



## OH Section AWWA Assessment Questions and Answers

### What is a Section Assessment?

A Section Assessment is a fee added to the membership dues by an AWWA Section to help fund the services and activities provided by that Section. For the Ohio Section, all revenue collected by the proposed Assessment will remain in the Ohio Section to support and grow services for our members.

Ohio is proud to be the largest AWWA Section without an Assessment. However, to continue meeting the growing needs of our members and maintaining excellence in training and programs, we must take this next step. Assessments are common across the AWWA Sections, with 29 of 43 Sections having implemented them successfully. Assessments range from 5% to 40%, with an average of approximately 15%. Neighboring states such as Kentucky-Tennessee, Illinois, and Virginia have 10% assessments, while Pennsylvania and Michigan have 15%.

### How does a Section Assessment get approved?

The approval process involves:

- **Membership Vote:** At least 25% of members must vote, and 2/3 of those voting must approve the assessment.
- **AWWA Approval:** Approval by AWWA's Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

### What is the Voting Process and Timeline?

Voting will close on May 1, 2025 at 5:00pm, and the results will be finalized soon after. If approved, the assessment will be implemented starting **January 1, 2026**.

### What is OAWWA proposing as its Section Assessment?

The Ohio Section is proposing a modest 10% Section Assessment, which translates to approximately \$24 annually for Individual Members—less than \$2 per month. This small contribution will have a significant impact on our ability to enhance services for members.

### How does a Section Assessment affect me?

- **Individual Members:** An additional \$24 annually.
- **Utility & Service Provider Memberships:** An additional amount, capped at \$229 annually.
- **Exempt Categories:** The assessment will not apply to Student, Honorary, Retiree, or Life Members.

For most members, this small additional cost will help ensure you continue receiving the high-quality training, events, and support you rely on.

## **What has prompted OAWWA to consider implementing a Section Assessment?**

Current revenues sustain existing services but don't allow for growth or modernization. This assessment will fund new initiatives and enhanced operations. This assessment will allow the Section to:

- **Expand operator training and educational programs** to meet growing industry needs.
- **Develop leadership and mentorship initiatives** to support professional growth.
- **Increase scholarships** for Ohio students pursuing water-industry degrees.
- **Enhance operations and services** by employing dedicated staff to deliver programs efficiently and effectively.

This proposal reflects our commitment to investing in the future of Ohio's water professionals. Your support ensures that our Section remains strong, innovative, and prepared to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

## **If the Section Assessment is approved, is it a one-time fee?**

No, the Section Assessment will be an annual fee. Any future changes will require thorough review and approval by the Ohio Section Governing Board, ensuring transparency and member involvement.

## **Who is eligible to vote on the Section Assessment?**

If you are an Individual Member of OAWWA or a named member of a Utility Member, then you are being asked to vote to approve the Assessment.

**Your voice matters!** By voting, you play a direct role in shaping the future of OAWWA and ensuring our programs and services meet your needs.

## **How can I vote or get more information?**

- **Online Voting:** Members will receive a link to vote electronically.
- **In-Person Opportunities:** Voting and information will also be available at spring meetings and training events.

## **For additional information or questions, contact:**

- **Luke Murry**, OH Section Chair, at [lmurry@gpdgroup.com](mailto:lmurry@gpdgroup.com)
- **Emily Pierson**, Executive Director, at [epierson@oawwa.org](mailto:epierson@oawwa.org)

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If you are a voting member, the Governing Board encourages you to support the Section Assessment for the benefit of all our Section members.