



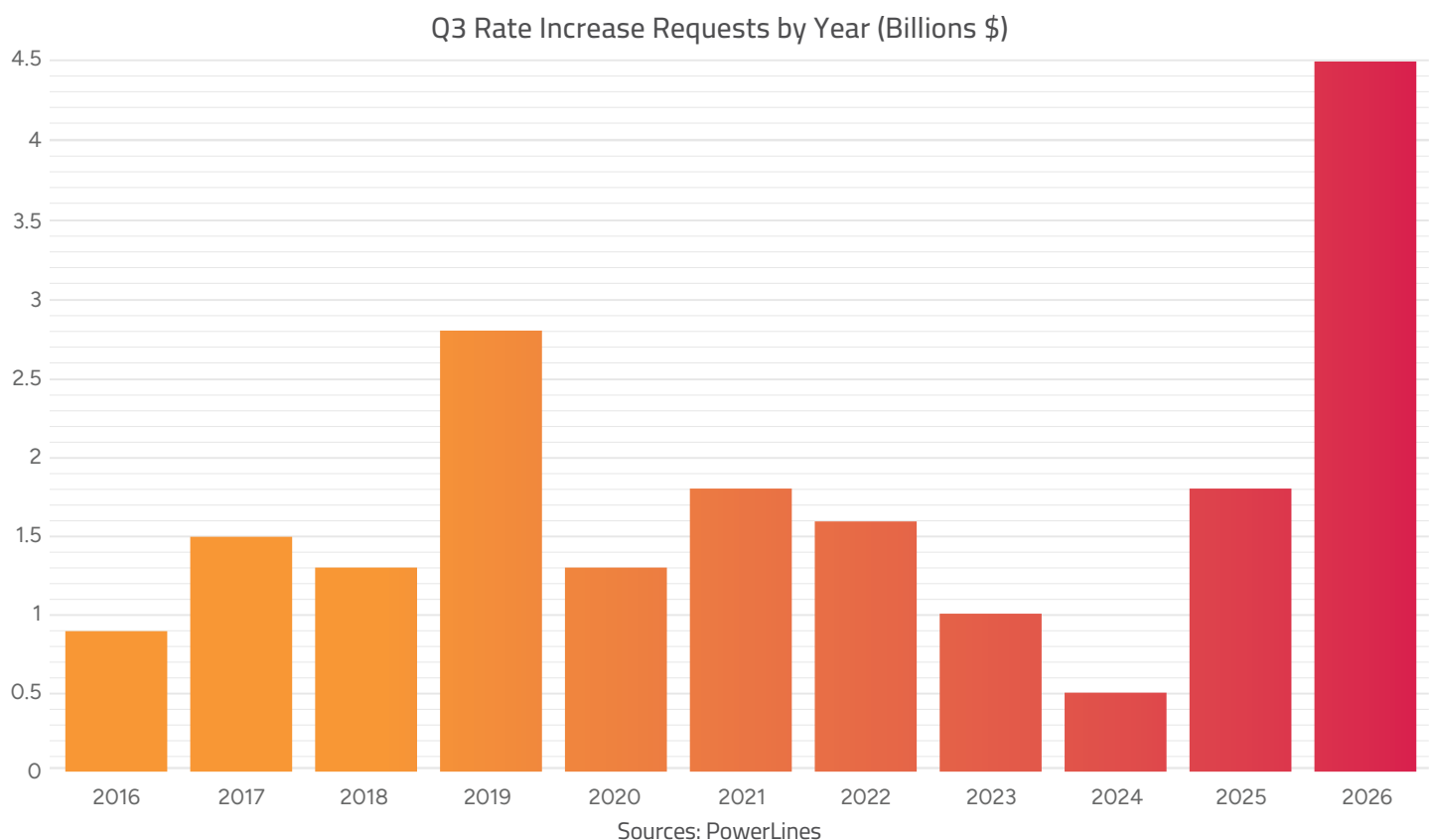
UTILITY BILLS ARE RISING

Q3 2026

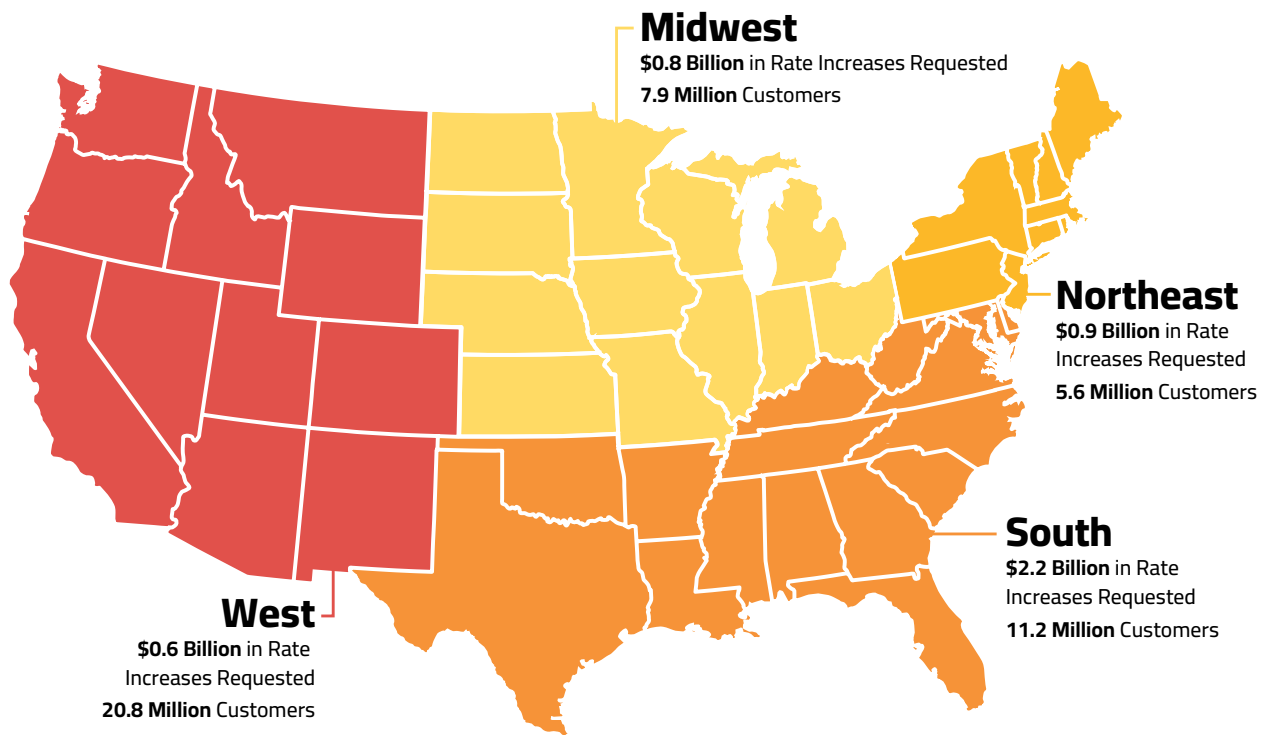
Utilities have requested \$23.1 billion in rate increases in 2026, including \$4.5 billion in the third quarter alone.

Electric and gas utilities have requested \$23.1 billion in rate increase requests this year. In the third quarter alone, companies asked for a combined \$4.5 billion, making it the highest third quarter on record for rate requests. The proposed Q3 rate increases could lead to higher costs for more than 45.5 million customers.

This quarter's rate increase requests reflect an ongoing rise in utility costs that is increasing customer bills. Investor-owned utilities are planning to spend [at least \\$1.4 trillion](#) in capital expenditures (CapEx) through 2030, which could be felt for years to come through future rate increase requests. In March, polling found [more than 2 in 3 consumers reported](#) their electric or gas bill has increased since last year—and 4 in 5 believe they are powerless to control how much they are charged for utility services.



Q3 2026 Rate Increase Requests Could Affect 45.5 Million Customers



Source: Individual sources can be found in the **Appendix**.

Rate Requests by Region

Utilities in the South requested the highest amount of rate increases this quarter, at \$2.2 billion—bringing the region to \$9 billion in total rate increase requests so far in 2026. Northeast utilities requested the second-highest amount, at \$0.9 billion, followed by the Midwest (\$0.8 billion) and the West (\$0.6 billion).

The single biggest rate request came from New Jersey utility Jersey Central Power & Light, which asked regulators for a \$700 million increase that includes a rise in base distribution rates and delayed recovery of previously incurred storm costs. Jersey Central's proposal [would hike individual consumer bills](#) an estimated \$170 per year. Notably, New Jersey

regulators are under a directive from the state's governor to consider pausing new rate increases—though that does not prohibit the utility from filing new requests, and, if approved, the current proposal would not hit consumer wallets until 2028.

