



## A Note from WSSC Water's Intergovernmental Relations Office

The General Assembly continues to work feverishly on more than 2,200 bills as the crossover deadline fast approaches. A backlog of bills is often seen the first year of a four-year term, but with nearly one-third of the Senate bills introduced right at the bill filing deadline, it is anticipated that some bills may not crossover to the opposite chamber in time.

On Friday, February 24, Ashanti Martinez was sworn into the Maryland House of Delegates, as the newest member of the Prince George's County Delegation, where he will represent District 22. Martinez will serve on the Government and Operations Committee. On Monday, February 27, Ariana Kelly, who served more than 12 years in the House of Delegates, was sworn into the Maryland Senate, where she will represent District 16 in Montgomery County. The Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee is expected to submit a nominee's name to fill the vacant District 16 delegate seat by March 21, 2023.

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.

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## 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 House Delegation unanimously passed [HB 783 \(MC/PG 101-23\)](#) with amendments on February 24, 2023. The bill now moves to the Montgomery County House Delegation for consideration. The Montgomery County Metro Washington Area Committee is scheduled to have a work session on March 6, 2023 where they will discuss HB 783.

Another bill of interest that would impact WSSC Water is [HB 872 \(MC/PG 111-23\)](#). 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 properties located within a regional transit district in Prince George's County.

This legislation was introduced at the request of the County Executive. WSSC Water is

working with their office on a dual track and has proposed amendments to limit the impact of the bill in addition to working on a technical, non-legislative resolution.

The Prince George's County Bi-County Committee held a work session on March 2, 2023 and encouraged all parties to continue their work to find a non-legislative resolution. The Committee will hold their next work session on March 9, 2023 at 9:00 am to receive a progress update and potentially vote on HB 872.

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



**WHEN A WATER MAIN BREAKS**

The first step to repairing a water main break **IS YOU.**

- 1 Report it to WSSC Water 301-206-4002
- 2 WSSC Water Inspector Dispatched
- 3 MISS UTILITY Miss Utility Notified
- 4 Valves Located & Closed
- 5 Broken Main Located, Dug up & Repaired
- 6 Excavation Site Filled in & Road Repairs Made

**WSSC WATER**  
SUSTAINING THE ESSENTIAL

Please be patient as we make repairs, which typically take between **4 to 6 hours** after crews have dug up and uncovered the damaged pipe. Repair times can vary based on pipe size, depth buried and other factors.

## EMERGENCY REPAIRS AND CONSTRUCTION

The first step to repairing a water main break is you; please call 301-206-4002 immediately! A water main break leaves hundreds of people without service so we take them seriously!

After water main repair work is completed, customers should flush the COLD-water lines in the home or business using the following steps:

- Run all COLD water taps for about five minutes or until the water runs clear.
- Begin with the lowest faucet in the home or business and then open the other faucets one at a time, moving from the lowest floor to the highest.
- Once the water runs clear, usually in five minutes or less, turn off the faucets in the same order – lowest to highest.
- Don't forget to flush refrigerator lines!

Please visit our [Water Main Breaks Page](#) for more information.

## WSSC WATER ADOPTS REGULATIONS FOR MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (“MBE”) PROGRAM

On January 18, 2023, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (Commission) adopted regulations revising Chapter 6.30 of the WSSC Code of Regulations 2021 (Code), Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program. The revisions concern the Commission's efforts to clarify the MBE eligibility criteria and the Commission's race-neutral efforts to remedy past discrimination consistent with the [2022 Disparity Study](#).

The regulations are authorized by Maryland Annotated Code, Public Utilities Article, Division II, §17-402, permitting the Commission to adopt rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of the Public Utilities Article, Division II.

The effective date of the new regulations was March 1, 2023. Please click [here](#) for more information and for a copy of the regulations.

## MML ANNUAL JOINT CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON

On March 2, 2023, the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) and Montgomery County Chapter of MML held their Annual Joint Legislative Luncheon in Annapolis.

WSSC Water was a proud sponsor of this important event, and Monica Marquina, Government Affairs Manager and Municipal Liaison, gave brief remarks about the importance of working closely with municipal leaders as we deliver the essential in their communities.



## 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 shutoff 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)*

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**Brandon Stewart**

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Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

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## Calendar

**March 6, 2023** - Montgomery County Metro Washington Area Committee Work Session - 7:00 pm

**March 9, 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](#)

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## 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.

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## 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](http://www.wsscwater.com)

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