

Water We Can Trust

The 5th Plymouth Safe Drinking Water Initiative

A practical plan to protect drinking water in Hanson, Hanover, Norwell, and Rockland — and across Massachusetts — by preventing contamination, funding the fix, and keeping water bills affordable.

LORI CHILDS FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 5TH PLYMOUTH DISTRICT

Core Commitment

Every family in Hanson, Hanover, Norwell, and Rockland deserves safe, clean, affordable drinking water — and so does every family in Massachusetts.

No one should have to wonder whether the water coming out of their tap is safe, whether their town can afford the treatment plant it has been ordered to build, or whether there will be enough water in the well at the end of a dry August.

Our four towns are more exposed than most of the state. We are not MWRA communities. We do not have the Quabbin behind us. Nearly every glass of water in this district comes out of the ground under our own feet — local wells, local aquifers, local rivers. That leaves us facing two problems at once: contamination we did not cause, and dry summers we cannot control.

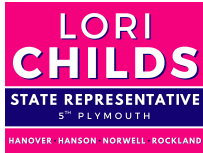
Right now the bill for both is landing almost entirely on local ratepayers. That is the problem this plan is built to fix.

Massachusetts has already become a national leader in regulating PFAS — the "forever chemicals" now found in water systems across the state. The next step is becoming the national leader in preventing contamination, paying for the cleanup fairly, and helping every community afford the infrastructure that keeps water safe.

Two principles guide everything in this plan:

- **Polluters and the Commonwealth first, ratepayers last.** Water is a public health necessity, not a discretionary purchase. When the state sets a standard and hands a small town the bill, the state owns part of that bill.
- **Local control plus state partnership.** Hanson, Hanover, Norwell, and Rockland should keep running their own water departments and setting their own local rules. The state's job is to send money, technical help, and backup — not orders.

The goal is simple: prevent contamination before it becomes a crisis, bring state and settlement dollars home to our towns, and make sure the families who depend on this water can afford it.



Build on What Is Working

Massachusetts has made real progress, and this plan starts there rather than starting over. The Commonwealth has:

- Established one of the nation's first enforceable PFAS drinking water standards — 20 parts per trillion for six combined PFAS compounds, in effect since October 2020.
- Required statewide PFAS monitoring, so communities now know what is in their water.
- Helped municipalities finance treatment through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and the Clean Water Trust.
- Awarded Emerging Contaminant grants — \$14.7 million to 21 public water suppliers, followed by \$10.3 million to 18 more in April 2026, with an additional \$10 million reserved for planning and design.

Those are genuine accomplishments. But the state set the standard and then largely left towns to figure out how to pay for it.

Massachusetts knows how to find PFAS. What we still need is a statewide strategy to remove it, prevent the next contaminant, and help every community afford the infrastructure that keeps drinking water safe.

As of a January 2026 state program update, 177 of 1,418 tested public water systems statewide exceeded the 20 ppt PFAS6 standard. On the South Shore specifically, an investigation of 20 water systems found 16 of them above the stricter federal 4 ppt limit for PFOA or PFOS in at least one source, with regional treatment costs already exceeding \$200 million and approaching \$350 million once broader upgrades are counted.

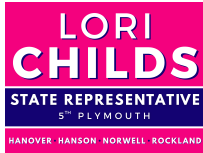
This is not a handful of unlucky towns. It is a statewide funding problem that local action alone cannot solve.

What Success Looks Like: The Rockland Model

One of the clearest success stories in Massachusetts happened right here in this district.

After PFAS was discovered in 2019, the Abington-Rockland Joint Water Works did not wait for regulations to force action. The utility:

- Began testing before state requirements took effect.
- Partnered with MassDEP to evaluate treatment options.
- Piloted Granular Activated Carbon treatment at the Myers Avenue plant starting in September 2020.
- Secured a \$26 million interest-free State Revolving Fund loan, split evenly between Abington and Rockland.
- Leveraged \$1 million in ARPA funds, a \$2.2 million MassWorks grant, and a \$132,965 emergency PFAS grant.
- Built permanent treatment using current filtration technology.



