



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

Activity is steadily ramping up as lawmakers are busy at work in Annapolis. To date, legislators have introduced 742 bills for consideration. One bill of interest is [HB 216 Environment - Salt Applicator Certification Program - Establishment](#). This legislation creates a program to encourage the efficient use of salt while maintaining roadways, parking lots and sidewalks through use of salt or salt alternatives. A similar bill was also introduced last year. Delegate Lily Qi is the lead sponsor of the bill and recently spoke during WSSC Water's Salt Summit facilitated by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG). WSSC Water reminds everyone to do their part to protect drinking water sources by being [salt wise during winter](#) and minimizing the amount of salt used during winter events.

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 is scheduled to have a work session to consider local bi-county bills on Thursday, February 2nd 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 HOSTS IN-PERSON PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PRELIMINARY PROPOSED FY 2024 BUDGET

WSSC Water is hosting two in-person public hearings next week for interested customers and stakeholders to provide feedback on its [preliminary proposed budget for Fiscal Year](#)

2024 for operating and capital funds. Staff will provide an overview of the \$1.603 billion preliminary proposed budget and receive public comments. Interested members of the public can visit wsscwater.com/fin to find complete budget details.

The in-person public hearings schedule is as follows:

January 31, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Stella B. Werner Office Building
3rd Floor Hearing Room
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

[Register to comment](#)

Unable to attend? Streaming available via [County Cable Montgomery](#)

February 2, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Department of the Environment Building
Conference Room 140
1801 McCormick Drive
Largo, Maryland 20774

[Register to comment](#)

Unable to attend? Streaming available on [Facebook Live](#)

WSSC WATER SECURITY

WSSC Water has always taken steps to ensure the security and safety our water supply and facilities. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, WSSC Water has been even more vigilant in watching over every part of the system that delivers the water you rely on every day.

In concert with the steps we take to ensure the quality and safety of your drinking water, WSSC Water is actively engaged in guarding the physical security of our water supply and distribution system. To keep the system safe from sabotage and attack, our police force is on guard 24 hours a day. To learn more about our water security, please visit wsscwater.com/what-we-do/water-security.

HOW TO READ YOUR WATER BILL

We have made your quarterly bill attractive, simple to read and easy to understand. Please click [here](#) for an explanation of important information and key terms you will see on your statement. Also included are the following resources on rates and billing:

- [Residential Submeters](#)
- [Submitting a Water Meter Reading](#)
- [Water and Sewer Rates](#)
- [WSSC Water Fees](#)
- [WSSC Water Financial Assistance Programs](#)
- [Your Water Usage](#)

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

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301-642-1712

Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

Calendar

February 2, 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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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.



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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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