

Consumer Impact: FirstEnergy Rate Increase



Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel
"Your Residential Utility Consumer Advocate"
www.occ.ohio.gov

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2026

Mansfield City Council



**Ohio
Consumers'
Counsel
&
Agency
Director**
Maureen Willis



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Role of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel



“The Office of the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel advocates and educates to secure for Ohioans affordable, reliable and equitable residential utility services that are essential to their well-being.”



OCC: GOVERNING, FUNDING & IMPACT



GOVERNING



Created in **1976** by Ohio General Assembly.



OCC's **nine-member** Governing Board is appointed by Ohio Attorney General from residential consumers, organized labor, and family farmers.



FUNDING



OCC's funding comes from assessments on Ohio's investor-owned utilities.



Authority: Ohio Revised Code Section 4911.18.



IMPACT: CONSUMER SAVINGS



\$1.5 BILLION
CONSUMER SAVINGS

2019–2024



\$44 Consumer Savings for every **\$1** of Agency Funding



Office of the Ohio
Consumers' Counsel
1600 Ohio Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43260-1500
www.ooc.ohio.gov

OCC ADVOCACY

OCC is a strong, independent voice advocating for Ohio utility consumers.



**REPRESENTING
RESIDENTIAL CONSUMERS**
at PUCO and More...



EDUCATING AND ADVISING
Legislators



OUTREACH AND EDUCATION



Utilities Serving You

OhioEdison®
A FirstEnergy Company



**Columbia Gas®
of Ohio**
A NiSource Company



Electric Aggregation
Mansfield – NOPEC/NextEra Energy Services

What is Utility Regulation and Why does it Matter?

- ✓ Utilities are monopolies
- ✓ Regulation is essential (PUCO)
- ✓ **Goal:** Reliable service at reasonable cost



Understanding Your Electric Bill



54%



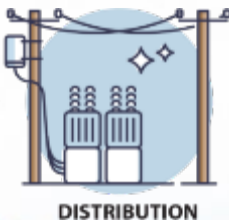
Generation/Supply (Deregulated)
Charge generally based on usage



14%



Transmission Service
Charge based on usage



32%



Distribution Service
Charges paid to local utility for delivering electricity to your home

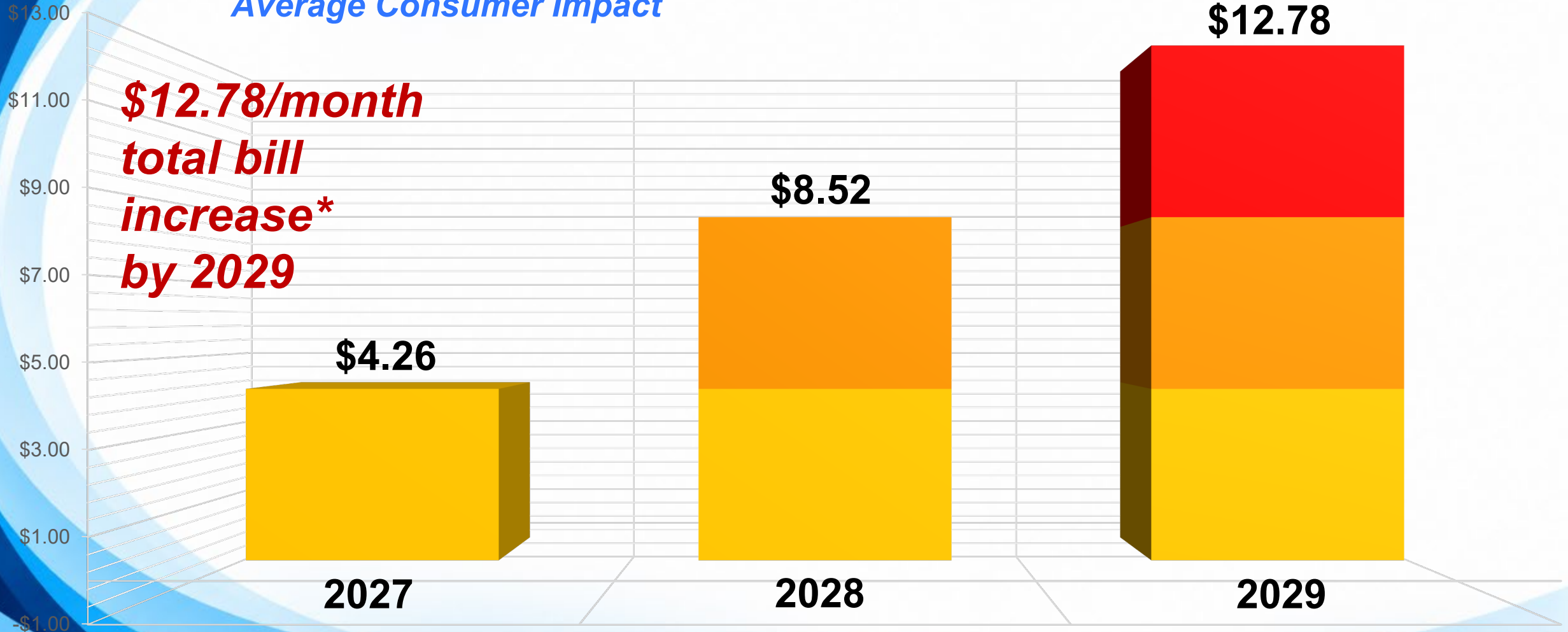
Why is My Utility Bill Changing?