The Result

As of June 2026, the Hannigan Water Treatment Plant has brought PFAS6 levels down to non-detect — below laboratory detection limits, and far below the Massachusetts standard.

Rockland proved that a community can eliminate PFAS contamination when it has the right partners, the right financing, and the right technology.

And the Warning in the Same Story

Treatment solved the contamination problem. It did not solve the supply problem. On July 31, 2026, MassDEP declared a Water Supply Emergency for the Abington-Rockland Joint Water Works after two consecutive years of below-normal precipitation, banning all non-essential outdoor water use. Rockland was already under a Level 4 total irrigation ban posted July 9, and had been under a boil-water order in May 2025.

Clean water and enough water are two different fights. This plan takes on both.

The goal of this plan: make the Rockland treatment model available to every community in Massachusetts — and make sure no community is one failed well or one dry summer away from an emergency.

What a State Representative Can and Cannot Do

This plan does not promise things the job does not come with. Here is the honest scope.

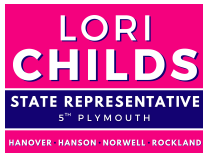
A State Representative can

- File and cosponsor legislation, and vote on it.
- File budget amendments and capital earmarks for specific district water projects.
- Push a bill out of committee, testify at hearings, and organize the South Shore delegation to move as a bloc.
- Demand oversight hearings of MassDEP, the Clean Water Trust, and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.
- Submit legislative comment in Department of Public Utilities rate proceedings.
- Do casework — helping a town chase a grant, unstick a permit, or get a straight answer out of an agency.

A State Representative cannot

- Set MassDEP's drinking water standards alone, or write agency regulations.
- Set local water rates, run a town water department, or overrule Town Meeting.
- Set federal EPA rules, or force a settlement out of a chemical manufacturer.
- Order the MWRA to admit a community.

Everything that follows stays inside the first list.



One Package, One Vote

Good water bills have a habit of dying alone in committee. Rather than repeat that, Lori will push to bundle the drought, PFAS, infrastructure, and affordability bills into a single named package — a Massachusetts Water Security and Affordability Act — in the 195th General Court, the session that begins in January 2027, so they move together and get a recorded vote instead of a quiet death at a reporting deadline.

NOTE: The 194th General Court ends in 2026. Any bill not enacted this year must be refiled from scratch, and the numbers change. Where this plan names H.1003, H.1022, or S.3034, it means those bills and their successors.

Pillar 1: Make Polluters Pay Before Ratepayers Do

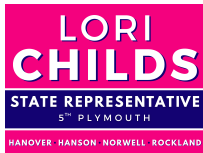
Chemical companies made PFAS. They did not pay to take it out of our wells. Local families did not put these chemicals in the ground, and in some towns the ratepayer share of the cleanup is close to all of it.

What

- **Pass the PFAS Remediation Trust Fund.** The current vehicle, S.3034, would create a dedicated fund to help municipalities, public water systems, and private well owners cover PFAS treatment costs. Lori will cosponsor its successor on day one and press for a floor vote rather than another committee extension.
- **Route settlement money to the communities that were contaminated.** Massachusetts is a party to national PFAS manufacturer settlements — up to \$10.3 billion from 3M over 13 years, plus \$1.185 billion from DuPont, Chemours, and Corteva. Lori will support statutory language directing those proceeds into the trust fund under a published allocation formula, not case-by-case discretion.
- **Restore real principal forgiveness, not just cheaper debt.** Massachusetts ended 0% interest PFAS loans in 2026 in favor of 2% financing with partial principal forgiveness for some communities. A loan is still a bill ratepayers pay back. Lori will fight to restore zero-interest terms and expand principal forgiveness where the treatment cost per household is highest.
- **Strengthen the Commonwealth's hand against polluters.** Expand state authority to recover cleanup and treatment costs and natural resource damages, require long-term monitoring, and require responsible parties to provide alternative drinking water when a source goes offline.
- **Stop forcing towns onto debt-only options.** No community should be told its only path to compliance is a 30-year loan repaid on the water bill.

