

## Year One Clean Water Agenda for the Murphy Administration

New Jersey is experiencing a clean water crisis. Aging and inadequate drinking water systems, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure threaten to disrupt daily life, commerce and industry in our cities and towns. Although many systems are well managed, in too many communities century-old water pipelines are bursting and obsolete; unhealthy drinking water containing lead threatens our children's brain development; and dysfunctional systems direct raw sewage, polluted runoff, or both mixed together into our local rivers and cause flooding of streets and basements. Leadership to address this crisis is urgently needed.

A governor who becomes a champion for clean water can modernize our inadequate drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems through visible leadership, innovative programs, smart regulations and targeted funding, propelling New Jersey to a national leadership role. Long overdue investments in water infrastructure will expand economic opportunity, improve public health, and enhance the environment in communities across the state.

We urge Governor-elect Murphy to take the following actions in 2018. We commit to assisting his administration with water infrastructure challenges and solutions.

1. **Launch a high-profile "Clean Water" campaign** to promote awareness and action among the public and elected and appointed officials on issues including lead contamination in drinking water, aging infrastructure and combined sewer overflows. Appoint a "water czar" who would report to the governor and ensure collaboration among multiple state agencies.
2. **Ensure effective combined sewer overflow plans are developed and implemented** by partnering with local officials to educate community stakeholders about the costs of inaction and opportunities for cost-effective approaches that advance city revitalization.
3. **Modernize aging water systems** by helping water utilities finance infrastructure upgrades and ensure cost-effective operations and maintenance. Provide technical assistance and financial support from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust for capital improvements, asset management (especially for utilities affected by the new Water Quality Accountability Act), and operator training and licensing.
4. **Update the state's stormwater regulations** to drive and reward green infrastructure techniques in development and redevelopment projects.
5. **Get the lead out of drinking water in homes and schools.** Publish a statewide assessment of lead in school drinking water that identifies the extent of the problem in each school district and associated needs for assistance with asset management and capital financing.
6. Launch a public process to **recommend statewide policies and programs to ensure water and sewer services are affordable** to all ratepayers.
7. **Enact legislation that allows local and regional stormwater utilities** and subsequent user fee collection to support infrastructure and management.

## Signatories

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