



Come join FSAWWA Region X at the
FSAWWA 2026 BEST
TASTING DRINKING WATER
CONTEST & BBQ

Friday November 6th, 2026
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority
9225 SW CR 769, Arcadia, FL 34269

This year's Best Tasting Drinking Water Contest will be held in conjunction with the Friends of Peace Water Annual BBQ.

All water industry professionals are welcome to attend this free event that includes participation in the Friends of Peace Water's Annual BBQ Lunch. Judging will start promptly at 10:30 with the winner announced at the beginning of the BBQ. Send your Team for an opportunity to claim the prestigious **Region X Best Tasting Drinking Water Title**.

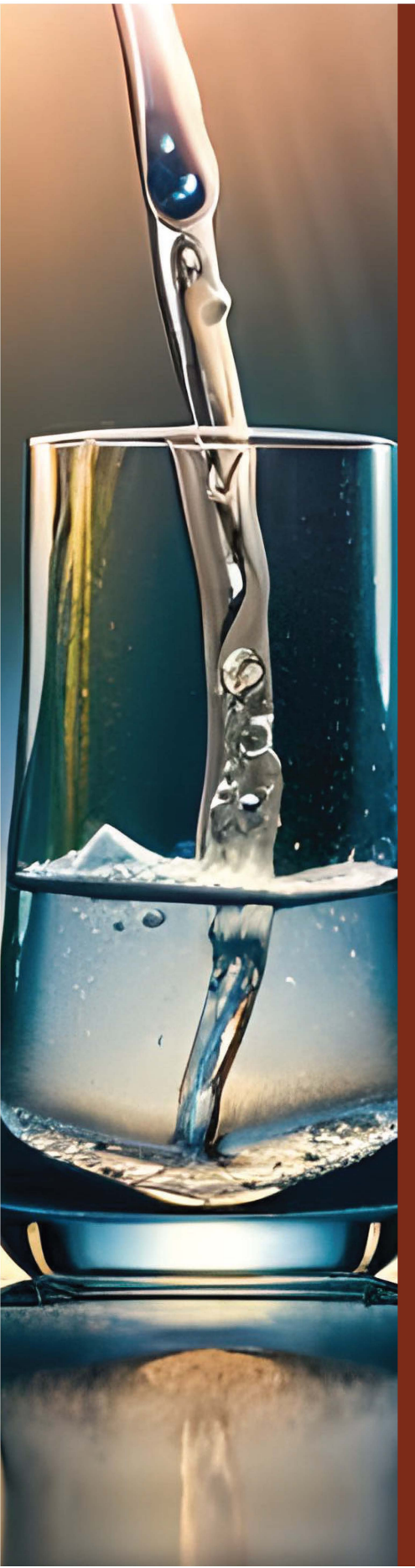
Utilities with water samples to be entered into the competition should plan to arrive the day of the contest between 9:15 and 9:45 (day of only) to allow time for contest setup. Please see the attached information for how and where to collect your water sample to be submitted.

The winner will receive the Florida American Water Works Association Region X Best Tasting Drinking Water Award, and most importantly, a year of "bragging rights" as the best tasting drinking water in our five county region (Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties).