What This Means Here

The state's own Drinking Water SRF plans put Hanover's PFAS project at \$17.33 million, Norwell's Washington Street plant at \$17.85 million, and the ARJWW Hannigan and Myers Avenue work at \$13.34 million. Reporting has placed Hanover's full mitigation program in the \$28 to \$32 million range once broader upgrades are included, with roughly 97% of the cost falling on ratepayers.



Norwell has a \$2.34 million SRF loan under construction against a treatment cost cited at \$18 million. Abington and Rockland split a \$26 million interest-free loan.

That is real help — and it still leaves a large gap on the ratepayer side of the ledger. Closing that gap is the job.

And Hanson is about to need it.

Hanson has no state PFAS violation today, and its water is safe under current Massachusetts law. But federal testing of the Crystal Springs blend on September 17, 2025 found PFOA at 5.6 parts per trillion and PFOS at 4.0. That is comfortably under the Massachusetts standard of 20 ppt for six combined compounds, and at or above the federal limit of 4 ppt for each of those two compounds individually. When the federal rule takes effect, Hanson lands on the wrong side of it. Hanson should be planning and funding now, not scrambling later.

Why

A low-interest loan can help a town start a project, but it is still a bill that local families repay every quarter. When contamination requires tens of millions of dollars in treatment, the state and the responsible companies should carry the larger share.

Polluters and Beacon Hill should pay more. Local ratepayers should pay less.

Pillar 2: Bring the State Money Home

There is money at the state level for water infrastructure. Small towns without a full-time grants office lose out to bigger cities that have one. Safe drinking water should not depend on the size of a town's tax base or the size of its staff.

What

- **Pass the water infrastructure bill.** H.1022 and its successor propose roughly \$3 billion in water, sewer, and stormwater investment, including \$200 million a year in general water infrastructure grants for main replacement and tank repair, \$138 million for the Clean Water Trust, expanded State Revolving Fund contract assistance, MWRA expansion support for PFAS-affected communities, and a water sector workforce grant program.
- **Create shared grant-writing capacity for small water departments.** A state-funded circuit-rider or shared-consultant program, so a part-time superintendent in Hanson or Norwell is not competing against a big-city grants staff on a deadline.
- **File district capital earmarks every year.** Named budget and bond amendments for 5th Plymouth water projects — with public reporting on what was requested and what was received, win or lose.
- **Expand grants and low-interest financing across the board** — for treatment systems, engineering and design, pilot projects, groundwater remediation, source water protection, regional partnerships, emergency supplies, and infrastructure modernization — with priority for projects that lower long-term ratepayer costs.

- **Fix the leaks before buying more water.** Every Water Management Act permit in this district already caps unaccounted-for water at 10%. Leak detection and main replacement are the cheapest gallons available, and state grant criteria should reward them.
- **Stop treating a \$25,000 earmark as water policy.** In the most recent earmark round, ARJWW received \$50,000 for PFAS treatment and Hanover and Norwell \$25,000 each — against projects of \$13.34 million, \$17.33 million, and \$17.85 million in the state’s own funding plans.
- **Get Hanson into the funding stream at all.** Across every Drinking Water SRF Intended Use Plan from 2020 through 2026, the PFAS zero-interest loan list, the Emerging Contaminant grant rounds, and the One Stop awards, Hanson does not appear once for drinking water. Its water capital is being paid for out of local funds.

