



A Note from WSSC Water's Intergovernmental Relations Office

Today, Sarah Wolek was sworn-in as the newest member of the Montgomery County Delegation. Delegate Wolek replaces Ariana Kelly who stepped down to fill the District 16 Senate seat.

On Friday, the House Appropriations Committee Chair, Ben Barnes, and Senate Budget and Taxation Committee Chair, Guy Guzzone, announced an agreement on a \$62.5 billion state budget plan. The deadline for the budget to pass both Chambers is today, Monday, April 3rd.

Early last week, Governor Wes Moore sent a [supplemental budget proposal](#) to the General Assembly. Moore's administration said the supplemental spending plan was necessary after the Board of Revenue Estimates projected a [decrease in state revenues of nearly \\$478 million](#) during the current and next fiscal year.

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 of Delegates passed [HB 783 \(MC/PG 101-23\)](#) by a vote of 132-1 on March 20, 2023. The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration. The Senate Budget & Taxation; and the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committees held their bill hearing for HB 783 on March 29th. No action has been taken by either of the Standing Committees.

The Montgomery County and Prince George's County House Delegations have voted unanimously to amend and pass [HB 872 \(MC/PG 111-23\)](#). 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. This legislation was introduced at the request of the County Executive. The House Environment and Transportation Committee held their bill hearing for HB 872 on March 30th. No action has been taken by the Committee.

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 RELEASES ANNUAL WAER QUALITY REPORT

WSSC Water's [2022 Water Quality Report](#) is now available! The report provides customers with important information about the source of their drinking water, how it is purified, as well as detailed water quality data.

The report also features the women and men who work around the clock to ensure exceptional water quality – from source to tap. Thanks to their efforts, WSSC Water has continued a 105-year-history of zero drinking water quality violation! .

Customers may also request a hard copy of the report by calling WSSC Water's Communications and Community Relations Office at 301-206-8100 or via email at communications@wsscwater.com.

SAVE WATER NOW, SAVE MONEY LATER

There are many ways to save water and reduce the cost of your bill. Here are just a few:

- When you wash your hands, turn off the faucet while you lather and scrub
- Take shorter showers
- Use the dishwasher instead of washing dishes by hand
- Use your automatic washing machine for full loads only
- Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors
- Find and repair any leaks
- Toilet leaks are the most common cause of high water bills. [This video](#) will show you how to check for toilet leaks.
- Water your lawn only when it needs it and during the coolest part of the day

Additional water-saving suggestions for your home are listed on our [Water Conservation Tips](#) page. And to help you understand the largest water-users at home, see our [Understanding Household Water Usage Page](#).

If you have any questions about your bill, we are here to help. Please call a Customer Service Advisor at 301-206-4001 (toll free at 1-800-634-8400), weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. or email us at custserv@wsscwater.com.

KEEP THE WIPES OUT OF THE PIPES

Flushing certain items down the toilet can lead to problems for WSSC Water and you! Non-flushable items, such as baby wipes or feminine hygiene products do not break apart like toilet paper. These items can get stuck in your pipes or our pipes. If that happens, sewage will back up in your basement or overflow from one of our manholes, impacting the environment.

Please click [here](#) to learn more about how to protect your pipes and what is flushable and safe for your pipes. Remember, **wipes are NOT flushable** – even when they are labeled as such. Do not find out the hard way, flush only “three P’s” – pee, poop and (toilet) paper.

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

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

Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

Calendar

- **April 10, 2023:** Sine Die
 - **April 19, 2023:** WSSC Water Commission Monthly Meeting
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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](#)

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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Monica Marquina – *Government Affairs Manager*

Monica.Marquina@wsscwater.com

Terry Walker-Morris – *Administrative Professional*

Contact Us

(301) 206-8228

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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

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

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