In the South, Dominion Energy Virginia requested to raise rates another \$500 million for distribution system upgrades, which [would equate to an extra \\$3.46 per month](#) for residential customers. Virginia residential consumers have already seen average monthly bills rise more than \$50 in five years, and Dominion alone has proposed spending \$54.8 billion in capital expenditures through 2030.

What can elected officials do to combat rising energy costs?

Elected officials, including governors and state lawmakers, hold significant power over how much consumers ultimately pay on their power bills. Despite this, consumers widely believe their government officials have little to no control over how much energy costs rise. In fact, nearly two in three Americans feel their energy costs will rise no matter what their elected officials do.

But in 36 states, the governor has the authority to appoint members of the state's public utilities commission (PUC) who ultimately decide whether or how much a utility can charge consumers on their electric and gas bills. Another 10 states elect those commissioners directly, while two others appoint them via the state legislature. Two states provide for a mix of Governor and legislative appointments. This gives elected officials enormous leverage over who decides how much individual consumers are paying each month.

As PowerLines has detailed in its [Playbook for Governors](#), governors have wide latitude to:

- 1 Build a strong working relationship with the PUC.
- 2 Leverage the bully pulpit to speak on behalf of consumers.
- 3 Prioritize PUC and related appointments through a consumer lens.
- 4 Create a utility affordability plan and release a targeted legislative agenda.
- 5 Hit the ground running with well-scoped, consumer-centric executive actions.
- 6 Engage with regional and federal stakeholders.

These strategic tactics represent a key opportunity for state officials across the country to show they are willing to take action to tackle rising energy costs.



Spotlight on Consumers: Indiana and Michigan

PowerLines has spoken to consumers across the country who are feeling the profound effects of rising energy costs in their daily lives. Here are a few of their stories.



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Do regulators understand that this is what these big companies are doing? They need to look at the extras that energy companies are adding on to the bill.

Indiana

Pat Pounds is a farmer in Terre Haute, Indiana, who attended a listening session hosted by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) after he noticed new, unexplained fees on his bill. The IURC hosted a series of hearings this spring as rising energy rates have sent utility bills skyrocketing and led to enormous backlash from consumers and elected officials in the state.

He told the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission that although his per-kilowatt-hour rates haven't risen, he's seen a dramatic increase in his bills because of extra fees. Utilities can add charges outside of rates to bills to cover things like fuel, transmission, and environmental compliance.

Pounds feels the commission is failing to understand that bills are rising despite rates staying the same. He said the IURC needs to take a closer look at the fees gas and electric utilities are charging, rather than only focusing on the cost of electricity or fuel rates.

“Do regulators understand that this is what these big companies are doing?” he said. “They need to look at the extras that energy companies are adding on to the bill. All the surcharges. They start adding it all up and it just doubles your bill.”



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Rising utility costs place an immense, compounding burden on working families, fixed-income seniors, and ALICE households who are already forced to make impossible choices.

Michigan

Sarah Kile has seen a surge in calls to the Michigan 211 office she works at as residents struggle to pay their energy bills.

Kile directs community and partner engagement for the service that connects Michiganders to critical government and community resources. Last year alone, the 211 office received over 100,000 calls from residents concerned about paying skyrocketing energy costs—and it is seeing an even greater surge in calls this year.

Kile attended a workshop hosted by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) in August to better understand how the commission’s process for determining how much utilities charge consumers for electricity and gas intersects with the needs of local communities. The MPSC hosted the workshop to educate consumers on what all goes into their monthly energy costs—as well as solicit feedback from the public on rising energy costs.

“Rising utility costs place an immense, compounding burden on working families, fixed-income seniors, and ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households who are already forced to make impossible choices between heating their homes, buying groceries, and paying for medicine,” Kile told PowerLines.



Nicole Firlik is frustrated that the state's two large investor-owned utilities have requested rate increases nearly every year for the past seven years, but appear to be doing little to help residents with high bills.

Nicole Firlik attended the Michigan PSC's workshop in August as part of her work with New Development Corp., a Grand Rapids-based nonprofit focused on affordable housing for low- and middle-income residents in the state.

Part of the organization's work is focused on energy efficiency retrofits, which help lower the energy burden for lower-income residents facing high energy costs.

She's been frustrated that the state's two large investor-owned utilities have [requested rate increases nearly every year](#) for the past seven years, but appear to be doing little to help residents with high bills. One couple Firlik works with consistently sees \$400 to \$500 electricity bills each month, and don't know why. An electrician who assessed the home found no cause for concern.

"[Utilities] should not be able to ask for a rate increase," after neglecting to provide assistance to their customers, Firlik said.