What This Means Here

Here is what the four towns have actually received for drinking water so far:

Town	State and federal water funding secured	Project scale
Hanover	Up to \$15M SRF financing; ~\$1M PFAS settlement; \$25,000 Emerging Contaminant grant; \$25,000 earmark	\$17.33M in state SRF plan; ~97% ratepayer share reported
Norwell	SRF loan DW-23-52, \$2.34M, under construction; \$25,000 earmark	\$17.85M Washington Street treatment plant
Rockland (via ARJWW, shared with Abington)	\$26M interest-free SRF loan; \$1M ARPA; \$2.2M MassWorks; \$132,965 emergency PFAS grant; \$50,000 earmark	\$13.34M Hannigan and Myers Avenue treatment
Hanson	No state drinking-water award found, 2020 through 2026	PFOA at 5.6 ppt in federal testing; planning not yet funded

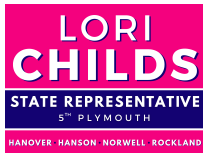
Why

Every gallon lost through an aging pipe is water a town has already paid to treat and deliver. Investing early in leak repair, modern equipment, and reliable infrastructure costs far less than waiting for a system failure or an emergency.

Safe drinking water should not depend on a community’s tax base — or on whether it has someone available to write the grant.

Pillar 3: More Than One Straw in the Ground

No community should be one failed well, one contamination event, or one dry summer away from a water emergency.



Every town in this district depends on groundwater with no large reservoir behind it. When a well goes down, there is not much fallback. Hanover, Norwell, and Rockland are among seven South Shore communities studying whether to join the MWRA. Hanson, which supplements its Crystal Spring wellfield with wholesale water from Brockton, is not part of that study.

What

- **Keep the MWRA door open on the South Shore.** H.1022 explicitly includes MWRA expansion support for PFAS-affected communities. Lori will fight to make that a standing, expedited pathway rather than a closing window — and to keep connection costs from falling entirely on the joining town's ratepayers.
- **Require and fund emergency interconnections.** Every public water system above a set size should maintain at least one emergency connection to a neighboring system, with state funding and technical assistance to build it.
- **Fund local resilience too.** Wells, treatment facilities, storage tanks, and system redundancy, so towns that do not join a regional system still have backup.
- **Give towns honest regional planning.** State-supported studies that tell communities the truth about their long-term water needs and what each option actually costs.
- **Bring Hanson to the table.** Hanson is absent from every South Shore regional study list found. Lori will make sure Hanson has a seat on every regional water conversation affecting this district.
- **Keep the decision local.** Whether to connect to another system or join the MWRA is a Town Meeting question. The representative's job is to make sure the option is real, the numbers are honest, and the state pays its share if a town says yes.

What This Means Here

This is not hypothetical. In July 2026, Hanover's Select Board took up connecting to the MWRA through Weymouth's allocation — 8 to 13 miles of new water main and more than \$100 million for the multi-town extension, against a combined peak-day deficit of 2.1 million gallons per day across Hanover, Hingham, Hull, Abington, Rockland, Norwell, Scituate, and Cohasset. Hanover alone projects a 320,000 gallon per day shortfall, rising to 400,000 if it lost its largest well pump on a holiday weekend.

A hundred-million-dollar regional project either gets state help, or it lands on eight towns' water bills. That is decided on Beacon Hill.

Why

Local control requires real options.

A regional connection can cost far more than any one community can reasonably carry alone. The state should make backup possible instead of leaving families with the entire bill.

Pillar 4: Drought Rules That Do Not Stop at the Town Line

Water does not recognize town boundaries. Under current law, when the state declares a drought it can only recommend restrictions — enforcement is left to a patchwork of local bylaws and individual

permit conditions. So one town can ban all outdoor watering while the town next door, drawing from the same aquifer, operates under weaker rules.

What

- **Pass the Drought Management Act.** H.1003 and its successor would put the Drought Management Task Force into statute and give the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs real authority during a declared drought. Lori will cosponsor it and push for the amendment that makes regional restrictions binding at Level 2 (Significant) and Level 3 (Critical) instead of advisory — coordinated with municipalities, not imposed over them.
- **Close the 1985 registration loophole — fairly, at renewal.** The Water Management Act grandfathered pre-1985 withdrawals as registrations exempt from the conservation and drought conditions that apply to newer permits. A December 2023 Suffolk Superior Court ruling upheld MassDEP’s authority to attach outdoor watering conditions to registrants at renewal. Lori will support writing that into statute, applied at the next scheduled renewal rather than retroactively, so no town gets blindsided mid-cycle.
- **Attach state funding to any new requirement.** If Beacon Hill tells a town to meter more, restrict more, or report more, Beacon Hill funds it.
- **Invest in conservation that works.** Stronger leak detection, conservation planning, and grant criteria that reward the towns already doing this well.
- **Update water planning for the climate we actually have.** Hotter summers and changing rainfall patterns, not twentieth-century averages.

