

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

Legislators continue to review Governor Moore's budget proposals. Governor Moore made his first appearance before the House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committee to discuss his plans to address the state's financial challenges. Governor Wes Moore has proposed a budget that includes \$2 billion in spending cuts and nearly \$1 billion in tax increases. The tax plan suggests higher rates for high-income earners, with a 6.25% rate for those earning over \$500,000 and a 6.5% rate for those earning over \$1 million. Additionally, the proposal aims to lower the corporate tax rate while implementing measures to prevent tax evasion by multistate corporations. State lawmakers are also seeking further budget cuts, ranging from \$200 million to \$500 million, amid uncertainties over federal funding and potential policy changes under the current administration.

Governor Moore is also focused on assisting impacted federal workers. Last week, he announced new resources and initiatives to support federal workers who have lost their jobs due to cuts from the Trump administration, potentially leaving over 10,000 Marylanders unemployed. Moore condemned the mass layoffs and highlighted the state's efforts to assist these workers.

The state is offering several opportunities, including recruitment for available positions in Maryland's workforce, which has about 5,200 vacancies. The state will soon launch a pilot program through the Department of Transportation to help federal workers transition into state jobs. Additionally, Governor Moore proposed that displaced workers consider a career shift into teaching, with Maryland needing between 12,000 to 15,000 teachers to meet educational goals. Virtual and in-person job fairs will also be held to connect workers with job opportunities. The state has launched a [website](#) with over 130,000 job openings and streamlined the state job-application process to speed up hiring.

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

Committee hearings began last week for WSSC Water-sponsored and related bills. On February 25, WSSC Water Chief Engineer Eyad Mizian, provided favorable testimony before the Environmental and Transportation (E&T) Committee on [HB 1063](#) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Design and Construction – Alternative Project Delivery and Solicitation Methods. Chief Engineer also provided informational testimony before Education, Energy, and Environment Committee on [SB 654](#) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Raw Water Pipeline Project – Audit (Rosapepe). Additionally, WSSC Water Director of Department of Operational Reliability and Resilience, Dr. Priscilla To, provided informational testimony before the E&T Committee on the house 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 March 6, bill hearings will take place before the House E&T Committee for [HB 1168](#) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Service Charges; [HB 1064](#) Montgomery County Planning Board and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Open Meetings – Live Streaming (Palakovich Carr); and [HB 1195](#) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Membership, Transparency, Billing, and Planning (WSSC Transparency and Reform Act of 2025) (Korman, Wilkins, Barnes). Additionally, a hearing will be held for [HB 1230](#) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – System Development Charge – Exemptions (Moon) before the E&T Committee on Friday, March 7. WSSC Water staff will be providing testimony at these hearings.

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

CAP Leak Repair Program

Continuing ongoing efforts to expand financial assistance programs to protect income-constrained customers, WSSC Water has announced a partnership with Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland to repair on-property residential plumbing leaks. The new program will help customers save money and conserve water by identifying and repairing leaking plumbing fixtures. Eligible customers can receive up to \$9,000 per year in plumbing repair services.

To receive these services, the applicant must:

- Be a WSSC Water customer.
- Own and reside at the property.
- Be enrolled in [WSSC Water's Customer Assistance Program](#) on the date of the application for assistance.

Learn more about the [CAP Leak Repair Program](#) and apply for assistance today.

Answers to Some Frequently Asked Questions

Can the Grease: Please do your part by disposing of fats, oils and grease [the proper way](#). Food Service Establishments Questions: 301-206-8719; Residential Can the Grease Information: 301-206-4001.

Conservation Tips: Now, more than ever, it's important to be mindful of your water usage inside and outside the home. Learn some [quick tips](#) on how to save water.

Residential Tips: Please click [here](#) to get tips on handling issues in and around your home or neighborhood.

Gas Appliances: Have questions about that new gas appliance? Why do you need to have it inspected by us? These and more questions are answered [here](#).

WSSC Water Launches Second Temporary Water Bill Assistance Program

WSSC Water's successful temporary water bill assistance program returns tomorrow, March 1, to help income-constrained



Behind on your WSSC Water bill? Get Current

Up to **50%** in bill credits + **100%** late payment charges & turn-on fees **WAIVED**

Limited-Time Program MARCH 1 - JUNE 30

Find out if you're eligible for Get Current and sign up to be notified on March 1. wsscwater.com/getcurrent

customers with delinquent water/sewer bills. Get Current 2.0 will run through June 30. The program assists eligible customers with a delinquent balance as of February 1, 2025, by providing bill credits up to 50 percent and 100 percent of late payment charges and turn-on fees waived.

Eligible residential customers whose household income is below 150 percent of the area median income* will receive the following benefits:

- 50 percent bill credit for payment in full of the delinquent amount and 100 percent of late payment charges and turn-on fees waived; and
- 25 percent bill credit for 50 percent payment of the delinquent amount and completion of a six-month payment plan. Upon completion of the payment plan, 100 percent of late payment charges and turn-on fees are waived. The 25 percent bill credit is applied after completion of the payment plan.

To learn more about WSSC Water's Get Current 2.0 program, visit wsscwater.com/getcurrent. Customers can access additional information on assistance programs at wsscwater.com/assistance.



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.

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

- March 13, 2025 – WSSC Water's Legislative Luncheon
- March 17, 2025 – Crossover
- April 7, 2025 – Sine Die

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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