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Philadelphia rate board gives water customers some relief

by [Andrew Maykuth](#), Posted: July 13, 2018



ISTOCK



Philadelphia residential water bills will increase about 1 percent over the next two years, or only 69 cents a month, according to a plan announced Friday. The Philadelphia Water Department had requested an 11-percent rate boost over three years.

Under [the 112-page ruling](#) announced by the city water rate board, the monthly bill for a typical customer using 500 cubic feet of water a month (3,740 gallons) will decrease slightly from \$66.50 to \$66.33 in September and then increase to \$67.19 in 2019.

The water department had requested an increase from \$66.50 currently to \$67.24 in September, to \$70.60 in 2019 and to \$73.79 in 2020.

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The two-year plan should come as a relief for Philadelphia water customers, whose water rates [have increased 70 percent since 2007](#).

The five-member Water, Sewer, and Storm Water Rate Board, which was created as an independent body by a 2012 Home Rule Charter change, rejected the city's plan to shift \$7.9 million in fire-hydrant costs from city taxpayers to water customers. The board ruled that under the city code, the city's treasury, not water customers, is responsible for paying the water bills of city departments.



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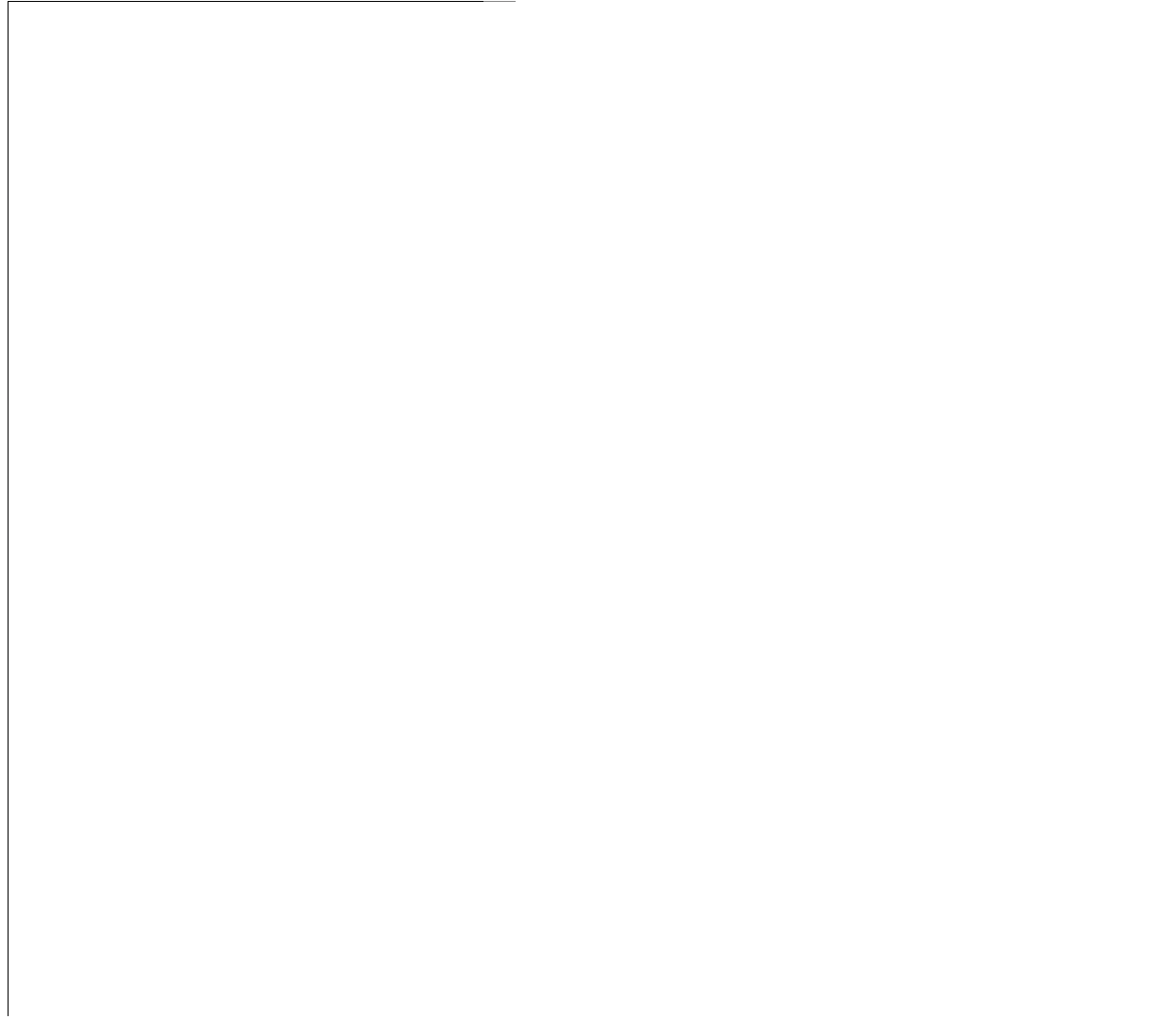
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Wolf: May 1 goal achievable

PENNSYLVANIA: Ambitious inoculation goals would represent a turnaround.
NEW JERSEY: Officials say 70% of adults could be vaccinated by end of May or June.



By Justin W. Sizemore, Eric McCarty and Laura M. H. ...
 Pennsylvania's ambitious vaccine equity goal distribution will mean an average of one shot per person by May 1, Gov. Tom Wolf announced Friday and all Pennsylvanians would eventually get the same vaccine because of the state's health care system by the end of March.
 That means Pennsylvania expects about 1.8 million people to have been vaccinated or made appointments with in the next two and a half months. It also means everyone in phase 1b, the next eligibility group, should have a chance to get vaccinated before May 1, the state's deadline for Phase 1b. Thursday all adults will receive a shot.
 "In the next six weeks, the vaccine supply is going to be accelerated by the end of March. ... It's very simple and will result in a better outcome, adding to the state's success."
 In an interview Friday, however, the state will require that people get the vaccine more and often in the future. Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, New York, and the District of Columbia will have the most advanced vaccine equity goals, according to the state's health secretary.

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