What This Means Here

Four towns, four different rulebooks, one shared water table. This is what our communities were living under in summer 2026:

Town	Summer 2026 outdoor watering rule	Penalty
Rockland (ARJWW)	Level 4 — all non-essential outdoor water use prohibited, under a MassDEP Water Supply Emergency Declaration	Not published
Hanson	Hand-held hose only, 7 to 9 a.m. and 5 to 7 p.m.; sprinklers and in-ground irrigation banned	Not published
Hanover	Odd/even days, hand-held hoses only, under Town Bylaw 6-24	\$50 first offense, \$100 after
Norwell	Tier 2 restrictions — sprinklers limited to two days a week by odd/even address	Not published

Hanson's own state permit only requires two days a week outside of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The town went considerably further on its own. Our towns are already doing the responsible thing — voluntarily and unevenly — while a total ban in one town does nothing about a sprinkler running two streets over.

Why

The Southeast region, which includes all four towns, sat at Level 2 Significant Drought in early 2026 and remained at Level 1 Mild Drought as of August 7, 2026, after consecutive below-average rainfall years.

Families are doing their part. The state must make sure communities sharing the same water follow fair, consistent rules — and have the funding to meet them.

Pillar 5: Water Bills Families Can Actually Afford

Water is a necessity, and a shutoff is not like losing cable. No family should have to choose between the water bill and another basic need. Federal help for low-income households behind on their water bills ended permanently in March 2024 — it had served nearly 36,000 Massachusetts households and prevented 8,717 disconnections — and Massachusetts never replaced it.

What

- **Create a permanent, state-funded low-income water assistance program**, delivered through the same 20 Local Administering Agencies that already run fuel assistance, so no new bureaucracy is needed and seniors can apply in one place.
- **Publish what people actually pay.** Require every public water supplier to post a plain-language current rate schedule and a typical annual household bill.
- **Require an affordability review before every major rate increase** driven by treatment or capital costs, showing the dollar impact on a median household and on a senior on a fixed income — before it takes effect, not after.
- **Protect vulnerable households from shutoff.** Stronger safeguards for households with seniors, veterans, young children, or documented medical needs, and a required payment-plan offer before any disconnection.

What This Means Here

Rockland households pay \$8.00 per 100 cubic feet plus a \$33.00 quarterly service charge and a \$10.00 meter charge — roughly \$836 a year at the town's own stated average usage. Norwell's schedule runs from \$5.65 to \$18.50 per 1,000 gallons depending on tier, plus a quarterly service charge. Hanover and Hanson have no current rate schedule posted publicly at all.

For regional context, neighboring Duxbury's average annual household bill was reported at roughly \$379 in 2025, projected to reach \$823 by 2028 because of a \$43 million PFAS treatment plant — its first increase since 2010. That is what an unfunded treatment mandate looks like on a household bill.

Why

PFAS treatment and major infrastructure repairs can drive steep rate increases. Families deserve clear information before those increases hit, and real help when the cost becomes unaffordable.

Water should be safe and reliable for everyone — not only for the households that can absorb a sudden increase.

Pillar 6: Protect Groundwater and the Rivers That Refill Our Wells

The cheapest way to lower treatment costs is to keep contamination out of the ground in the first place. And our drinking water and our rivers come from the same place: when summer streamflow collapses, it is usually a sign the aquifer under our wells is being drawn down faster than it refills.

