



# HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

### Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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1. The sponsoring representative's first name:  
Gina
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:  
Johnsen
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.  
n/a
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
City of Portland
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
259 Kent St, Portland, MI 48875
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:  
n/a
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:  
Gina Johnsen, 78th House District
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.  
The purpose of this proposed legislatively directed spending item is to fund critical improvements to the City's wastewater infrastructure in order to protect public health, ensure environmental compliance, and maintain essential municipal services. The project encompasses three major components: replacement of all three municipal lift stations, structural upgrades to the sanitary sewer collection system, and completion of necessary improvements to the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

The lift stations, which include pumps and electric/control systems, have exceeded their useful lifespan and are in urgent need of replacement to avoid service failures and potential environmental harm. The estimated cost of this replacement is \$1,500,000. In addition, the City's Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater (SAW) project in the late 2010s identified several pipe segments in the sanitary collection system that were either structurally deficient or experiencing excessive inflow and infiltration of clean water. These conditions reduce efficiency, increase operating costs, and strain the treatment system's hydraulic capacity. The estimated cost for these collection system improvements is \$3,600,000.

While the City has made significant recent investments in its WWTP, several key items were removed from the scope of the last project due to cost overruns, and others were never included due to budget limitations. These remaining improvements are essential for ensuring long-term system reliability and compliance with regulatory standards. The estimated cost for completing the WWTP work, including final design, bid preparation, and construction, is \$4,100,000.

This proposed legislatively directed spending item would be an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars, as all funding will be directed toward publicly owned infrastructure that supports a core governmental responsibility—sanitary wastewater collection and treatment. These improvements will enhance public health, safeguard the environment, and ensure reliable service delivery for residents. The project is under the jurisdiction of the City and will not provide any private benefit. Accordingly, the appropriation complies fully with Article IV, Section 30 of the Michigan Constitution, which prohibits the use of public funds for private purposes. Every dollar of the appropriation will be spent in furtherance of a legitimate public purpose, consistent with constitutional and statutory obligations.

**9. Attach documents here if needed:**

Attachments added to the end of this file.

**10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.**

9200000

**11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.**

["Federal","State","Local"]

**12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:**

Local unit government

**13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?**

Not applicable

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Not applicable

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Not applicable

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

n/a

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2027

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes



PO Box 12211 · Lansing Michigan 48901 · [mgrow.org](http://mgrow.org) · [mgrow@mgrow.org](mailto:mgrow@mgrow.org)

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April 9, 2025

Andrew Dymczyk, City Manager  
City of Portland  
259 Kent Street  
Portland, Michigan

Dear Mr. Dymczyk,

This letter serves as support for the City of Portland's pursuit to obtain funding for improvements to their Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF). This effort will help protect the quality of the Grand River making it more enjoyable and more safe for citizens from all over the region. MGROW seeks to protect the history and natural resources of the Middle Grand River Watershed.

MGROW was successful in obtaining designation by MDNR of the Middle Grand River Water Trail. Promotion of the Water Trail helps to garner public support for continued protection of our precious water environment. The Water Trail offers people a higher quality of life by providing trusted information for paddling and fishing our local waters. Portland's aging and defective sewage collection and treatment infrastructure threatens the health of Water Trail users, as well as propagation and survival of aquatic organisms.

The City of Portland has been responsible in investigating its infrastructure and identifying problems before serious impairment has occurred. In addition to WRRF improvements, the project includes repair and replacement of sanitary sewers in a variety of areas throughout the city. Cracks and other defects in the sewer pipes allow clean water to infiltrate the system that can overwhelm the WRRF and cause an overflow of untreated or partially treated sewage to the river.

The city applied for a loan and/or grant from the state's clean water revolving fund, but due to inflating costs, needed to reduce the scope of the project. While MGROW recognizes the necessity of the city to avoid exceeding its bond ceiling, it is imperative to find a means for completing all needed correction projects. EGLE has already approved the entire project and its design.

As the umbrella organization serving the people and organizations of the Middle Grand River watershed, we raise awareness of how our actions on land impact both our local waterways and the Great Lakes.

This project has our support.

Let's work together to keep the Great Lakes great and the Grand River grand!

