



A Note from WSSC Water's Intergovernmental Relations Office

As the General Assembly quickly approaches the halfway mark in the 90-day legislative session, the Senators and Delegates continue to deliberate on 2,205 bills that have been introduced this Session.

Due to Governor Moore's cabinet appointments of Senator Paul Pinsky (District 22) and Senator Susan Lee (District 16), the process to fill the resulting vacancies in Prince George's County and Montgomery County Delegations are underway. In Prince George's County, Ashanti Martinez's name has been sent to the Governor to fill the vacant Delegate seat, after Delegate Alonzo Washington (District 22) ascended to the Senate. Meanwhile in Montgomery County, Delegate Ariana Kelly's name has been sent to Governor Moore to fill the vacant Senate seat in District 16. Once that vacancy has been filled, the process for selecting a Delegate will commence.

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.

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 23rd 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](#).

Around WSSC Water

WSSC WATER EARNS PRESTIGIOUS EDUCATIONAL AWARD FROM

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN WATER AGENCIES (NACWA)

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) presented WSSC Water with the 2023 National Environmental Achievement Award in the Public Information & Education Program at a ceremony on February 14th for its Introduction to Wastewater Treatment Virtual Unit. The prestigious award recognizes inventive water and sewer utilities' efforts to educate the public on the effects of wastewater treatment and pollution control.

WSSC Water's educational outreach program reaches an average of 2,000 students each year throughout two of the nation's largest school districts. To meet growing demand for environmental curriculum and build more online programming due to COVID-19, staff created virtual tours of the utility's Seneca and Piscataway Water Resource Recovery Facilities (WRRF), formerly known as wastewater treatment plants. Since its launch in the fall of 2021, approximately 800 students have experienced the virtual program.

Please click [here](#) for more details as well as how educators and students can request the Wastewater Treatment Virtual Unit.

EMERGENCY WATER AND SEWER PROBLEMS

WSSC Water has a multi-layered, highly detailed map that gives you real-time information about all the construction and repair projects in your neighborhood. Use our interactive map to find water maintenance projects:

- Type in any address and search to reveal markers showing where projects are taking place.
- Read service alerts with full descriptions of projects that are planned or are in progress.
- Find out where election district boundaries are in Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

Please view our interactive map [here](#) to find water maintenance projects 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'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

301-648-6953

Southern Prince George's County (areas south of Central Avenue, MD 214)

Stephen Billingsley
Stephen.Billingsley@wsscwater.com
240-444-5803

Montgomery County
Brandon Stewart
Brandon.Stewart@wsscwater.com
301-642-1712

Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

Calendar

- **February 19, 2023:** Prince George's County Late-File Bill Public Hearing – 4:00 pm
 - **February 23, 2023:** Prince George's County Bi-County Committee Work Session – 9:00 am
 - **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](#)

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

Guy Andes – *Acting Director*
Guy.Andes@wsscwater.com

Monica Marquina – *Government Affairs Manager*
Monica.Marquina@wsscwater.com

Terry Walker-Morris – *Administrative Professional*
Terry.Walker-Morris@wsscwater.com

Contact Us

(301) 206-8228

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

WSSC Water | 14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707

[Unsubscribe leslie.allen@wsscwater.com](mailto:leslie.allen@wsscwater.com)

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