What

- **Expand groundwater monitoring near likely contamination sources** — airports, military facilities, industrial properties, landfills, wastewater treatment facilities, sludge application sites, and known contaminated properties.
- **Strengthen cleanup standards** where contamination threatens a public drinking water supply, so a plume gets addressed before it reaches a public well.
- **Fund stormwater recharge and green infrastructure** through the Clean Water Trust and MassDEP grant criteria, so rain that used to soak into the ground and refill our aquifers stops running off pavement straight into the river.
- **Get better data on what is actually being withdrawn.** Extend metering and standardized public annual-use reporting below the current 100,000 gallon per day permit threshold, so we understand the cumulative effect of withdrawals nobody currently counts.
- **Recalculate safe yield for the climate we have.** Withdrawal limits should be set against projected drier summers, not twentieth-century rainfall averages.
- **Protect and restore the systems that recharge our aquifers** — recharge areas, rivers, wetlands, and streams — including the dam removal and river restoration work already underway on the Indian Head and North Rivers.

What This Means Here

MassDEP rates groundwater withdrawal impact on August streamflow on a five-level scale, and the highest category means withdrawals exceed 55% of the August median flow. The North and South Rivers Watershed Association reports that many local tributaries with town wells in their basins sit at that highest level of stress; one Norwell subbasin shows August net groundwater depletion of 151.9%. Hanover and Norwell were the subject of an initial modeling contract on water management strategies affecting Third Herring Brook. On the Hanson side, the Taunton River Watershed Project found that 74 of 108 sub-watersheds — about 69% — carry water deficits relative to natural flow conditions.

Why

Cleaning up contamination before it spreads is far less expensive than treating drinking water after it reaches a public well. And a river that runs dry in August is an early warning about the wells beside it.

Pillar 7: Do Not Leave Private Well Owners or Local Farms Behind

If you are on a private well, nobody is testing your water for you. MassDEP does not regulate private wells, and the state only recommends testing — there is no requirement and no automatic help. More than 500,000 Massachusetts residents rely on private wells.

The state ran a free private-well PFAS testing program from 2020 to 2022, but limited it to the 81 towns where 60% or more of residents rely on wells. In Plymouth County that meant Carver, Lakeville, Plympton, and Rochester. None of our four towns qualified — not because our well households are safe, but because our towns are mostly on public water. Hanover is roughly 98% public supply, and Hanson's system serves about 94% of residents. A household drawing from a private well a quarter mile from a plant in violation got nothing, because of a town-wide percentage that has nothing to do with their water. That is the gap.

What

- **Reopen and expand free PFAS testing for private wells**, with eligibility based on proximity to known contamination and household income — not on what share of your town happens to be on wells.
- **Provide treatment cost assistance to private well owners** through the PFAS Remediation Trust Fund. The bill already contemplates well owners, and that provision needs to survive.
- **Fund filtration, emergency drinking water, and public-water connections** where connecting a home is the better long-term answer, with priority for low-income households.
- **Do point-of-sale disclosure right.** Buyers should receive well test results before closing, with testing treated as a standard transaction cost rather than a surprise for the seller.
- **Protect local farms and food production.** Following models used in states like Maine, support soil testing, irrigation well testing, livestock testing, remediation planning, technical assistance, and financial recovery for growers whose land was contaminated by historic practices they did not choose.

Why

Private well owners should not be on their own simply because they sit outside a public system — and a neglected or contaminated well affects the shared groundwater, not just one household. Protecting farms protects local food production, rural economies, and public health at the same time.

Everyone deserves safe drinking water, regardless of where they live or which pipe it comes through.

Pillar 8: Stay Ahead of the Next Contaminant

PFAS will not be the last contaminant our communities face. Rather than passing a new law every time science identifies another chemical, Massachusetts should build one permanent system for finding problems early and solving them together.

