



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

Maryland lawmakers have hit the ground running and began bill hearings during the first full week of the General Assembly's 445th Legislative Session. To date, legislators have introduced 417 bills for consideration. On his first full day in office, Governor Wes Moore released \$69 million in state funding that was withheld by the last Administration. These allocations included \$9 million for environmental protections and \$10 million for the Department of Labor to start a paid family and medical care leave program.

On Friday, [Governor Moore released his first state budget plan](#) which includes funding for education, transportation, and environment initiatives. Due to a recent change to the state constitution, the General Assembly can increase, decrease or add items to the operating budget, as long as the Legislature's funding remains below the funding proposed by the governor. Next week the Senate and House members in the Budget & Taxation and Appropriations committees begin their work to pass a balanced budget by early April.

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.

Montgomery County's Metro Washington Area Committee held a [work session](#) and deferred action on MC/PG 101-23 on January 16, 2023. The Prince George County Bi-County Committee is scheduled to have a work session to consider local bi-county bills on Thursday, January 26th at 9:00 a.m.

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 EVENTS

Want to join us at an event or attend a meeting or hearing? WSSC Water hosts many events and meetings and participates in your community. Please visit our website at wsscwater.com/events to:

- Stay updated on issues that impact your daily life, your business and your neighborhood
- Review proceedings of the latest official meetings
- Join us at an upcoming event

PREPARE YOUR HOME SO IT CAN BE WINTER READY

Before snow and frigid temperatures arrive, it is important to protect your home and pipes from the cold and prevent the pipes and your inside water meter from freezing or possibly bursting.

Here are some key steps to take before freezing weather hits:

- Turn off the water to outside faucets, remove hoses and drain the pipes
- From the inside, cover any open vents with insulation, plastic or cardboard
- Tightly close all windows, repair as necessary to seal out drafts
- Insulate and repair outside-facing walls
- On colder nights, open cabinet doors to expose pipes to your home's warmth
- The temperature where water meters and interior pipes are located must be a minimum of 55 degrees Fahrenheit from November 1 through April 1
- On very cold nights, let your kitchen or bathroom faucets drip slowly to keep water moving

If a pipe in your home freezes:

- Completely open the cold and/or hot water faucet closest to the frozen pipe. This will relieve pressure and reduce the chance of breakage
- If you decide to try thawing the pipe yourself, use a hand-held electric hair dryer
- If in doubt, call a registered plumber for help

There are three simple ways to report a break or leak to WSSC Water's 24-hour Emergency Services Center:

- By phone: 301-206-4002
- By email: emergencycallcenter@wsscwater.com
- Via [WSSC Water's Mobile App](#)

As a reminder, WSSC Water maintains the pipes in the streets and the connections up to the property line. If a pipe in a home freezes, it is the homeowner's responsibility to repair. For more information, including tips on what customers can do to help winterize their homes, visit www.wsscwater.com/winterready.

WSSC WATER ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

WSSC Water's [Annual Water Quality Report](#) keeps you informed about the safety and quality of the drinking water we provide. WSSC Water is reporting zero water quality violations - continuing our record of more than 100 years without a violation. That record is a testament to the hard work of everyone at WSSC Water and our commitment to providing you with clean, safe drinking water.

For more detailed information and to learn more about the dedication and work to produce our Water Quality Report, which summarizes the results of more than 500,000 water quality tests we conduct every year, please visit wsscwater.com/waterquality.

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

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301-642-1712

Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

Calendar

January 26, 2023 – Prince George's County Bi-County Committee Work Session – 9:00 a.m.

February 6, 2023 – Senate Bill Introduction

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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Contact Us

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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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