

*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 craft legislation and negotiate solutions to address the state's financial challenges. On Friday, February 21 Senate Budget and Taxation Chair Guy Guzzone stated that House and Senate leadership are prepared to make up to \$500 million in budget cuts as they wait to see what happens if the Federal Government does or does not approve a continuing resolution on March 14. The State Board of Estimates is expected to release the newest fiscal projections on March 9 which will also inform legislators on additional actions that may need to be taken.

Additionally, legislators examined one of Governor Moore's budget legislative proposals which includes potential cuts to the state's Blueprint for Maryland's Future in the Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act ([SB 429/ HB 504](#)). The proposed bill would defer some elements of the multibillion-dollar, 10-year Blueprint plan as the state faces a \$3 billion budget shortfall next year. In a joint hearing this week, one of the provisions that garnered a great deal of feedback was the provision that would pause funding towards the Blueprint's goal of increasing "collaborative time" for teachers. Increased collaborative time would require hiring thousands more teachers, which the administration says is not feasible under current economic conditions. The administration also calls for keeping funding for community schools at current levels, which opponents argue would negatively impact students most in need.

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**

All WSSC Water-sponsored and related bills have completed the bi-county legislative process and will now be heard before the House of Delegate's Environment and Transportation Committee. Our WSSC Water-sponsored bill [HB 1063](#) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Design and Construction – Alternative Project Delivery and Solicitation Methods will be heard on Tuesday, February 25, and [HB 1168](#) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Service Charges will be heard Thursday, March 6. Staff will be present at both hearings and provide testimony.

[HB 1064](#) Montgomery County Planning Board and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Open Meetings – Live Streaming (Palakovich Carr) will also be heard Thursday, March 6. Both bills, [HB 1230](#) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – System Development Charge – Exemptions (Moon) and [HB 1195](#) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Membership, Transparency, Billing, and Planning (WSSC Transparency and Reform Act of 2025) (Korman, Wilkins, Barnes) were voted favorably with amendments by the delegations and await hearing dates.

[SB 654](#) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Raw Water Pipeline Project – Audit (Rosapepe) was voted favorably by the Prince George’s County Senate Delegation and will be heard before the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee on Tuesday, February 25. The House bill version of [SB 732 \(HB 909\)](#) Sewage Sludge Utilization Permits – Per – and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances – Concentration Limits will be heard before the Environment and Transportation Committee on Wednesday, February 26, 2025. WSSC Water staff will provide informational testimony on the impacts of both bills.

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

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## Around WSSC Water

### Start or Stop Service

Do you need to start an account with WSSC Water, or finalize billing on an account because you are preparing to move? For your convenience, WSSC Water provides customers an [online webform](#) to make submitting your start/stop service request quicker and easier!

The webform is available in English and Español, and only takes a few minutes to complete. Please visit [wsscwater.com/service](#) for more details, as well as information on water and sewer rates, submitting a water meter reading, and paying your bills.

**HOW TO IDENTIFY A WSSC WATER EMPLOYEE**

All WSSC Water employees carry an employee identification badge.  
WSSC Water employees drive marked vehicles.

WSSC Water Logo

Employee Photo

Employee Name & ID Number

Check that the vehicle has MARYLAND LG (Local Govt.) license plates.

EMPLOYEE IDENTIFICATION BADGE

15551 Gender: Male, Height: 5'6", 2017

METER READER

### Identifying WSSC Water Employees

We want you to be assured that someone who says they are a WSSC Water employee is in fact one of our workers. To identify our employees, ask to see their Employee Identification Badge.

WSSC Water employees rarely need to enter your home, but when we do, we will schedule an appointment with you. We will never ask to enter your home without you expecting us.

Please call WSSC Water Police at 301-206-8888, if you see suspicious activity by someone who says they are a WSSC Water employee. If for any reason you

fear for your safety, please call 911. For more information on tips on how to identify our employees, please visit [wsscwater.com/identification](#).

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**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](http://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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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)

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