



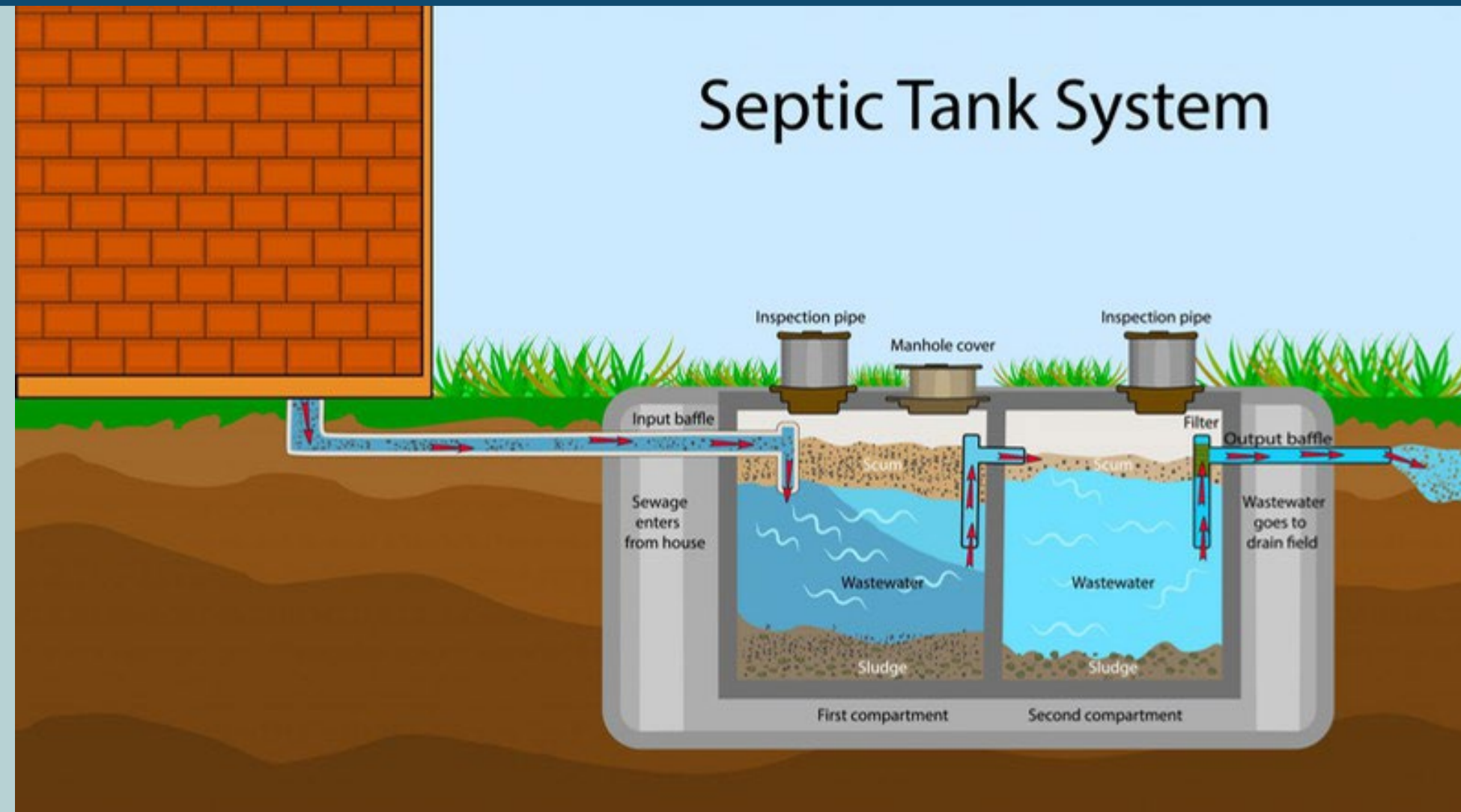
# SEPTICS & WATER QUALITY IMPACTS

**Lakin Cuchetto - Policy Attorney**



# SEPTIC 101

## Septic Tank System



# SYSTEM FAILURES



## WHAT HAPPENS?

- Sewage backflow
- Sewage in yards
- Neighbor water quality decline
- Environmental degradation

## WHY?

- Soil quality
- Improper design
- Poor system use, management, or maintenance by the homeowner



