



## **B&B Water Project**

*Address:*  
6023 E State Rd 45  
Bloomington, IN

*Mailing Address:*  
PO Box 5831  
Bloomington, IN

## **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

We are writing to inform you about an important proposal being considered by your local water utility that is intended to protect our community and keep water service affordable.

Our water system is a small, nonprofit, community-owned utility. We exist solely to provide safe, reliable water to our customers – not to generate profits. Every dollar collected is used to operate, maintain, and improve the system.

B and B Water Project, Inc. has been in operation for roughly 60 years, and as our system continues to age, we face increasing costs to maintain reliable, high-quality service and replace aging equipment. These investments are necessary to prevent service interruptions, protect water quality and avoid costly emergency repairs. At the same time, the costs of providing water – including the wholesale purchase of water from the City of Bloomington, electricity, contracted wages, and testing – continue to rise just as everyday household expenses do. To keep the system operating safely and in good working order, customers' rates must occasionally increase to reflect these unavoidable cost increases.

Currently, our utility is regulated by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC). The IURC is the Indiana state agency that controls a utility's rates, borrowing, construction projects, and financial decisions. It has the authority to approve or deny request for rate changes, new infrastructure, and how a utility can manage its money. This process involves formal filings, delays, and added costs that are especially difficult for small nonprofit water systems. These expenses do not improve water quality or service, but they are ultimately paid by customers through rates. While this type of oversight is appropriate for large utilities, it creates significant financial and administrative burdens for small nonprofit systems like ours.

For this reason, we are proposing to withdraw from IURC membership so that local control stays local; the board members are fellow customers of the system so any increase in rates will also affect them. Being in IURC moves decisions to Indianapolis, where they don't know our system, or our customers. Leaving would mean our systems priorities come first and our community controls its own water.

This change would allow our utility to operate more efficiently and responsibly by:

- Ensuring more of your water dollars go directly into replacing aging pipes and equipment. Much of our infrastructure, including our water towers, is rapidly aging and requires ongoing maintenance and repairs to remain structurally sound and operational. As these structures age, the cost and frequency of necessary repairs increase. Redirecting funds towards improvements allows us to proactively address these needs, extend the life of critical system components, and reduce the risk of unexpected failures that could disrupt service.



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- Allowing the installation of additional valves throughout the distribution system. Adding more valves will allow us to isolate sections of the line during a water main break or repair, meaning fewer customers would lose water service or be affected by boil water advisories.
- Providing the ability to install backup power at our pump stations. With the increasing severity of weather events in our area, power outages are a growing concern. Backup power would help maintain water service during outages and improve overall system reliability.
- Reducing unnecessary administrative and legal cost

Leaving IURC regulation does not mean a lack of oversight. Our utility would continue to meet all state and federal water quality requirements, hold public meetings, provide financial transparency, and remain fully accountable to the customers we serve.

### **Voting Information**

Indiana allows nonprofit utilities the option to withdraw from IURC; this is done through a vote by utility members. As part of this process, one public meeting is required to give customers the opportunity to learn more and provide input before any final decision is made.

No proxy voting will be permitted for the meeting on the question of withdrawal from the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's jurisdiction. **Only members of B&B Water Project are eligible to vote; for purposes of this vote a member is defined as the account holder receiving water service.**

**Renters, tenants, and other non-owner occupants are not considered members and are not eligible to vote. Each eligible member is entitled to one (1) vote, regardless of the number of properties owned or held, and voting is per member, not per property.**

A member may cast a vote during the meeting or by secret absentee ballot prior to the meeting.

All individuals voting in person will be required to verify their membership status at sign-in prior to casting a ballot. If the account is under a business name, the appropriate documentation showing proof of ownership will be required to receive a ballot. Verification will be conducted using our membership records on file and may request identification to confirm identity. If you are aware that your account is not under the appropriate owner's name, please contact our office promptly so we can address the matter prior to the meeting.

### **Requesting an Absentee Ballot**

Any member who wishes to vote by absentee ballot must submit a request for an absentee ballot by contacting the utility office. Requests may be made in writing, by phone, or in person at the utility office.

Once a member requests an absentee ballot, that member is not permitted to vote in person at the meeting held on the question of withdrawal from IURC.



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**Returning an Absentee Ballot**

A member voting by absentee ballot must either:

- Return the completed absentee ballot by USPS (please be aware of ballot deadline below)
- Deliver the completed absentee ballot in person at the utility office.

Absentee ballots may not be returned by email, fax or proxy.

**Absentee Ballot Deadline**

Completed absentee ballots must be received **no earlier than** May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 and **no later than** May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**Absentee ballots received outside of this timeframe will not be counted.**

The meeting will be held on:

**Public Meeting:**

**Date: May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Voting Registration Start Time: 6:00PM**

**Meeting Start Time: 6:45PM**

**Location: Unionville Elementary School Gymnasium**

**8144 State Road 45 Unionville, IN 47468**

We believe this proposal is in the best interest of our customers and the long-term stability of our aging water system and we encourage all customers to attend the public meeting. Our commitment to providing safe, reliable water service to our community remains unchanged. Adjusting our regulatory status will give us the flexibility needed to make essential system improvements while continuing to operate responsibly as your local water provider. We appreciate your trust and support, and we will keep you informed as we move forward.

We encourage customers to submit any questions they would like to address during the public meeting. Questions may be mailed to our PO Box, brought into the office during normal business hours, or placed in the drop box located at our office. Submitting questions in advance will allow us the appropriate time to thoroughly address all customers' questions during the meeting.

Sincerely,

B and B Water Project, Inc.