What

- **Create a Massachusetts Safe Drinking Water Partnership.** A permanent statewide partnership coordinating drinking water protection, groundwater protection, contamination response, municipal technical assistance, emergency planning, and public education — built on existing agencies, with less duplication and one clear place for a town to call.
- **Establish a Water Quality Innovation Council.** Universities, municipal water and wastewater systems, environmental engineers, public health experts, environmental organizations, organized labor, business leaders, municipal officials, and environmental justice representatives — charged with evaluating emerging contaminants, recommending treatment technologies and standards updates, setting research priorities, advising the Legislature, and publishing a statewide innovation report every two years.
- **Expand monitoring and planning to the next generation of contaminants:** PFAS, perchlorate, 1,4-dioxane, microplastics, pharmaceutical residues, endocrine-disrupting compounds, and whatever scientific review identifies next.
- **Build a statewide contaminant dashboard** so any resident or water department can see current testing and treatment information in one place.

Why

Science moves faster than the legislative calendar. One permanent framework is more effective — and far cheaper — than a new bill filed after each new chemical makes the news. Massachusetts should lead drinking water innovation rather than react to the next crisis.

Pillar 9: Accountability the Public Can See

Residents deserve clear answers about what is in their water, what local projects cost, and whether Beacon Hill is doing its share — without filing a public records request.

What

- **Publish an annual 5th Plymouth Water Report** in plain English: PFAS testing and treatment updates by plant, current drought status and restrictions, rate changes and typical household costs, major infrastructure projects and expected costs, every state dollar that came into our four towns, and every dollar requested — including the requests that were denied.
- **Build a public statewide dashboard** of PFAS exceedances, treatment status, and ratepayer cost per household by system, so no town finds out from a neighbor's social media post.

- **Apply environmental justice screening** to Water Management Act permits and registration renewals, so it is visible when one community's water is exported while another absorbs the streamflow loss.
- **Hold oversight hearings** on the Clean Water Trust and MassDEP's Emerging Contaminant program, including how principal forgiveness is awarded and why.

Why

People should not have to hunt through agency websites, social media posts, or public records requests to understand the condition of their own water system.

Public information builds trust, and accountability is how small communities avoid being forgotten.

Timeline

First 6 Months

- File or cosponsor the refiled drought management, PFAS trust fund, and water infrastructure bills as one Water Security and Affordability package.
- Meet with water departments, town leaders, and regional partners in all four communities.
- Identify the district's highest-priority treatment and infrastructure needs, including Hanson's unfunded planning gap.
- File the first round of district budget and capital funding requests.
- Convene the Safe Drinking Water Partnership and stand up the Water Quality Innovation Council.
- Begin a statewide drinking water and groundwater inventory and set emerging contaminant priorities.

6 to 12 Months

- Publish the first annual 5th Plymouth Water Report.
- Push the package for a hearing and a committee vote instead of another reporting-deadline extension.
- Launch the statewide contaminant dashboard and expand municipal technical assistance.
- Stand up shared grant-writing support for small water departments.
- Open competitive infrastructure grants and pilot projects, and publish the first statewide emerging contaminants report.
- Organize regional conversations on drought response and long-term water reliability.

Year 2

- Continue annual district water funding requests and report publicly on what was won and lost.
- Advance the affordability program and private well assistance.
- Evaluate treatment outcomes and expand the partnerships that worked.
- Update contaminant priorities based on scientific review.
- Build a stronger South Shore coalition for regional water reliability and fair state investment.

What This Realistically Delivers

No overpromising. Here is the honest range.

- **Within 12 months:** the refiled drought, PFAS trust fund, and water infrastructure bills cosponsored and pushed for a real committee vote. First district capital earmarks filed. First annual water report published.
- **Within 24 months:** a realistic shot at enacting the PFAS Remediation Trust Fund — the furthest along of the three, having reached Senate Ways and Means in April 2026 — and at binding regional drought authority. A state low-income water assistance program is a budget fight, which means it is winnable in a single session if the votes are organized.
- **Within 5 years:** a meaningful reduction in the ratepayer share of PFAS treatment costs in Hanover, Norwell, and Rockland; a funded MWRA pathway if our towns choose it; funded planning in Hanson before the federal standard bites; and streamflow standards that reflect the climate we actually have.

