



## A Note from WSSC Water's Intergovernmental Relations Office

Today is Crossover Day in Annapolis! Lawmakers are in the midst of their version of March Madness as they have been moving with urgency to get bills passed by the end of the day. Any bills passed in their originating chamber after today will be referred to the opposite chamber's Rules Committee prior to their introduction. So far, 2,711 bills have been introduced during the 2024 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session.

The FY2025 budget is currently on second reader in the House, and the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024 was Special Ordered until March 20, 2024.

Beginning with the 2023 session (FY2024 budget bill), the General Assembly can amend the budget to increase appropriations made by the Governor as well as add items to appropriations for Executive Branch agencies if the total appropriation does not exceed the total proposed appropriation submitted by the Governor. Prior to the 2023 session, the legislature could only add or increase funding for the General Assembly and the Judiciary.

The Intergovernmental Relations Office (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.

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## 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.

On March 18, 2024, HB 1024 was voted favorably by the House and is now with the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee.

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

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## Around WSSC Water

### WSSC Water March Commission Meeting

WSSC Water's monthly Commission Meeting will be held on March 20, 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: 365 100 481#

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

## WSSC Water's Patuxent Watershed 2024 Season

March 15, 2024 was opening day for WSSC Water's 2024 Patuxent Watershed season. All recreation areas opened at sunrise for all permitted activities, including boating, fishing, hiking, horseback riding and picnicking. The watershed spans over 6,000 acres along its two reservoirs, Triadelphia and T. Howard Duckett, in Montgomery, Prince George's and Howard counties. The reservoirs serve as drinking water sources for WSSC Water.

Visitors are encouraged to download the WSSC WATERshed app to help plan visits and explore all recreation areas. The app includes interactive maps and pictures to help find amenities like shoreline fishing and picnic areas, playgrounds, boat launches and bathrooms. Maps are also available to download to your phone for use when cellular service is weak or unavailable. The free app is available on the [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play](#).

All watershed visitors who are 16 years or older must have a valid permit, which can be purchased online at [wsscwater.com/watershed](http://wsscwater.com/watershed), or in person at the Brighton Dam Visitor Center, 2 Brighton Dam Road, Brookville, Maryland 20833. The Visitor Center is open daily from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., including weekends. To reach staff at the center, please call 301-206-7485. Complimentary permits are available for visitors 65 or older, active military and disabled veterans.

## Get the WSSC Water Mobile App

Do something smart with your smartphone and download the WSSC Water Mobile App! With your ten-digit WSSC Water account number and ZIP code, you can:

- Pay your bill by credit card, debit card or e-check. (A \$1.69 convenience fee applies.)
- View your bill and water usage history
- Report a problem
- Get service alerts
- Contact us
- Read our latest news releases
- Connect with us on social media
- View WSSC Water Contracts available for bid
- Purchase

Visit [wsscwater.com/mobile](http://wsscwater.com/mobile) for more information, and get the app at the [App Store](#) or at [Google Play](#).

**Download Our App**

- Pay Your Bill
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- Report a water/sewer emergency

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wsscwater.com

## 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.

**CNS** Customer Notification System

**Receive alerts about WSSC Water-related incidents near your home, office, school, or other important addresses.**

Register for *text or email* alerts on up to three addresses.

**REGISTER AT WSSCWATER.COM/CNS**

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## 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**

[David.Wilkins@wsscwater.com](mailto:David.Wilkins@wsscwater.com)

301-648-6953

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

**Stephen Billingsley**

[Stephen.Billingsley@wsscwater.com](mailto:Stephen.Billingsley@wsscwater.com)

240-444-5803

*Southern Montgomery County (areas south of Randolph Road)*

**Brandon Stewart**

[Brandon.Stewart@wsscwater.com](mailto:Brandon.Stewart@wsscwater.com)

301-642-1712

*Northern Montgomery County (areas north of Randolph Road)*

**Phil Callahan**

[Phil.Callahan@wsscwater.com](mailto:Phil.Callahan@wsscwater.com)

240-204-2123

Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

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## 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](#)

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## 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.

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## Meet the IRO Team

**Monica Marquina** – *Government Affairs Director*

[Monica.Marquina@wsscwater.com](mailto:Monica.Marquina@wsscwater.com)

**Terry Walker-Morris** – *Administrative Professional*

[Terry.Walker-Morris@wsscwater.com](mailto:Terry.Walker-Morris@wsscwater.com)

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# Contact Us

(301) 206-8228

[iro@wsscwater.com](mailto:iro@wsscwater.com)

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



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Subscribe to the Annapolis Observer here!

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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](http://www.wsscwater.com)