



## **A Note from WSSC Water's Intergovernmental Relations Office (IRO):**

The Senators and Delegates were busy last week submitting their legislative proposals before bill introduction dates of February 6th (Senate) and February 10th (House). Any bill introduced after these dates are referred to the respective Rules Committee. To date, legislators have introduced 2,113 bills for consideration.

Governor Wes Moore recently announced that he will be submitting a supplemental budget to fully fund the Disparity Grant Program, currently short by nearly \$54 million due to outdated income tax data according to a [recent budget analysis by the Department of Legislative Services](#). The Disparity Grant Program provides noncategorical State aid to low-wealth jurisdictions. It promotes equity across jurisdictions to overcome disparate tax bases – ensuring that counties, which rely on local income taxes for substantial revenue, can generate sufficient yield to fund schools, public health, public safety, roadway maintenance, and other essential community services.

WSSC Water's **Intergovernmental Relations Office (IRO)** is on the front-line advocating for legislation that impacts our work. **IRO** covers a variety of subject matters and focuses 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 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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## **Legislative Updates**

WSSC Water has proposed one bill for the 2023 Legislative Session. [HB 783 \(MC/PG 101-23\)](#) - *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Minority Business Enterprise Utilization Program - Revisions and Extension*. This bill updates, modernizes, streamlines, and strengthens provisions pertaining to WSSC Water's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Utilization Program, including extending the Office of Supplier Diversity and Inclusion's statutory authority to have an MBE program for five (5) years, ending on June 30, 2028.

The Prince George's County Bi-County Committee held a work session to discuss [HB 783 \(MC/PG 101-23\)](#) on February 9th and is scheduled to vote on their recommendation for the bill during their next meeting on Thursday, February 16 at 9:00 am.

WSSC Water will continue to champion policies that provide safe and reliable water and return clean water to our environment, all in an ethical, sustainable and financially responsible manner.

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

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## **Around WSSC Water**

## WSSC WATER MAINTAINS AAA BOND RATING ON \$360 MILLION BOND SALE

On February 3rd, [WSSC Water received AAA bond ratings](#) from all three financial rating agencies – Fitch Ratings, Standard & Poor's Global (S&P) and Moody's Investor Service on a February 14 sale of \$360 million in consolidated public improvement general obligation bonds. This marks 22 years in a row that WSSC Water has achieved this premier rating. The February 14 bond sale includes \$20 million in green bonds.

Proceeds from the general obligation bonds will fund key capital projects, including:

- Piscataway Bioenergy Facility: \$74.4 million
- Water reconstruction: \$71.6 million
- Contribution to Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant: \$64.3 million

Proceeds from the sale of the green bonds will fund the following upgrades:

- Potomac Water Filtration Plant: \$15 million
- Large-diameter water distribution system: \$5 million

To learn more about WSSC Water's financial information, visit [wsscwater.com/fin](http://wsscwater.com/fin).

### 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](http://wsscwater.com/service) for more details, as well as information on water and sewer rates, submitting a water meter reading, and paying your bills.

### YOUR WATER USAGE – SAVE WATER NOW, SAVE MONEY LATER

There are many ways to save water and reduce the cost of your bill. Here are just a few:

- When you wash your hands, turn off the faucet while you lather and scrub
- Take shorter showers
- Use the dishwasher instead of washing dishes by hand
- Use your automatic washing machine for full loads only
- Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors
- Find and repair any leaks
- Toilet leaks are the most common cause of high water bills. [This video](#) will show you how to check for toilet leaks.
- During the summer months, water your lawn only when it needs it, and during the coolest part of the day

We've listed many more water-saving suggestions for your home on our [Water Conservation Tips](#) page. And to help you understand the largest water-users at home, see our [Understanding Household Water Usage](#) page.

If you have any questions about your bill, we are here to help! Please call a Customer Service Advisor at 301-206-4001 (toll free at 1-800-634-8400), weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. or email us at [custserv@wsscwater.com](mailto:custserv@wsscwater.com).

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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's Customer](#)

## [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**

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*Montgomery County*

**Brandon Stewart**

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301-642-1712

Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

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## Calendar

**February 16, 2023** – Prince George's County Bi-County Committee Work Session – 9:00 a.m.

**March 20, 2023** – Crossover

**April 10, 2023** – 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

**Guy Andes** – *Acting Director*  
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**Monica Marquina** – *Government Affairs Manager*  
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**Terry Walker-Morris** – *Administrative Professional*  
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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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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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