



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

Governor Wes Moore delivered his first [State of the State Address](#) from the House of Delegates Chamber on Wednesday, February 1, 2023. Governor Moore highlighted his priorities for his first year in office which included education, building the state workforce, public service, and the economy. The Governor's legislative package includes bills to address child poverty, with more than \$171 million in tax relief to poor and working families through extending an expanded earned income tax credit, as well as proposing the minimum wage increase be accelerated to \$15 per hour by October this year.

As Senators and Delegates hurry to finalize legislative proposals before the bill introduction dates on February 6 and 10 in their respective chambers, lawmakers have proposed 1,186 bills for consideration to date.

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. [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 MC/PG 101-23 on February 2nd and is scheduled to vote on their recommendation for the bill during their next meeting on Thursday, February 9th 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

IMPORTANT WATERSHED UPDATES

Our watershed recreation user program allows public recreational access to WSSC

Water's privately owned watershed, for activities such as picnicking, shoreline fishing and more. Please make note of the following important updates:

- As of January 5, 2023, due to playground renovations at the Triadelphia picnic and playground areas, a section of the parking lot will be closed until further notice. The rest of Triadelphia recreational area will remain open (fishing pier and shoreline fishing areas).
- All boat ramps and boating activities are closed through March 14, 2023.
- A sediment removal project on Triadelphia Reservoir is anticipated to begin in Spring/Summer 2023. During that time, all boat ramps will be closed and no boating will be allowed.
- The Greenbridge and Pig Tail recreational areas will be closed to ensure public safety due to the construction activity.

If you have any questions, please contact watershedrec@wsscwater.com, or visit wsscwater.com/watershed for more detailed information.

2023 WSSC WATER STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

College students! Our internship program is back! The program which lasts from early June to mid-August provides opportunities in many fields of study – from engineering to finance to IT and more! For more detailed information including eligibility requirements and how to apply, please visit wsscwater.com/intern.

WATER SERVICE LINE EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT LOAN (PipeER)

PipeER is a loan to help finance the replacement of a leaking residential water service line. Qualified customers are eligible to receive a loan up to \$5,000. PipeER is administered by the WSSC Federal Credit Union (WSSC FCU) in partnership with WSSC Water.

Each year, up to \$100,000 in total is available on a first-come, first-served basis until the fund is depleted. On July 1st of each year, any remaining funds are donated to the WSSC Water Fund. For more information and to begin your application process, contact WSSC FCU at 240-459-8022, or online at wsscwater.com/pipeER.

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

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

Stephen Billingsley

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Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

Calendar

February 6, 2023 – Senate Bill Introduction

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

February 10, 2023 – House Bill Introduction

March 20, 2023 – Crossover

April 10, 2023 – Sine Die

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*

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Monica Marquina – *Government Affairs Manager*

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Contact Us

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Please click [here](#) for a printable sheet of our key contacts.



Subscribe to the Annapolis Observer here!

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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