



# SB 164 / HB 737: Water Privatization Referendum

Senate Bill 164 / House Bill 737 would require a referendum of local voters prior to Illinois American Water or Aqua Illinois acquiring a public water or wastewater system.

State law now permits Illinois American and Aqua to purchase any size system in the state, and the two companies can recover 100 percent of the cost of acquisition – plus profits – from their existing ratepayers.

Since the Illinois Water System Viability Act passed in 2013, the two companies have spent a total of **\$220 million** of ratepayers' dollars on system acquisitions.

When a corporation is going to be sold, their common shareholders vote on whether to accept the sale. Like corporate shareholders, municipality residents are the shareholders in their water system. They deserve to vote before their water system is auctioned off to a private company. SB 164/HB 737 would give them a voice.

Please vote “Yes!” on SB 164/HB 737.

**Aqua Illinois and American Water have spent**  
**\$220 million**  
**on new water system acquisitions since 2013**

**Stock prices for the parent companies of Illinois American Water and Aqua Illinois are trading near all-time highs:**

Market Summary > American Water Works Company Inc  
NYSE: AWK



Market Summary > Essential Utilities Inc  
NYSE: WTRG

