



A Note from WSSC Water's Intergovernmental Relations Office

Lawmakers are in the midst of their own version of March Madness as they have been moving with urgency to get bills passed prior to Crossover on March 20th. Any bills passed in their originating chamber after Monday will be referred to the opposite chamber's Rules Committee prior to their introduction. So far, 2,272 bills have been introduced during the 2023 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session.

More changes are coming to the Montgomery County Delegation! On March 15, 2023, Delegate Kirill Reznik (D39) announced his retirement from the House of Delegates effective March 21, 2023. Delegate Reznik will be joining the Department of Human Services as the new Assistant Secretary for Inter-Departmental Data Integration. The Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee will once again begin the nomination process to fill a vacancy.

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 House Health and Government Operations Committee approved the amendments supported by the Montgomery County and Prince George's County delegations and issued a favorable report for HB 783. The bill now moves to the House floor for a final vote.

The Montgomery County House Delegation voted to amend and pass [HB 872 \(MC/PG 111-23\)](#) on March 17, 2023. As amended, this bill authorizes WSSC Water to enter into contracts with the District of Columbia or the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a water supply, sewer, or drainage system for certain property located within a regional transit district in Prince George's County. The bill is limited to "border properties" which is defined as a property located on a boundary line with D.C. and within one-half mile of (1) a regional transit district or neighborhood center in Prince George's County; and (2) an existing mass transit rail station that is operated by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. This legislation was introduced at the request of the County Executive.

The amendments approved by the Montgomery County House Delegation (1) require a property or adjacent property owned by the same owner to have site plan approval on or after January 1, 2021, but before January 1, 2022 in order to qualify as a border property; and (2) place a 5-year sunset provision on the bill that is prospective from the time of enactment and will not apply to any contracts that have been executed.

HB 872 now moves back to the Prince George's County House Delegation for consideration of the Montgomery County amendments.

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 Accepting Applications for 2023 Commissioners' Engineering Scholarship

Applications are now available for the 2023 Commissioners' Engineering Scholarship. The **deadline to apply is Monday, April 17, 2023**.

- The scholarship, which provides \$2,000 per year, supports WSSC Water's ongoing efforts to attract aspiring engineers to careers in the water industry.
- The scholarship is open to students with permanent residency in Montgomery or Prince George's counties and are enrolled in a full-time college or university engineering program. High school seniors accepted into an engineering program are also eligible.
- In addition to an essay, applicants must include an introductory video and proof of residency in WSSC Water's service district.

You may access and submit your application online [here](#), or via US mail. Applications submitted via mail must be postmarked by April 17, 2023 and addressed to: Julianne Montes de Oca, Corporate Secretary, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, 14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707.

Please visit wsscwater.com/scholarship to get complete details and application requirements.

WSSC Water's Patuxent Watershed 2023 Season

Boating, fishing, hiking, horseback riding and picnicking on the reservoirs resumed on March 15, 2023. All visitors of the watershed who are 16 years or older must have a valid permit, which can be purchased online at wsscwater.com/watershed or in person at the Brighton Dam Visitor Center, located at 2 Brighton Dam Road, Brookville, MD 20833.

New this 2023 season is our WSSC WATERshed app to help visitors plan and navigate their next outing. It is your resource for exploring the recreational opportunities in and around our two reservoirs in Montgomery, Prince George's, and Howard Counties. The free app is available for [iPhone](#) and [Android](#) users. To reach staff at the center, please call 301-206-7485, or email Watershedrec@WSSCWater.com.

Statement from WSSC Water GMCEO Kishia L. Powell on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Proposed Regulatory Changes on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

On March 14, 2023, the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's \(EPA\) proposed](#)

[regulations impacting six types of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFAS\) in drinking water](#). PFAS, often called forever chemicals, are a large group of manmade compounds used since the 1940s in common household and commercial products.

As part of her statement, WSSC Water General Manager and CEO Kishia L. Powell issued the following:

- WSSC Water's mission is to protect public health and safety by supplying safe, clean and reliable water to our 1.9 million customers. We are proud of our impressive record of zero drinking water quality violations in our nearly 105-year history and are committed to continuing this exceptional level of excellence.
- We support the EPA's efforts to safeguard public drinking water supplies by addressing emerging contaminants like PFAS compounds. We don't want these manmade compounds in our drinking water supplies, and if treatment process changes are necessary to meet these new regulations, rest assured, we will make them.
- For several years, WSSC Water has been proactively testing for PFAS compounds in our drinking water – testing protocols that go above and beyond federal and state requirements. Test results are posted [here on our website](#).
- We are champions of clean water and vigilant stewards of our customers' money. If water treatment process changes are necessary to meet new federal PFAS standards, we support policies that hold the entities causing PFAS to enter the environment and drinking water supplies financially responsible. These costs should not be passed on to our customers.
- WSSC Water will carefully evaluate the proposed regulations and provide the EPA with feedback within the 60-day comment period.

Please click [here](#) to read the General Manager's statement in its entirety.

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

- **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*

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.



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

WSSC Water | 14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707

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

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by byiro@wsscwater.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!