



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

General Assembly Passes Local WSSC Water Sponsored Legislation: Prior to their adjournment of *Sine Die* on Monday April 10th, the Maryland General Assembly passed [HB 783 Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Minority Business Enterprise Utilization Program – Revisions and Extension](#) which updates, modernizes, streamlines, and strengthens provisions pertaining to WSSC Water's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Utilization Program.

The Maryland General Assembly Adjourns Sine Die: On Monday, April 10th at midnight, the Maryland General Assembly wrapped up their 445th Legislative Session and adjourned *Sine Die*. The 2023 Session began with new faces both in the Governor's Office and in the General Assembly. Legislators introduced 2,275 pieces of legislation for consideration during the 90-day Session. The General Assembly will convene for their 446th Legislative Session at noon on January 10, 2024.

Changes Continue in the General Assembly: From the onset of the Session, several lawmakers vacated their seats to take positions in the new administration and changes continued in the closing days. Delegate Kumar P. Barve (D17) was nominated to the Maryland Public Service Commission and Delegate Darryl Barnes (D25) announced he would be stepping down on April 15 to become a partner in an Annapolis lobbying and government relations firm. Delegates Barve and Barnes have served in the House of Delegates since 1991 and 2015, respectively.

WSSC Water Celebrates Successful Session: WSSC Water's **Intergovernmental Relations Office (IRO)** had another successful Session in 2023 with the Commission sponsored bill passed and awaiting signature at the Governor's desk. In addition to tracking over 200 bills, they collaborated with trade organizations and stakeholders to advocate for and against other statewide bills impacting WSSC Water.

IRO is on the front-line advocating for legislation that impacts our work. We cover a variety of subject matters and focus 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 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 bill has passed the General Assembly and awaits the Governor's signature. Once signed, the law will become effective on June 1, 2023.

[HB 872 \(MC/PG 111-23\)](#) *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Service Near Regional Transit Districts and Neighborhood Centers in Prince George's County – Contracts* was another bill of interest during the 2023 Session. 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 properties located within in Prince George's County. The bill passed the General Assembly and becomes effective upon the Governor's signature.

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

### **MD Board of Public Works Approves Estimated \$25M in Loans and Loan Forgiveness to WSSC Water for Innovative Piscataway Bioenergy Project**

On Tuesday, April 5, 2023, the [Maryland Board of Public Works \(BPW\)](#) approved an [estimated \\$25 million in loans and loan forgiveness to WSSC Water](#) to help Maryland's largest water utility continue efforts to protect local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. A portion of the loan, \$3 million, is the first funding WSSC Water has received under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, signed into law by President Biden in November 2021.

The estimated \$22.5 million loan and up to \$2.5 million in additional loan forgiveness from the Water Quality State Revolving Loan Fund will help fund the ongoing design and construction of [WSSC Piscataway Bioenergy Facility](#) in Accokeek, MD, in Prince George's County. Construction on the \$271 million project began in spring 2019 and is expected to be substantially complete by November 2024.

### **WSSC Water Commissioners' Engineering Scholarship**

WSSC Water is still accepting applications 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.

Access and submit your application [here](#), or submit via US mail addressed to - Julianne Montes de Oca, Corporate Secretary, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, 14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707. For complete details and application requirements, please visit [wsscwater.com/scholarship](http://wsscwater.com/scholarship).

### **WSSC Water Monthly Commission Meeting**

WSSC Water's monthly Commission Meeting will be held on April 19, 2023 at 10 a.m. Interested stakeholders can provide input during the public comment portion which will take place shortly after the meeting starts. Call-in number to provide comment: 1-240-800-7929 / Conference ID: 442 533 551.

The complete agenda with links to all presentations, public viewing and participation

details may be accessed [here](#).

## Join the WSSC Water Customer Feedback Community!

WSSC Water is looking for residential and commercial customers to provide feedback by joining our online Customer Feedback. Becoming a member is easy, convenient and can be done from the comfort of your home. To learn more, please visit [wsscwater.com/cfc](http://wsscwater.com/cfc), or email us at [communityoutreach@wsscwater.com](mailto:communityoutreach@wsscwater.com).

## Customer Notification System (CNS)

In our continuing effort to provide excellent customer service, WSSC Water offers a Customer Notification System (CNS) to alert you about our work in your area that may affect your service or daily routine.

Once you sign up, you will receive email or text alerts about water main breaks, sanitary sewer overflows, road or lane closures caused by WSSC Water work, boil water advisories and occasionally other important messages from us.

Sign up [here](#) for CNS and never be in the dark about water main repairs and water emergencies in your neighborhood.



---

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:Stephen.Billingsley@wsscwater.com)

240-444-5803

Montgomery County

**Brandon Stewart**

[Brandon.Stewart@wsscwater.com](mailto:Brandon.Stewart@wsscwater.com)

301-642-1712

Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

---

## Calendar

- April 19, 2023 – WSSC Water monthly Commission Meeting
- April 30, 2023 – Final date for presentment of bills to Governor
- May 30, 2023 – Governor to sign/veto bills by this date
- June 1, 2023 – Other than emergency bills and as otherwise provided, earliest effective date for bills
- July 1, 2023 – Budgetary, tax, and revenue bills to take effect
- October 1, 2023 – Usual effective date for bill
- January 10, 2024 – General Assembly convenes for the 2024 Legislative Session

---

## 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.

## 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](mailto:Guy.Andes@wsscwater.com)

**Monica Marquina** – *Government Affairs Manager*

[Monica.Marquina@wsscwater.com](mailto:Monica.Marquina@wsscwater.com)

**Terry Walker-Morris** – *Administrative Professional*

[Terry.Walker-Morris@wsscwater.com](mailto:Terry.Walker-Morris@wsscwater.com)

---

## Contact Us

(301) 206-8228

[iro@wsscwater.com](mailto: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](http://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 [iro@wsscwater.com](mailto:iro@wsscwater.com) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!