



A Note from WSSC Water's Intergovernmental Relations Office

As the General Assembly quickly approaches the halfway mark in the 90-day legislative session, the Senators and Delegates continue to deliberate on 2,661 bills that have been introduced so far this Session. By comparison, this time last year 2,205 bills were introduced.

IRO is on the front-line advocating for legislation that impacts our work. We cover a variety of subject matters and focus on legislation that helps WSSC Water fulfill our mission to provide safe and reliable water, life's most precious resource, and return clean water to our environment, all in an ethical, sustainable, and financially responsible manner.

The Annapolis Observer is IRO's weekly update on events in Annapolis and highlights the progress of key bills of interest to WSSC Water, as well as provide timely updates and calendar of important dates.

Legislative Updates

WSSC Water has proposed one bill for the 2024 Legislative Session, [HB 1024 - Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Connection Pipe Emergency Replacement Loan Program – Expansion](#). The proposed legislation will allow for the expansion of the Connection Pipe Emergency Replacement Loan Program authorized by Section 23-205 of the Maryland Annotated Code Public Utilities Article to include sewer service line repair or replacement, sewer line camera investigation or snaking, as well as increase the maximum loan amount to \$10,000.

Both the Prince George's County and Montgomery County Delegations voted in favor of the bill and it will now move to the House Environment and Transportation Committee.

HB 1024 had its first reading in the House Environment and Transportation Committee and a hearing has been scheduled for March 8, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

Find the status and position on WSSC Water-related bills in our [Legislative Update](#).

Around WSSC Water

WSSC Water Monthly Commission Meeting

WSSC Water's monthly Commission Meeting will be held on February 21, 2024 at 10 a.m. Interested stakeholders can provide input during the public comment portion which will take place shortly after the meeting starts. Call-in number to provide comment: 1-240-800-7929 / Conference ID: 597 286 048#

The complete agenda with links to all presentations, public viewing and participation details may be accessed [here](#).

Minority Enterprise Business Program - Public Feedback Session

Join WSSC Water's Office of Supplier Diversity & Inclusion for a public feedback session to discuss upcoming changes and updates to the Minority Business Enterprise Program. We are here to listen and looking forward to your feedback on improvements.

Please click [here](#) for more details and to [register](#) for one of the two scheduled meetings on February 29, 2024 or March 1, 2024.

Keep The Wipes Out of The Pipes!

Flushing certain items down the toilet can lead to problems for WSSC Water and you! Non-flushable items, such as baby wipes or feminine hygiene products do not break apart like toilet paper. These items can get stuck in your pipes or our pipes. If that happens, sewage will back up in your basement or overflow from one of our manholes, impacting the environment.

Please click [here](#) to learn more about how to protect your pipes and what is flushable and safe for your pipes.

Customer Notification System (CNS)

In our continuing effort to provide excellent customer service, WSSC Water offers a Customer Notification System (CNS) to alert you about our work in your area that may affect your service or daily routine.

Once you sign up, you will receive email or text alerts about water main breaks, sanitary sewer overflows, road or lane closures caused by WSSC Water work, boil water advisories and occasionally other important messages from us.

Sign up [here](#) for CNS and never be in the dark about water main repairs and water emergencies in your neighborhood.

Customer Assistance and the Water Fund

WSSC Water remains committed to making water/sewer bills more affordable. We want to do everything in our power to help you avoid a water service turnoff and ensure our safe, clean water continues to flow to your tap. Learn more at [WSSC Water Financial Assistance Programs](#).

Customers may also help by making a tax-deductible donation to [The Water Fund](#) to help more neighbors have access to clean, safe water. Since 1994, the fund has helped nearly 20,000 people throughout Montgomery and Prince George's counties. The Water Fund is administered by The Salvation Army. Every dollar of your donation goes directly to local families who need financial assistance paying their water/sewer bills. Click [here](#) to learn more and donate online.

CUSTOMER ADVOCATES

Our Customer Advocates are in your communities every day, carrying out their mission to serve as liaisons between you and WSSC Water, and ensuring that we are providing a high level of customer service.

Northern Prince George's County (areas north of Central Avenue, MD 214)

David Wilkins

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Southern Prince George's County (areas south of Central Avenue, MD 214)

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Southern Montgomery County (areas south of Randolph Road)

Brandon Stewart

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Northern Montgomery County (areas north of Randolph Road)

Phil Callahan

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240-204-2123

Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

Calendar

- March 18, 2024 – Crossover
 - April 1, 2024 – Budget bill to be passed by both Chambers
 - April 8, 2024 – Sine Die
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Related Links

[Maryland General Assembly](#)

- [Session Calendar \(PDF\)](#)
- [Track Legislation](#)

[Montgomery County Delegation](#)

[Prince George's County Delegation](#)

[Maryland Association of Counties](#)

[Maryland Municipal League](#)

About IRO

WSSC Water's **Intergovernmental Relations Office (IRO)** team works to promote the *value of water* and the *value of WSSC Water*; engage *federal, state, county and local government* and elected stakeholders and advocate for WSSC Water's strategic interests and priorities; and foster *relationships* with organizations and promote collaborative interests.

In Annapolis, the IRO team works with members to support administratively and fiscally responsible legislation, in addition to championing policy that benefits all water utilities throughout Maryland. WSSC Water is committed to increased statewide investment in water and wastewater infrastructure and sound regulatory initiatives.

Meet the IRO Team

Monica Marquina – *Government Affairs Director*

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Please click [here](#) for a printable sheet of our key contacts.



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For over 100 years, WSSC Water has proudly served the citizens of Prince George's and Montgomery counties – providing drinking water that has always met strict Safe Drinking Water Act standards and protecting the environment through vital water resource recovery services. Our vision is to be THE world-class water utility, where excellent products and services are always on tap. www.wsscwater.com