- ✓ Massive energy and capacity increases
- ✓ Transmission and distribution upgrades



Ohio Edison Proposes Distribution Rate Increase

Average Consumer Impact



* An average consumer using 1000 kWh per month



Office of the Ohio
Consumers' Counsel
"Your Questions • Our Answers • Action Plan"
www.ooc.ohio.gov

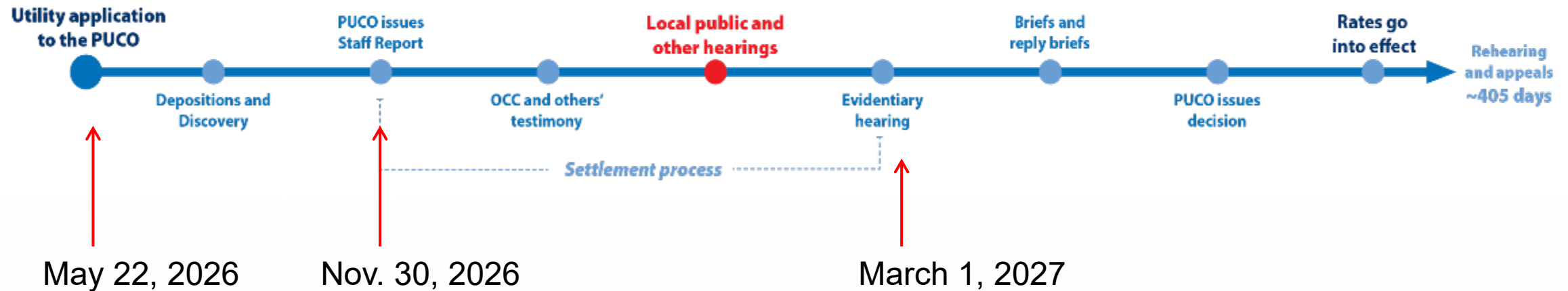
What's Driving Ohio Edison's Rate Increase?

- ✓ Infrastructure Investment
- ✓ Return on Investment — Profits



FirstEnergy's First HB 15/Rate Increase

Timeline of a Rate Case



Three years of Increases
Planned

Ways to Save



**Adjust the
thermostat**



**Replace
furnace
filters**



**Seal air
leaks**



**Vampire
Energy**



**Cook with
small
appliances**



**Run dishwasher
and washer
with full loads**

Electric Supply Choices



**Ohio Edison's
Standard
Service Offer**



Aggregation

OR



**Choose an
Energy Marketer**



Choosing an Energy Marketer

- ✓ Use the Price to Compare
- ✓ **Beware of bad apples!**
- ✓ Pay attention to monthly details
 - Termination fees
 - Contract length
 - Fixed or variable offer
 - Promotional offers



You Can Make a Difference

- ✓ Attend local hearing.
- ✓ Send a letter to the PUCO.
- ✓ “File a Public Comment”
- PUCO Case No. 26-0347-EL-AIR.
- ✓ Stay informed through OCC’s fact sheets.



File a Public Comment



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"Protecting Ohio Consumers' Interests"
www.ohioconsumers.gov



Assistance Programs

Community Action Commission of Erie, Huron, and Richland Counties, Inc. (CACEHR)

Richland County Office & Contact
597 Park Ave. East
Mansfield, OH 44905
Appointment & Energy Help:
419-901-9539

The Salvation Army

1-800-725-2769

<https://sahelp.me/>

Dollar Energy Fund

Dynegy Energy Aid

[https://www.dollarenergy.org/
programs/?state=ohio-oh](https://www.dollarenergy.org/programs/?state=ohio-oh)



OCC's Assistance Web Page

occ.ohio.gov/utilityassistance

Assistance



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Contact Info

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Call or email the Office of the
Ohio Consumers' Counsel,
your residential utility
consumer advocate, at
1-877-742-5622 or email
occ@occ.ohio.gov.



Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

THANK YOU!



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