



218 Process for Solid Waste Collection Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. What is Proposition 218 and how does it affect garbage rates?

A1. Proposition 218 is a California constitutional amendment that requires cities to notify property owners and allow them to protest before increasing certain fees, including solid waste collection rates. It ensures transparency and limits rates to only what is needed to cover the cost of collection service.

Q2. Why did I receive a notice about a proposed rate increase?

A2. The City mailed notices in compliance with Proposition 218. The notice informs you of proposed changes to negotiated solid waste collection rates and explains how you can participate in the public hearing or submit a protest.

Q3. How can I protest the proposed rate increase?

A3. Submit a written protest with your name, property address, and signature. Deliver it to the City Clerk by mail or in person before the close of the public hearing. Email or phone protests are not valid under Prop 218.

Q4. What information must be included in a protest letter?

A4. The letter must include your name, the address or parcel number of the property receiving service, a clear statement opposing the proposed rates, and your signature. The City has provided a form for your protest letter which has been mailed or are available at City Hall.

Q5. When and where is the public hearing?

A5. The public hearing will take place during the Pinole City Council meeting on June 3, 2025. You may attend in person or virtually. All written protests must be received by the close of the public hearing.



Q6. Will my protest count if I speak at the hearing but don't submit a letter?

A6. No. Only written protests count toward the official tally under Proposition 218. Verbal comments at the hearing are welcome but are not considered formal protests.

Q7. What happens if a majority of property owners protest the increase?

A7. If more than 50% of property owners submit valid protests, the City cannot adopt the new rates. This would require the City to reconsider its options and could delay or reduce services.

Q8. How much will my monthly garbage bill go up?

A8. Beginning July 1, 2025, the proposed monthly residential rates are:

- 20-gallon cart: \$31.31 (up from \$28.63)
- 35-gallon cart: \$34.66 (up from \$30.60)
- 35-gallon senior discount: \$32.66 (up from \$27.57)
- 65-gallon cart: \$66.59 (up from \$53.58)
- 95-gallon cart: \$95.83 (up from \$76.82)

Q9. Why are garbage rates going up now?

A9. Republic Services and the City have not done a full review of rates in over 25 years. Costs have risen significantly, and new state laws (like SB 1383) require expanded services. The increase also funds road repairs from wear caused by collection trucks.



Q10. How were the new rates calculated?

A10. Both Republic Services and independent consultants conducted a cost-of-service study. The study considered actual expenses including collection, regulatory compliance, and road damage. These rates were then heavily negotiated to only include the actual costs.

Q11. When would the new rates take effect?

A11. If approved, the new rates will begin July 1, 2025.

Q12. How do Pinole's proposed rates compare to nearby cities?

A12. Even with the increase, Pinole's rates remain comparable to or lower than those in neighboring cities like Hercules and San Pablo.

Q13. When was the last time these rates were reviewed or updated?

A13. Pinole's garbage rates have not had a full cost-of-service review in over 25 years.

Q14. What services are included in my monthly garbage rate?

A14. The monthly rate includes a wide range of services provided under the City's new franchise agreement with Republic Services, effective July 1, 2025:

- Weekly collection of trash, recycling, and organics (green waste and food scraps).
- Bulky item pickup program: Each single-family household can schedule two free pickups per year. Each appointment can include up to 1.8 cubic yards of material, such as:
 - o Three large items
 - o Fifteen 35-gallon bags (up to 50 pounds each)
 - o Four 95-gallon bags (up to 50 pounds each)



- o Five e-waste items
- Abandoned waste removal assistance provided by Republic Services.
- SB 1383 compliance services including education, reporting, and contamination monitoring, as required by state law.
- Industrial rate setting now handled directly by the City.
- Street repair funding through a new Vehicle Impact Fee. Collection vehicles cause significant road wear, and roughly \$1.2 million of annual fee revenue will be used for pavement maintenance and repair.

These services are bundled into the base rate and reflect both enhanced offerings and legal compliance requirements.

Q15. Will there be changes to recycling and compost service?

A15. Recycling and organics service will continue and may expand to meet SB 1383 requirements, including food scrap collection and contamination monitoring.

Q16. What is SB 1383 and how does it impact my garbage bill?

A16. SB 1383 is a state law requiring cities to reduce organic waste in landfills. It mandates food scrap collection, education, and enforcement. These services add to the cost of waste programs.

Q17. What is the bulky item pickup program and how does it work?

A17. Under the new rates, each single-family household can now request two bulky item pickups per year, covering up to 1.8 cubic yards per pickup. Items include large furniture, electronics, or bagged waste.

Q18. How will the new rates help with road maintenance?



A18. Garbage trucks cause wear on city roads. The new Vehicle Impact Fee, included in the rate, will help fund street repair and maintenance related to trash collection impacts.

Q19. Is there a discount for seniors or people with limited income?

A19. Yes. A 20% discount is available for qualifying low-income seniors and disabled residents. Contact Republic Services to apply.

Q20. Why is the senior rate also increasing?

A20. While the discount remains, overall service costs have increased. The senior rate is still lower than the standard rate and continues to offer savings.

Q21. Can garbage fee revenue be used for other city services?

A21. No. Under Proposition 218, garbage fee revenue can only be used for costs directly related to waste collection and related impacts, like road damage.

Q22. Who can I contact with questions about the proposed rates?

A22. Please contact the City Manager's Office or the City Clerk's Office for more information.