

*The Annapolis Observer is IRO's weekly update on happenings 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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## **A Note from WSSC Water's Intergovernmental Relations Office**

Legislators continue to closely monitor and craft solutions to potentially significant changes to the federal workforce. Governor Moore also launched a [resource website](#) for Marylanders impacted by recent federal actions. The website serves a central location for programs and resources available to individuals that work in the federal government and organizations that receive direct federal funding.

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 fulfill our Smart One Water Mission and analyze the impact of state and federal legislation on WSSC Water. We ensure all communities thrive by ethically delivering safe, reliable and sustainable water and wastewater services. In every home, every business, we make everything possible by ensuring access to dependable and safe water for everyday life.

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## **Legislative Updates**

This week, both Prince George's County's Acting County Executive and County Council voted to support WSSC Water-sponsored bills [HB 1063](#) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Design and Construction – Alternative Project Delivery and Solicitation Methods, and [HB 1168](#) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Service Charges. HB 1063 awaits its February 25, 2025 bill hearing before the Environment and Transportation (E&T) Committee. HB 1168 was voted favorably by the Montgomery County House Delegation's Metro Washington Committee and will have a bill hearing scheduled before E&T at a future date.

WSSC Water-related bills remain under consideration. No action was taken on [HB 1064](#) Montgomery County Planning Board and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Open Meetings – Live Streaming (Palakovich Carr). [HB 1230](#) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – System Development Charge – Exemptions (Moon) was voted favorably with an amendment by the Prince George's County House Delegations Bi-County Committee and the full delegation. It will now return the MCHD Metro Washington Committee for consideration of the new amendment. And lastly, [HB 1195](#) – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Membership, Transparency, Billing, and Planning (WSSC Transparency and Reform Act of 2025) (Korman, Wilkins, Barnes) was voted out as amended by the Montgomery House Delegation on February 14, 2025. WSSC Water continues to work with the sponsor to address the remaining concerns.

No legislative action occurred this week for [SB 654](#) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Raw Water Pipeline Project – Audit (Rosapepe) and [SB 732/ HB 909](#) – Sewage Sludge Utilization Permits – Per – and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances – Concentration Limits. A bill hearing for SB 732 is scheduled before the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. WSSC Water staff will provide informational testimony on the impacts of the bill.

IRO will continue to monitor legislation and provide updates. Find the status and position on WSSC Water-related bills in our [Legislative Update](#).

# Around WSSC Water

## WSSC Water Lifts Boil Water Advisory (BWA)

On Wednesday, February 12th, WSSC Water lifted a Boil Water Advisory (BWA) impacting customers in southern Prince George's County south of MD 4 (Pennsylvania Avenue) following a suspected water main break.

WSSC Water worked closely with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to develop a comprehensive water quality sampling strategy from locations spread across the impacted area – helping to confirm the safety of the drinking water for all customers in the area.

Please visit [wsscwater.com/bwa](https://wsscwater.com/bwa) for more information on the steps to take after a boil water advisory is lifted

## WSSC Water Monthly Commission Meeting

The monthly Commission Meeting will be held on February 19, 2025 starting 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 275 071 394 876

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

## Deadline is Tomorrow! WSSC Water 2025 Commissioners' Engineering Scholarship

The deadline to submit applications for the WSSC Water 2025 Commissioners' Engineering scholarship is tomorrow, Saturday, February 15, 2025.

- The scholarship, which provides \$2,000 per year, supports WSSC Water's ongoing efforts to attract aspiring engineers to careers in the water industry.
- The scholarship is open to undergraduate or graduate students with permanent residency in Montgomery or Prince George's counties and are enrolled in a full-time college or university engineering program. Graduating high school seniors accepted into a college engineering program are also eligible.
- Applicants must include an introductory video and essay, two reference letters, an official transcript and proof of residency in WSSC Water's service district.

You may access and submit your application online [here](#), or via US mail. Applications submitted via mail must be postmarked by February 15, 2025, and addressed to: Julianne Montes de Oca, Corporate Secretary, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, 14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707.

Please visit [wsscwater.com/scholarship](https://wsscwater.com/scholarship) to get complete details and application requirements.

## Did You Receive An Estimated Bill?

Residential customers with inside water meters will sometimes receive an estimated bill when a WSSC Water meter reader cannot obtain a water usage reading. Additionally, severe weather can lead to estimated bills if meter readers are unable to access properties.

When we are unable to capture an actual meter reading, we ask that the customer submit a meter reading so they may receive a bill that is based on their actual usage. There are several ways to submit a meter reading:

- Through the MyWSSCWater portal. Just [log in](#) to enter the meter reading.
- Via our 24/7 automated Interactive Voice Response System at 301-206-4001, or toll free at 1-800-634-8400. *Be sure to have the WSSC Water account number handy.*
- Call Customer Service at 301-206-4001, or toll free 1-800-634-8400 to speak to a customer service advisor.
- Email a picture of your meter reading to [customerservice@wsscwater.com](mailto:customerservice@wsscwater.com). Be sure to include the account number and the service address in the subject line or body of the email.

Click [here](#) for further information on submitting a water meter reading.

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**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**

## 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.

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

**Phil Callahan**

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Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

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## Calendar

- March 13, 2025 – WSSC Water’s Legislative Luncheon
  - March 17, 2025 – Crossover
  - April 7, 2025 – Sine Die
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## Related Links

[Maryland General Assembly](#)

- [Session Calendar](#)
- [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*

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## Contact Us

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

WSSC Water | 14501 Sweitzer Lane | Laurel, MD 20707 US

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