Firlik left the workshop with a new understanding of how the ratemaking process works—and how critical it is for organizations like hers to provide data and evidence to the commission. Without outside data and testimony from consumers and other organizations, the agency is limited by the evidence the utility provides. In order to push back on a rate increase, regulators have a high burden to prove that what the utility is asking for is not needed, she said.

"Their hands are often very tied," she said.

Conclusion

Utilities requested \$4.5 billion in rate increases this quarter, bringing the year's total to \$23.1 billion. With \$1.4 trillion in capital expenditures planned across investor-owned utilities through 2030, this pace of rate requests is likely to continue, and potentially accelerate, in coming quarters as utilities' CapEx spending shows up in rate requests. For farmers like Pat Pounds dealing with new surcharges or the thousands of Michigan families calling 211 for help paying their energy bills, the stakes of that spending aren't abstract.

While few Americans believe their state government is doing enough to combat rising costs, governors have many tools at their disposal to combat growing energy costs. As rate requests continue to climb across the country, the question is no longer whether elected officials have the tools to act—it's whether they will use them.



APPENDIX: Electric and Gas Utility Rate Increase Requests from Q3 2026

State	Utility	Region	# of Customers	Type	When Requested	Requested Rate Increase (Billion \$)	Source
Arizona	Arizona Public Service	West	1,400,000	Electric	August 2026	0.0	Halcyon
Arkansas	Entergy	South	738,000	Electric	August 2026	0.0	Arkansas Public Service Commission
Arkansas	SWEPCO	South	128,000	Electric	August 2026	0.0	Arkansas Public Service Commission
California	Pacific Gas & Electric	West	4,600,000	Gas	July 2026	0.0	California Public Utilities Commission
California	SoCalGas	West	5,900,000	Gas	July 2026	0.0	California Public Utilities Commission
Colorado	Xcel Energy	West	1,600,000	Electric	July 2026	0.1	Colorado Public Utilities Commission
Hawaii	Hawaiian Electric Company	West	1,330,000	Electric	July 2026	0.2	Hawaii Public Utilities Commission
Hawaii	Hawaiian Electric Company	West	1,330,000	Electric	August 2026	0.0	Hawaii Public Utilities Commission
Idaho	Avista Utilities	West	423,000	Electric	July 2026	0.0	Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Idaho	Idaho Power	West	648,000	Electric	August 2026	0.0	Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Indiana	AES Indiana	Midwest	530,000	Electric	July 2026	0.0	Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

APPENDIX: Electric and Gas Utility Rate Increase Requests from Q3 2026

State	Utility	Region	# of Customers	Type	When Requested	Requested Rate Increase (Billion \$)	Source
Indiana	Duke Energy Indiana	Midwest	930,000	Electric	July 2026	0.0	Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
Indiana	Indiana-Michigan Power	Midwest	471,000	Electric	August 2026	0.5	Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
Indiana	NIPSCO	Midwest	500,000	Electric	August 2026	0.1	Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
Iowa	MidAmerican Energy	Midwest	803,000	Gas	July 2026	0.1	Iowa Utilities Commission
Kansas	Atmos Energy	Midwest	129,000	Gas	August 2026	0.0	Kansas Corporation Commission
Kansas	Black Hills Kansas	Midwest	116,000	Gas	August 2026	0.0	Kansas Corporation Commission
Kansas	Evergy Kansas Central	Midwest	736,000	Electric	September 2026	0.0	Kansas Corporation Commission
Kansas	Kansas Gas	Midwest	653,000	Gas	July 2026	0.0	Kansas Corporation Commission
Kentucky	Atmos Energy	South	181,000	Gas	July 2026	0.0	Kentucky Public Service Commission
Kentucky	Duke Energy Kentucky	South	143,000	Electric	July 2026	0.0	Kentucky Public Service Commission
Maine	Central Maine Power	Northeast	670,000	Electric	September 2026	0.0	Maine Public Utilities Commission

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State	Utility	Region	# of Customers	Type	When Requested	Requested Rate Increase (Billion \$)	Source
Maryland	Baltimore Gas and Electric	South	1,300,000	Electric	July 2026	0.2	Maryland Public Service Commission
Maryland	Potomac Edison	South	295,000	Electric	September 2026	0.1	Maryland Public Service Commission
Massachusetts	Eversource	Northeast	1,400,000	Electric	September 2026	0.1	Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities
Massachusetts	Eversource	Northeast	1,400,000	Electric	September 2026	0.0	Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities
Massachusetts	Liberty Utilities	Northeast	61,000	Gas	August 2026	0.0	Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities
Massachusetts	National Grid	Northeast	950,000	Gas	August 2026	0.0	Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities
Mississippi	Mississippi Power	South	191,000	Electric	August 2026	0.0	Mississippi Public Service Commission
Missouri	Ameren Missouri	Midwest	1,300,000	Electric	September 2026	0.0	Missouri Public Service Commission
Missouri	Ameren Missouri	Midwest	135,000	Gas	August 2026	0.0	Missouri Public Service Commission

