NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: November 20, 2026
Contact: Kory Robinson, Austin Utilities
507-434-4448
koryr@austinutilities.com

AUSTIN UTILITIES Maintains Affordable Rates While Investing in Reliable Service

AUSTIN, Minn. – Demonstrating its continued commitment to affordability and reliability, the Austin Utilities Board of Commissioners approved the 2027 Austin Utilities budget and related rate adjustments at its regular board meeting on November 17, 2026. The approved changes result in an overall average increase of approximately 1.4% for residential customers. For the average residential customer, this equates to approximately $2.50 to $3.00 per month, based on typical monthly usage of 586 kWh of electricity, 65 CCF of natural gas, and 7 CCF of water. The adjustment helps Austin Utilities continue providing safe, reliable utility services while managing costs and ensuring long-term value for our customers.

General Manager, Tom Dankert states, “These modest rate adjustments allow us to continue investing in our infrastructure while providing the safe, reliable service our customers expect and keeping utility costs affordable and competitive.”

The approved changes result in a 0.3% increase to electric rates, a 4.0% increase to water rates, and a 1.4% increase to natural gas rates for residential customers. These rate adjustments help support ongoing maintenance and improvements to utility infrastructure. Monthly bills may vary due to Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) and Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) charges, which reflect fluctuations in wholesale power and natural gas commodity costs. Because these market-driven costs are outside of Austin Utilities' control, the adjustments may cause either an increase or decrease to the commodity charges on monthly bills.

Commercial customers will see a combined rate increase of 2.2%. That comes from 0.4% increase to electric rates, a 2.8% increase to water rates, and a 3.6% increase to natural gas rates.

Portions of the bill related to sewer charges and storm water fees are controlled and administered by the City of Austin. Changes to these costs are not reported by Austin Utilities.

Austin Utilities continues to offer ways for customers to save on energy costs and ensure energy dollars are spent wisely. AU customer service representatives can provide resources to customers who anticipate having difficulties with their utility bills. Customers may also be eligible for budget billing, which allows for even payments each month. You can contact Austin Utilities at (507) 433-8886 for more information.

Based on the 2026 Rate Report, Austin Utilities' electric, natural gas, and water rates remained comparable among similar utilities. The 2027 Rate Report, which will be published in January, will provide updated comparisons and reflect the utility's continued commitment to balancing affordability, reliability, and long-term infrastructure investment.

####

Austin Utilities is a municipal utility serving approximately 12,300 electric customers, 10,300 natural gas customers, and 9,000 water customers. Their mission is to offer utility products and services in a safe, reliable, and responsible manner in order to enhance the quality of life in our community. For more information on Austin Utilities visit their website at www.austinutilities.com