



Protecting Our Water

Suffolk County sits atop a sole source aquifer which is the only source of drinking water for residents and visitors.

Aquatic recreation and tourism are critically important to both our economy and our quality of life.

- \$750 million in beach related economic activity
- \$500 million in boating expenditures
- \$41 million in commercial fishing
- Marine related enterprises support over 35,000 local jobs
- All tourism-related economic activity featuring surface waters account for a total \$3.2 billion to the Long Island region annually



And yet...

Because only 25% of Suffolk County is connected to sewers and most other properties discharge waste into failing cesspools, our ground water and our surface waters are under assault, leading to beach closings, fish kills and potential health risks.

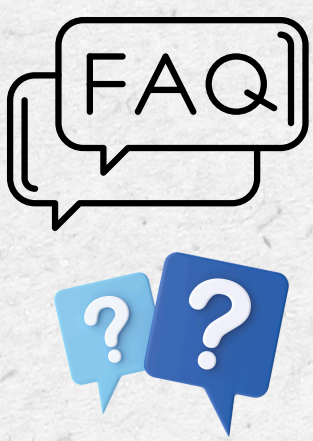
Making matters worse...

When our ecosystems fail, the resiliency of our coastal communities are impacted making our coastal communities more vulnerable to flooding caused by extreme weather and threatening property values.



With Your Help, There Is Hope!

Working with the Suffolk County Legislature and partners in State government, County Executive Ed Romaine has crafted a plan which, if approved by the voters in November, will provide Suffolk County with vital financial resources to install sewers where appropriate, and install highly effective “Innovative Alternative On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems” (I/A OWTS) in areas where sewers are impractical.



What is an I/A OWTS?

Think of it as a self-contained personal sewage treatment system installed on a property in place of a traditional cesspool which removes 70%-80% of harmful contaminants from wastewater. Traditional cesspools, if operating properly, allow these contaminants to slowly seep into the ground with no filtration whatsoever.

What will we be voting on?



Voters across Suffolk County will vote on a referendum which will create a water quality restoration fund and authorize an additional 1/8% of sales tax. The revenue from this additional sales tax will be used to fund sewer and I/A OWTS infrastructure through either direct funding or through grants to property owners.

What else will the referendum do?

This bill will also provide Suffolk County with the authority to create a county-wide wastewater management district. Consolidating existing sewer districts with unsewered areas of the county will provide an integrated approach to managing wastewater services and impacts, making wastewater management more efficient and effective throughout the County.

The Long Island Advanced Septic Association (LIASA) was created by industry professionals to help educate stakeholders, be they government officials, professionals or the general public. If you would like more information on the Association, have general questions about I/A systems or about the referendum, please visit www.liasa.info, or call us at 1-800-737-5851.