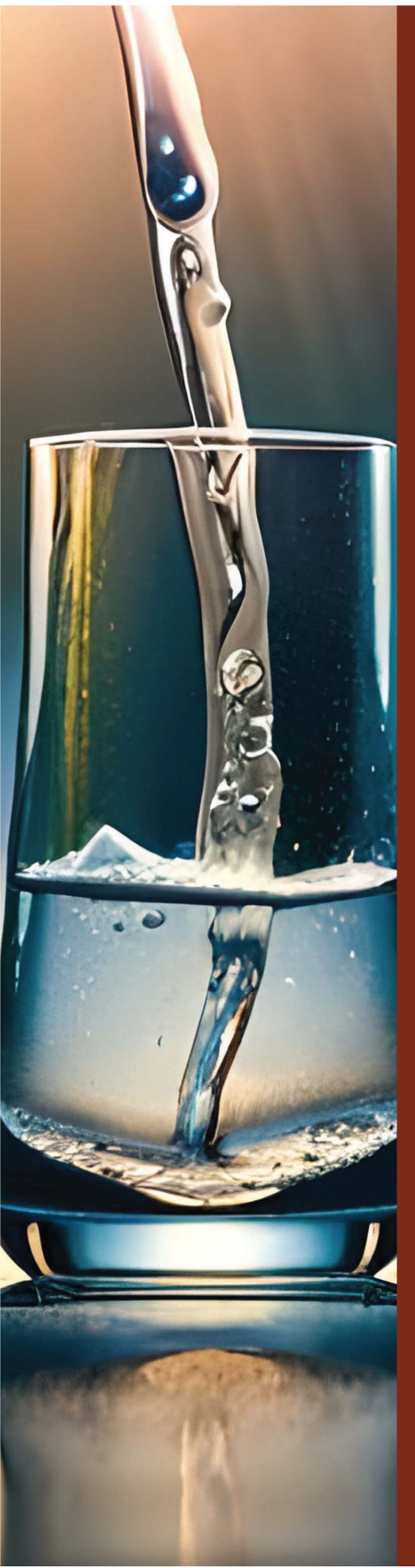
The winner of the Region X Best Tasting Drinking Water Contest will be eligible to compete at the state "Best of the Best" Tap Water Taste Contest on Tuesday, December 1st at 3:00 pm at the FSAWWA Fall Conference at the Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando. The eligible* state "Best of the Best" Tap Water Contest winner, determined at the FSAWWA Fall Conference, will be invited to participate in the American Water Works Association's Best of the Best Water Taste Test at ACE27 in San Diego, CA.

**In accordance with AWWA rules, to participate or to get sponsorship in the ACE27 Best of the Best Water Taste Test, the utility must be an AWWA Utility Member.*

Contact:
Katie Gilmore
kgilmore@regionalwater.org

**FSAWWA Region X****FSAWWA BEST
TASTING DRINKING
WATER CONTEST****SAMPLE AND JUDGING REQUIREMENTS**

1. Each participating Region X Utility is to provide one, one (1) gallon sample jug of their water. The container must be either glass or PETE (polyethylene terephthalate) plastic bottles.
2. Sample is to be submitted the day of the contest, November 6, 2026, by 9:45 am.
3. Sample is to be submitted to a FSAWWA "Best Tasting Drinking Water Contest, Region X" representative.
4. Each sample will be logged in at time of receipt. Sample will be logged in randomly, to maintain anonymity of the supplier.
5. Water sample cannot be chilled – water must be at room temperature or the sample will be disqualified. Samples must be collected no more than 24 hours prior to the test and must be stored continuously at a temperature between 50° and 70° F.
6. The water utility must comply with all MCLs and must not have any water quality violations from a regulatory agency for the current or prior calendar year or be under regulatory consent decree or order for its water quality.
7. Samples will be judged in alphabetical order beginning with anonymous.
8. Each judge will be given one sample from each utility. The judge is requested to evaluate the sample on the following grading scale.
 - a. Taste 1-5 (1 being poor and 5 being best)
 - b. Odor 1-5 (1 being poor and 5 being best)
 - c. Color 1-5 (1 being poor and 5 being best)
 - d. Clarity 1-5 (1 being poor and 5 being best)
9. Item 8 will be repeated until each sample has been judged.
10. The sample with the highest cumulative score will be given the title of "Best Tasting Drinking Water Contest, Region X Winner."

**FSAWWA Region X**

FSAWWA BEST TASTING DRINKING WATER CONTEST

SUBMITTAL FORM

Water System Name: _____

Date / Time Collected: _____

PWS ID Number: _____

I certify that the above water system is in compliance with state and federal drinking water regulations.

Signature

Print Name

Date

____/____/____ ____:____ AM
Date/Time Recieved (for office use only)