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State	Utility	Region	# of Customers	Type	When Requested	Requested Rate Increase (Billion \$)	Source
Missouri	Spire Missouri	Midwest	1,100,000	Gas	July 2026	0.1	Missouri Public Service Commission
Nevada	NV Energy	West	1,450,000	Electric	August 2026	0.0	Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
Nevada	NV Energy	West	189,000	Gas	August 2026	0.0	Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
New Hampshire	Eversource	Northeast	534,000	Electric	July 2026	0.0	New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
New Hampshire	Liberty Utilities	Northeast	46,000	Electric	July 2026	0.0	New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
New Hampshire	Unitil	Northeast	81,000	Electric	August 2026	0.0	New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
New Jersey	Atlantic City Electric	Northeast	547,000	Electric	July 2026	0.1	New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
New Jersey	Jersey Central Power & Light	Northeast	1,200,000	Electric	August 2026	0.7	New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
New Jersey	Rockland Electric Company	Northeast	75,000	Electric	August 2026	0.0	New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
New Mexico	El Paso Electric	West	109,000	Electric	August 2026	0.0	Halcyon
New Mexico	New Mexico Gas	West	553,000	Gas	July 2026	0.0	Halcyon
New Mexico	Southwestern Public Service	West	126,000	Electric	July 2026	0.0	Halcyon

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State	Utility	Region	# of Customers	Type	When Requested	Requested Rate Increase (Billion \$)	Source
North Carolina	Enbridge Gas	South	675,000	Gas	August 2026	0.0	North Carolina Utilities Commission
Ohio	CenterPoint Energy	Midwest	335,000	Electric	July 2026	0.0	Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Oklahoma	Liberty Utilities	South	5,000	Electric	July 2026	0.0	Halcyon
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Gas & Electric	South	915,000	Electric	August 2026	0.4	Oklahoma Corporation Commission
Oregon	Northwest Natural Gas	West	710,000	Gas	August 2026	0.1	Oregon Public Utility Commission
Oregon	Portland General Electric	West	960,000	Electric	July 2026	0.0	Oregon Public Utility Commission
Oregon	Portland General Electric	West	960,000	Electric	July 2026	0.2	Oregon Public Utility Commission
South Carolina	Dominion Energy South Carolina	South	500,000	Gas	August 2026	0.0	South Carolina Public Service Commission
South Carolina	Duke Energy Progress	South	177,000	Electric	July 2026	0.0	South Carolina Public Service Commission
South Dakota	Black Hills Energy	Midwest	78,000	Electric	August 2026	0.0	South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
South Dakota	MidAmerican Energy	Midwest	117,000	Gas	August 2026	0.0	South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

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State	Utility	Region	# of Customers	Type	When Requested	Requested Rate Increase (Billion \$)	Source
Texas	CenterPoint Energy	South	2,400,000	Electric	July 2026	0.1	Public Utility Commission of Texas
Texas	CenterPoint Energy	South	2,400,000	Electric	August 2026	0.3	Public Utility Commission of Texas
Texas	El Paso Electric	South	358,000	Electric	August 2026	0.1	Public Utility Commission of Texas
Texas	Sharyland Utilities	South	54,000	Electric	August 2026	0.1	Public Utility Commission of Texas
Texas	Southwestern Public Service	South	167,000	Electric	September 2026	0.1	Public Utility Commission of Texas
Texas	Texas-New Mexico Power	South	260,000	Electric	August 2026	0.1	Public Utility Commission of Texas
Utah	Rocky Mountain Power	West	800,000	Electric	August 2026	0.0	Utah Public Service Commission
Virginia	Atmos Energy	South	23,000	Gas	July 2026	0.0	Virginia State Corporation Commission
Virginia	Dominion Energy Virginia	South	2,700,000	Electric	July 2026	0.2	Virginia State Corporation Commission
Virginia	Dominion Energy Virginia	South	2,700,000	Electric	August 2026	0.5	Virginia State Corporation Commission

