

City of Oneida

Sewer Collection System Improvements Referendum

Frequently Asked Questions | November 3, 2026

What is this referendum about? City voters will be asked whether to approve a bond resolution authorizing up to \$3,000,000 for improvements to the sanitary sewer collection system. The project is intended to reduce inflow and infiltration (I&I), which occurs when clean groundwater or stormwater enters sanitary sewer pipes through cracks, leaking joints, deteriorated manholes, or other aging infrastructure.

Why does I&I matter?

Clean water entering the sanitary sewer system takes up capacity that should be reserved for wastewater from homes and businesses. During significant wet weather, sewer flows can increase substantially, placing added stress on the wastewater system.

What work would be done?

The project would focus on targeted sewer collection system improvements. Trenchless lining methods would be used wherever possible, allowing a liner to be installed inside existing sewer mains without digging up and replacing every section of pipe. Only the most deteriorated sections would require full pipe replacement. The City has inspected approximately **12,000 feet** of its roughly **40-mile** sanitary sewer system using CCTV to identify priority areas.

Who would pay for the project?

The cost would be paid through the **sewer system**, not the City general fund. During the July 7 meeting, it was clarified that repayment would be the responsibility of the sewer system, not residents outside the sewer system.

Why is this on the ballot?

The bond resolution is subject to a mandatory referendum. Voter approval is required before the City can proceed with the borrowing authorization.

What does each vote mean?

A YES vote means	A NO vote means
A YES vote means the voter approves the City moving forward with the bond authorization for the sewer collection system improvements. If approved, the City would be authorized to borrow up to \$3,000,000. Final borrowing, project timing, and financing terms would depend on factors such as grant funding, final project costs, interest rates, and available financing options. A YES vote does not mean the City automatically spends the full \$3,000,000 immediately. It gives the City legal authority to finance the project, subject to final project development and available funding options.	A NO vote means the voter does not approve the bond authorization. If the proposition is not approved, the City would not have voter authorization to borrow the funds for this project as proposed. The City would need to reassess the project scope, funding options, and timeline. The underlying sewer system issues would remain, and the City would need to determine how to address inflow and infiltration through other means.

Additional Questions

Does the City have grant funding?

The City is pursuing grant funding. Grant awards are typically announced later in the year or early the following year, so final grant information may not be available before the referendum.

Where can residents learn more?

Residents may contact the City Engineer's Office or visit the City's website for project information, maps, meeting materials, and future updates.

Why does the proposition mention up to 40 years?

The ballot uses legal bond language. The resolution authorizes financing for a period not exceeding 40 years, but that does not necessarily mean the City will borrow the full amount for the full period. Final terms would be determined later based on the best available financial options.

Is this document advocating for a vote?

No. This document is intended for informational purposes only and is not intended to advocate for or against the referendum proposition.