Sincerely,

Fred E. Cowles  
President  
Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds



Andrew Dymczyk  
City Manager  
City of Portland  
259 Kent St.  
Portland, MI 48875  
citymanager@portland-michigan.org

April 11, 2025

The Honorable Gina Johnsen  
N-1097 House Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Johnsen,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Portland to respectfully request your support and advocacy for critical infrastructure investments related to our municipal wastewater system. Specifically, we are seeking assistance for three high-priority needs: wastewater treatment facility upgrades, lift station rehabilitation, and inflow and infiltration (I&I) mitigation efforts.

Our existing wastewater treatment infrastructure, including our treatment plant and lift stations, is aging and increasingly strained by both regulatory demands and population growth. In addition, excessive inflow and infiltration during rain events continues to overwhelm system capacity, causing operational inefficiencies, increased treatment costs, and posing risks of sanitary sewer overflows.

The City's primary concerns and needs include:

- Upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Facility to meet evolving state and federal discharge requirements, increase capacity, and improve overall system performance and energy efficiency.
  - While the City of Portland has recently completed significant repairs to the treatment facility, several key items such as lab improvements, clarifier repairs, UV system improvements, a bypass pump, grit blower and biosolids storage tank mixing system were cut due to financial considerations. These elements have already been designed and remain a community priority.
- Rehabilitation and modernization of lift stations that are operating well beyond their intended service life and experiencing frequent maintenance issues.

- The City's three lift stations were constructed in 1973, 1993 and 2006 and require significant investment to the pumps and electrical control systems. The Rindlehaven lift station was constructed in 2006 to support ongoing development and provide service to the MDOT Rest Area on I-96. This station receives abnormal waste stream due to the nature of the rest area, requiring upgrades to make it more resilient and less prone to chronic maintenance issues as well as premature failure of components.
- Targeted inflow and infiltration corrections to reduce groundwater and stormwater entering the sanitary sewer system, which strains our infrastructure and leads to avoidable treatment costs.
  - During the City's Stormwater, Asset management and Wastewater (SAW) project in the late 2010's, a number of pipe segments were found to be structurally deficient and/or have excessive clean water inflow/infiltration, which adds to operating and maintenance costs for the plant and takes up hydraulic capacity.

Preliminary engineering assessments have identified these improvements as essential to ensuring long-term reliability, environmental compliance, and public health protection. As the "City of Two Rivers" we hold a unique importance on reliable, resilient infrastructure and environmental standards. The estimated total cost of these projects is approximately \$9.2 million, representing a significant burden for a municipality of our size.

We respectfully request your assistance in identifying and securing state funding sources—whether through infrastructure grants, appropriations, or legislative initiatives—that can help our city move forward with these much-needed improvements. We would also welcome the opportunity to provide you with a more detailed briefing or tour of our facilities to demonstrate the urgency of these needs.

Thank you for your continued leadership and support of local governments and infrastructure investment. Your advocacy on this matter will make a meaningful impact for the residents of Portland and the surrounding region.

Sincerely,



Andrew Dymczyk  
City Manager  
City of Portland

**City of Portland**  
**Wastewater System Projects**  
**Engineer's Pre-Design Estimate of Probable Project Costs**



Project No: 1110  
 By: JWM  
 Date: 4/9/2025

ITEM NO.	ITEM DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED AMOUNT
<b>Lift Station Rehabilitation</b>		
1	Riverside Drive Lift Station	\$ 750,000
2	Canal Street Lift Station	\$ 400,000
3	Rindlehaven Lift Station	\$ 350,000
Subtotal Lift Station Rehabilitation		\$ 1,500,000
<b>Collection System Improvements</b>		
1	Center Street Sewer Replacement	\$ 1,350,000
2	West Street Sewer Replacement	\$ 550,000
3	Church Street Sewer Replacement	\$ 550,000
4	Bristie Street Sewer Replacement	\$ 450,000
5	Water Street Sewer Replacement	\$ 700,000
Subtotal Collection System Improvements		\$ 3,600,000
<b>Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements</b>		
1	Lab Improvements	\$ 520,000
2	Clarifier Repairs	\$ 1,240,000
3	Generator	\$ 310,000
4	UV System Improvements	\$ 1,520,000
5	Bypass Pump	\$ 100,000
6	Grit Blower	\$ 60,000
7	Biosolids Storage Tank Mixing System	\$ 350,000
Subtotal Collection System Improvements		\$ 4,100,000
<b>Grand Total Wastewater System Projects</b>		<b>\$ 9,200,000</b>