# STATE OF INDIANA

**1million systems**  
**15,000+ new system permits/year**  
**6,000 repair permits/year**



**200,000 failing systems**  
**15.3 billion gal raw sewage/year**

# WHO'S THE (SEPTIC) BOSS?



## INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

410 IAC § 6-8.3 Residential Onsite Sewage Systems

410 IAC § 6-10.1 Commercial Onsite Wastewater Disposal

410 IAC § 6-12 Plan Review, Construction Permits, and  
Fees for Services

## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

IC § 13-18-12 Wastewater Management

327 IAC § 7.1 Wastewater Management





# SEPTIC LEGISLATION & POLICY & ATTEMPTS

2023-2025



# RECENT SEPTIC LEGISLATION

## HOUSE BILL 1329

**Time of transfer**

**Rep Pressel**

**2024**



**The code  
are more  
what you call  
“guidelines”  
than actual  
rules.**

- Captain Hector Barbosa

## HOUSE BILL 1052

**Updated guidelines**

**Rep Pressel**

**2025**

# 2023

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**HOUSE BILL 1647/1402**

Local health department overrides  
Reps Morris/Pressel

**HOUSE BILL 1218**

Inspection prior to sale  
Rep Aylesworth

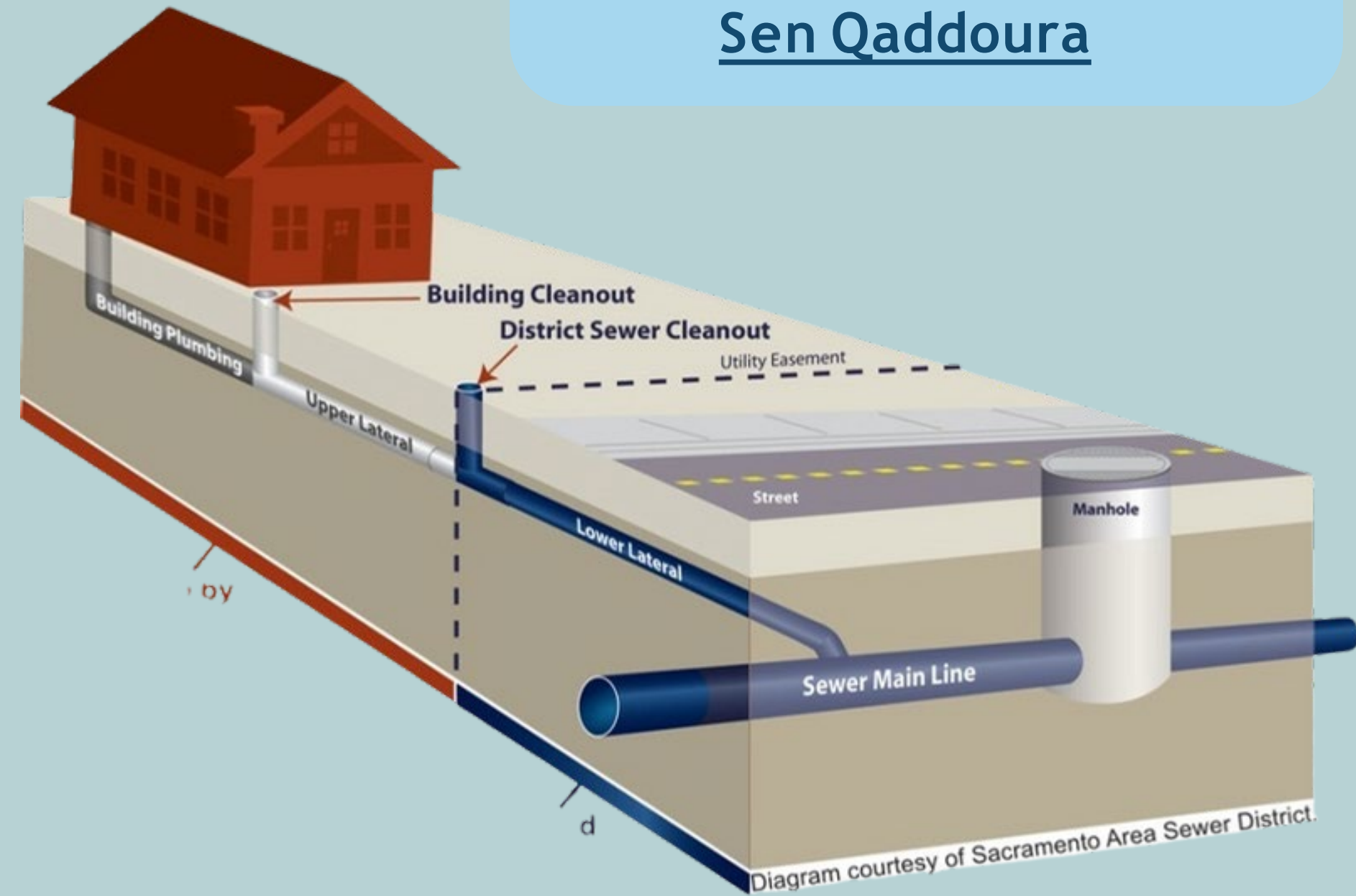




# 2024

**HOUSE BILL 1352**  
Inspection prohibition  
Rep Morris

**SENATE BILL 259**  
Municipal connection funding  
Sen Qaddoura





# 2025



**HOUSE BILL 1610**  
Onsite wastewater professionals registry  
Rep Criswell

**HOUSE BILL 1421**  
Grant pilot program  
Rep Aylesworth





# POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS



- ▶ Grant program
- ▶ Statewide tracking system
- ▶ State study
- ▶ Local education & collaboration



