

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.

A Note from WSSC Water's Intergovernmental Relations Office

Bills continue to move through the bi-county process. In the upcoming weeks, bills will transition to standing General Assembly committees for consideration in the next step of the legislative process.

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.

Legislative Updates

Our two WSSC Water-sponsored bills still under consideration include [MC/PG 102-25](#) – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Design and Construction – Alternative Project Delivery and Solicitation Methods and [MC/PG 112-25](#) – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Service Charges.

On January 27, the Montgomery County House Delegation's (MCHD) Metro Washington Committee reviewed MC/PG 102-25. The bill moved favorably from the committee to the full MCHD where it received a unanimous vote of support. The bill will now move to the General Assembly's standing Environment and Transportation (E&T) Committee, where it will begin consideration by the full General Assembly.

On January 30, the Prince George's House Delegation's (PGCHD) Bi-County Committee reviewed MC/PG 112-25. It moved favorably to their full delegation, however upon feedback, the bill was special ordered to return the Bi-County Committee for further discussion and consideration. Staff will have any opportunity to address any questions and comments brought by the delegation at an upcoming committee meeting.

[MC/PG 101-25](#) – Montgomery County Planning Board and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Open Meetings – Live Streaming (Palakovich Carr) moved favorably through the PGCHD Bi-County Committee and full delegation, and will move on to the E&T committee to begin consideration by the full General Assembly. [MC/PG 107-25](#) – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – System Development Charge – Exemptions (Moon) moved favorably by the MCHD and will move to the PGCHD County Affairs Committee. And, [MC/PG 105-25](#) – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Membership, Transparency, Billing, and Planning (WSSC Transparency and Reform Act of 2025) (Korman, Wilkins, Barnes) will have further review from the MCHD's Metro Washington Committee.

In addition, a late filed bill, [SB 654](#) – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Raw Water Pipeline Project – Audit, was introduced by Senator Rosapepe. Staff is currently reviewing the legislation.

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



Temporary Water Bill Amnesty Program Launches March 1

Get Current 2.0 will help income-constrained customers with delinquent water/sewer bills. The amnesty program assists eligible customers by providing bill credits up to 50 percent and 100 percent of late payment charges and turn-on fees waived.

[Sign up here](#) to be notified when Get Current 2.0 launches! Get Current 2.0 launches on March 1, 2025 and runs through June 30, 2025.

What To Do When Experiencing Discolored Water

Discolored water is common after water main repairs. Follow our step-by-step guide to flush your pipes and relieve trapped air. Follow these simple steps to flush your pipes and relieve trapped air:

- Begin with the sink faucet on the lowest floor of your home or business
- Slowly open the cold water sink faucet
- Repeat this process on each floor, moving from the lowest to highest, only opening the cold water sink faucets.
- You should also flush your refrigerator's water lines.
- Once the water runs clear, usually in five minutes or less, turn off your faucets in the same order, lowest to highest.

Please click [here](#) for more discolored water/flushing guide information.

Discolored Water → Flush Your Pipes



Discolored water is common after a water main repair in your area. Follow these simple steps to flush your pipes and relieve trapped air.



Begin with the **SINK** faucet on **lowest** floor.



SLOWLY open the **COLD** water **SINK** faucet. Opening slowly allows for the release of trapped air and may reduce the banging noise, known as a "water hammer" that can occur when water flow and pressure changes as a result of water main repair work.



Repeat on each floor, moving from **lowest to highest**, only opening **COLD** water **SINK** faucets.



Once the **water runs clear**, usually in 5 minutes or less, **turn off** faucets in the same order, **lowest to highest**.

You should also flush your refrigerator's water lines.



For more details: wsscwater.com/discoloredwater



**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.

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.

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Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

Calendar

- February 3, 2025 – Senate Bill Introduction Date
 - February 5, 2025 – Governor delivers State of the State Address (noon)
 - February 7, 2025 – House Bill Introduction Date
 - 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](#)

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

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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

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