



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson and Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb named new Co-Chairs of the Mayors Commission on Water Equity

CHICAGO, September 14, 2022 – Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson and Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb are the new Co-Chairs of the Mayors Commission on Water Equity, it was announced today. They succeed Zion (IL) Mayor Billy McKinney, who now serves as Chair of The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.

Mayor Johnson and Mayor Bibb are deeply committed to the Commission's mission of promoting access to safe, clean, and affordable water for all residents of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin.

While water-equity challenges exist everywhere, they are especially concentrated in the basin. According to 2016 estimates by the American Water Works Association, there are more than 3.1 million lead service lines in the eight Great Lakes states. The EPA estimates that there are as many as 10 million lead service lines nationwide.

Under Mayor Johnson and Mayor Bibb's leadership, the Commission will seek to keep water-equity issues on the policy agenda, as well as safeguard the equitable implementation of the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), particularly the \$15 billion set aside for lead service line replacement.



Mayor Cavalier Johnson



Mayor Justin Bibb

Mayor Johnson and 11 other Great Lakes mayors will testify this Thursday in Milwaukee to senior leaders from the Biden administration and state agencies on lead service lines, water equity, and the IJA's implementation.

“Water is essential to our economy, health, and quality of life in Milwaukee and across the Great Lakes,” Mayor Johnson said. “As we strive to build an equitable society, we must redouble our efforts to guarantee access to safe, clean, and affordable water for everyone, and that is exactly what the Commission will do.”

“I am honored to serve as Co-Chair of the Mayors Commission on Water Equity,” Mayor Bibb stated. “When it comes to making progress on lead service line replacement and other water-equity goals, I am ready to work with other Great Lakes mayors to deliver transformative infrastructure projects for our residents.”

“Mayor Johnson and Mayor Bibb are exceptionally talented and visionary leaders,” Mayor McKinney declared. “I am confident that they will ensure the Commission remains laser-focused on its mission while helping Great Lakes cities access the federal government’s historic investments in water infrastructure.”

The Mayors Commission on Water Equity is part of The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, founded in 2003 as a binational organization led by a coalition of mayors working collaboratively to restore and protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin for the benefit of our communities and future generations. With more than 175-member municipalities, the Cities Initiative is the largest municipally-driven organization in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin.

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