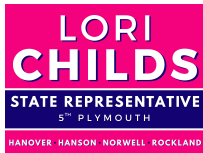
What this does not do: it does not make PFAS treatment free, it does not lower anyone's water bill next quarter, and it does not end drought. It changes who pays, and it gives our towns backup they do not have today. Meaningful, not magic.

Outcomes

- Safer drinking water in the 5th Plymouth District and across Massachusetts.
- Earlier detection of contamination, before it becomes a public health crisis.
- More state and settlement funding flowing to local water projects — including Hanson.
- Less of the PFAS treatment burden falling on ratepayers.
- Lower long-term infrastructure costs through prevention, leak repair, and modernization.
- Stronger groundwater and streamflow protection.
- Reliable backup supply and emergency interconnections for every community.
- Real protection and testing help for private well owners and local farms.
- Transparent rates, testing results, and project costs that residents can actually find.
- Continued Massachusetts leadership in clean drinking water innovation.

Why This Plan Works

- It builds on a proven Massachusetts success — the Abington-Rockland Joint Water Works — rather than starting from theory.
- It prevents contamination instead of only reacting to it.
- It supports municipalities before infrastructure failures become emergencies.
- It respects local control while demanding a stronger state partnership.
- It puts prevention, infrastructure, affordability, and accountability in the same plan, and pushes them as one package so they rise or fall together.



- It creates one permanent framework capable of handling today's contaminants and tomorrow's.
- It is honest about what a State Representative can deliver, and specific about what it will take.
- It puts the families who depend on this water — not bureaucracy — at the center of the policy.

The Bottom Line

Clean water is not a luxury. It is one of the most basic things a community provides, and the one thing every household — renter or homeowner, senior or young family — pays for and depends on every single day.

Safe drinking water is a public health issue, an affordability issue, an infrastructure issue, and — for four towns sitting on their own groundwater with no reservoir behind them — a security issue.

Our neighbors did not put PFAS in the aquifer. They did not cause two dry years in a row. But they are the ones getting the bill.

Beacon Hill has the bills drafted. It has settlement money coming in. It has a Clean Water Trust and a State Revolving Fund. What it has not had is a representative from this district who makes water the fight they show up for every session until it passes.

Massachusetts has already shown that a community can eliminate PFAS contamination when it has the right tools and support. The next step is making sure every city and town has that same chance — starting with Hanson, Hanover, Norwell, and Rockland.

Safe, affordable, reliable water is not too much to ask. It is what every family deserves.

Sources

Every figure in this plan is drawn from the following primary and authoritative sources.

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- *Mass.gov — Drought Status; Drought Management in Massachusetts; History of Drought Declarations*
- *Mass.gov — Water Management Act Registration and Permitting Fact Sheet*
- *2023 and 2025 Final Drinking Water SRF Intended Use Plans, and Draft 2026 Intended Use Plan, MassDEP*
- *MassDEP PFAS zero-interest loan list, July 2024*
- *Chapter 268 earmarks, Commonwealth of Massachusetts*
- *EPA UCMR5 occurrence data (Crystal Springs blend, September 17, 2025)*
- *Hanover Water Division — PFAS Overview, Town of Hanover; Town Bylaw 6-24 outdoor watering restrictions*
- *Norwell PFAS6 Public Notices, Q4 2024 and Q1 2026, Norwell Water Department; Norwell rate sheet effective July 1, 2024*
- *Hanson Water System Master Plan, 2018; Final WMA Permit for the Town of Hanson (9P4-25-123.01)*
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- *South Shore News — "What's in the Water: A South Shore Investigation," Parts 1 and 2; "Hanover Advances \$28 Million PFAS Plan"; "Hanover Explores Long-Term MWRA Water"*
- *South Shore Times — "Summer Water Bans Begin Across South Shore Towns"*
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- *Bills H.1003, H.1022 / S.563, and S.1504 / S.3034, 194th General Court, malegislature.gov*
- *ACEC/MA written testimony in support of H.1022 / S.563, June 9, 2025*
- *ACF LIHWAP Final Impact and Implementation Report, U.S. Administration for Children and Families*
- *Mass.gov — Massachusetts Climate Change Projections*