

**City of Lewiston Press Statement  
April 12, 2022**

Mayor Carl L. Sheline is announcing that a Lewiston Water & Sewer Division information notice ([www.lewistonmaine.gov/waternotice](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/waternotice)) about protecting the water quality of Lake Auburn will be included in the next round of Lewiston municipal water bills.

***“As Mayor, I believe it is imperative that our water ratepayers have the facts and information they need to evaluate the risk to our water and the possibility of losing our filtration waiver,”*** notes Sheline.

At a March 21, 2022, press conference, Mayor Sheline shared risks to the watershed surrounding Lake Auburn created by the City of Auburn’s recent zoning and ordinance changes. These changes may affect the water quality of Lake Auburn and the lake could lose its filtration waiver from the Environmental Protection Agency. If that happens, it will necessitate the building of a filtration plant at a cost of \$40-60 million and \$1 million in increased yearly costs. Those costs would negatively impact local ratepayers.

The City of Lewiston has previously sent a demand letter to the Auburn Water District to stop all development in the watershed until a full and comprehensive study of the effects of development in the watershed is complete and until the Maine Department of Health and Human Services has determined, after a review of the study, that development would not have an adverse effect on the conditions for maintaining a waiver from the filtration requirements. The City of Lewiston has also sent a demand letter to the Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission to request that the Auburn Water District uphold their duty to protect the water quality according to their by-laws.

Sheline continues, ***“I am concerned about the hard-working families in our community, older adults on fixed incomes, and businesses that are already burdened. Our residents and businesses won’t benefit from decreased water quality and subsequent higher costs.”***

Lewiston has 9,221 residential water ratepayers and 996 commercial/industrial water ratepayers.

***“I encourage residents and business owners to thoroughly review the Lewiston Water & Sewer Division information and to speak up about any concerns they may have. Our city needs safe, clean, and affordable drinking water. This is the water our kids drink.”***