# GRANT PILOT PROGRAM

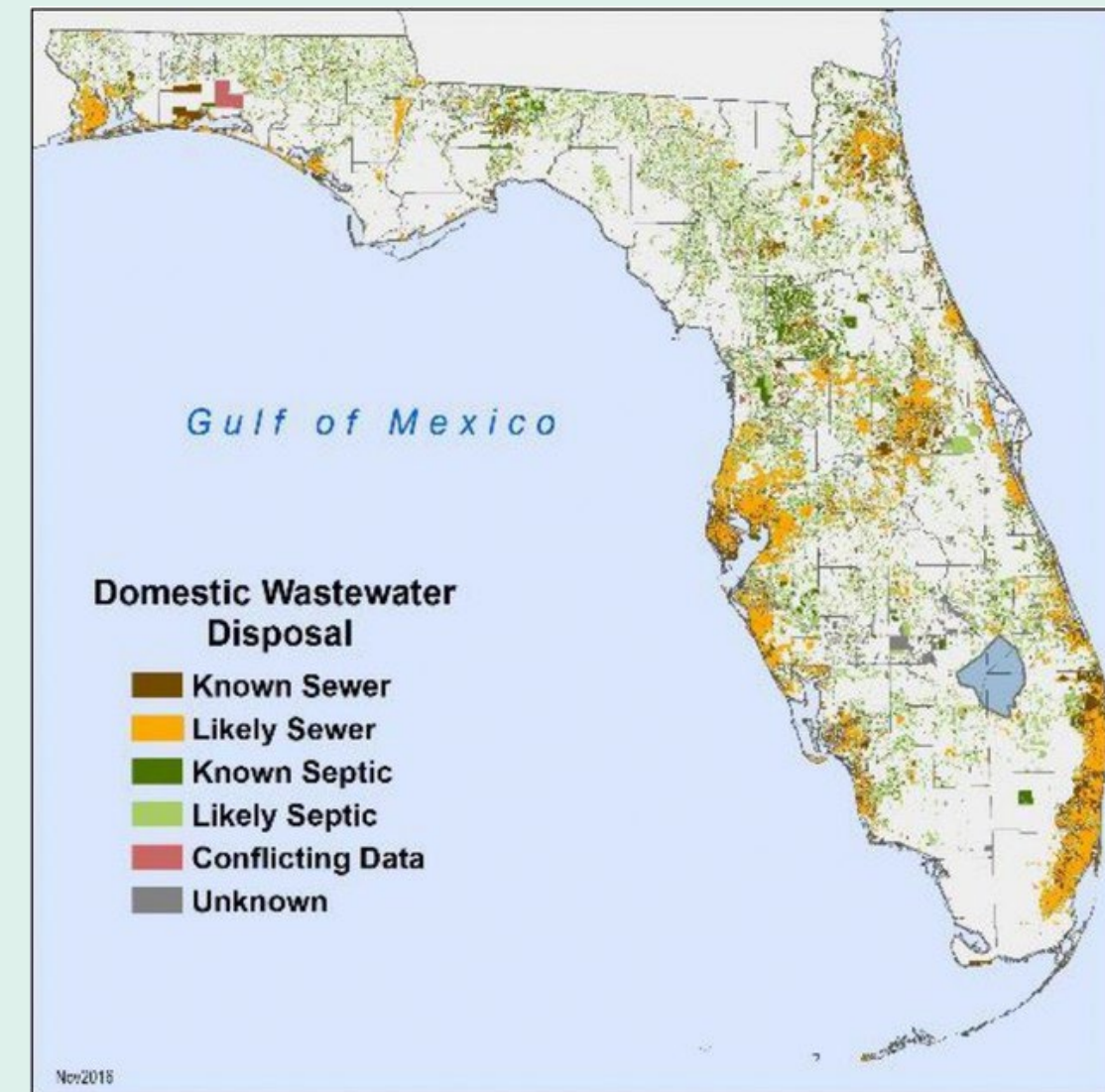
- Funding through priority system
- Rehab, repair, replace
- Focus: low-income, unsewered communities





# DATA COLLECTION & DISTRIBUTION

- Statewide tracking system
- iTOSS
- IDEM Task Force
- Local Education





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**QUESTIONS?**

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