail it in. Residents can also contact the Billing & Customer Service Office at (440) 350-2070 to have a form mailed.

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