

Protecting the Progress: **A Roadmap from Federal Oversight** to a Permanent Water Utility for Jackson

On October 5, 2026, the ITPM Transition Plan was submitted to the parties in the Stipulated Order for review and comment. The Plan answers the question Jackson has asked since 2022: what comes after federal oversight? It weighs five ways to govern the water and sewer system, proposes one, and sets a step-by-step schedule for the implementation.

FIVE THINGS TO KNOW

1

It's a roadmap, not a switch.

The plan maps how Jackson's water and sewer system moves from interim federal management to a permanent utility. Nothing changes for customers today. Service, billing and customer care continue, and the Court must approve every step.

2

Five options were weighed.

Return to a City department, a City utility commission, a public water authority, the state-created Metro Jackson Water Authority (HB 1677), or sale to a private company. Each was judged on independence, ability to fund repairs, cost, time to set up, and how much say customers have.

3

The plan proposes a utility run for customers, by customers.

JXN Water would convert into a not-for-profit public water authority. The Court would choose the first board through a public application process; after that, customers would elect the board. It is the only option of the five rated high for customer control.

4

It is built to protect the investment.

Federal funds have paid for major repairs since 2022, and those grants run out by 2029. The proposed authority could borrow at lower, tax-exempt rates to keep repairs going, and must follow the court-ordered financial, water and sewer plans already in place.

5

There is a clear timeline.

Court approval of the plan targeted for December 2026. Initial board appointed by August 2027 and the authority formed by October 2027. A new CEO appointed by April 2028. The current ITPM steps down no later than July 1, 2028, and federal oversight continues through 2029 while the new utility proves itself.

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This plan seeks to answer the question that most people want to know: what comes after federal oversight. It gives ratepayers a seat at the decision-making table and charts a sustainable path forward for the utility. However, nothing changes for our customers today. The crews, the customer care center and the delivery of clean water to Jackson households continue while the parties review the plan.”

— **Aisha Carson**, Lead Communications Officer, JXN Water

FIVE OPTIONS, SIDE BY SIDE

Ratings below are reproduced from Section 4 of the plan, in the order the plan presents the options.

Option	Political independence	Ability to refinance debt	Access to new capital	Time to implement*	Cost to implement*	Control by system users
City department	Low	Low	Low	High	High	Medium
City utility commission	Low	Low	Low	High	Low	Medium
Public water authority (\$ 51-41) RECOMMENDED	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	High
Metro authority (HB 1677)	Medium	Medium	Medium	Unknown	Low	Low
Privatization	High	High	High	High	Unknown	Low

*Lower is better for time and cost. Green = favorable · amber = moderate · red = unfavorable · grey = not yet known.

PROPOSED TIMELINE

The plan describes the schedule as aggressive; these dates control the transition sequence. The ITPM steps down no later than July 1, 2028, and federal oversight continues through 2029 while the authority proves stable operations and finances.

	Dec 2026	Court approves Transition Plan	Enables bylaws and board-formation work
	Aug 2027	Court appoints initial directors	Triggers filing for conversion to the authority
	Oct 2027	Secretary of State approves conversion	Authority exists; assets and liabilities transfer
	Apr 2028	CEO selected, recommended and Court-appointed	Starts formal transition of ITPM duties
	Jul 2028	ITPM withdraws; CEO becomes ITPM	Primary management transition complete
	Dec 2029	Potential release of federal orders	Subject to financial goals, stable operations and Court confidence

Schedule basis: month-level dates are taken from Section 6 of the plan and should be treated as planning targets.

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