

May 21, 2026

## **RAHWAY LACKS TRANSPARENCY ON PROPOSED WATER UTILITY PRIVATIZATION SALE**

**Granieri and Levy say:**

*It's time to end the mismanagement of our Water Utility by politicians."*

Mayoral Candidate Casey Granieri and City Council Candidate Alan Levy are troubled by a media report revealing that the Rahway government spent \$200,000 of taxpayer funds to conduct a study for sale of Rahway's Public Water Utility to a private company, without fully disclosing the purpose of this study to its residents. The Central Jerseyan reported that the spending was largely hidden behind vague contract descriptions giving residents little indication the city was pursuing water privatization. The report states that engineering consultants, law firms, and even outside public relations consultants were paid from water utility's operating accounts, with funds collected from residents' monthly water bills.

Objections come from BOTH Democrats and Republicans in Rahway who know what is at stake: higher water bills, less local control, and decisions being made behind closed doors.

**Casey Graneiri** said, "Irresponsible lease deals, poor water quality, high water rates, and mismanagement over the last 25 years have created this current mess. These are not new problems, and now the same career politicians are asking our residents to trust them AGAIN to give up control to a private company."

A recent study found that cities which have sold their water utility to a for-profit company, residents' water bills increase by 59% on average. Selling a public utility to a private company creates an artificial monopoly that is not subject to either the forces of the free market or will of the voters. Although the process of collecting private bids was temporarily delayed due to the public outcry in March 2026, Mayor Giacobbe has publicly stated that he and the Council are still exploring the proposed sale.

**Alan Levy** added "This administration and its 9-0 Democratic Party controlled City Council only temporarily delayed the water utility sale because they knew it would hurt them at the ballot box. They plan on still pushing for it after the November election with no transparency. They want to keep Rahway residents in the dark about the future of the water utility."

**Democrat Andrew Garcia Philips**, (a local citizen watchdog) is running for Council at Large against the 3 machine incumbents. Voters can choose any 3 candidates.

All 3 current Council people have a voting record of 100% raising water/ sewer rates since they have been on City Council.

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