



A Note from WSSC Water's Intergovernmental Relations Office

Lawmakers continue to work hard to pass bills out of their respective committees and Chamber ahead of the looming March 18 Crossover date. Over 2,700 bills have been introduced thus far during the 2024 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session. Committee Reporting Courtesy Date is March 12th, and Standing Committees are encouraged to report their chamber's bills to their respective floor by this date if they wish for them to be passed by Crossover. Any bills passed in their originating chamber after this date will be referred to the opposite chamber's Rules Committee prior to their introduction.

On Thursday, March 7th, the [Board of Revenue Estimates](#) voted to revise its FY24 and FY25 estimates to reflect a \$120 million and a \$134.9 million negative change in estimated tax revenues. According to staff's analysis, slowing withholding collections is the cause of reductions in the personal income tax forecast. Additionally, FY24 sales tax estimates were revised down by \$34.7 million. The revised forecast has raised concerns with legislators as they continue to work on an already tight budget.

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 events 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 2024 Legislative Session, [HB 1024 - Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Connection Pipe Emergency Replacement Loan Program – Expansion](#). The proposed legislation will allow for the expansion of the Connection Pipe Emergency Replacement Loan Program authorized by Section 23-205 of the Maryland Annotated Code Public Utilities Article to include sewer service line repair or replacement, sewer line camera investigation or snaking, as well as increase the maximum loan amount to \$10,000.

On March 8, the bill hearing for HB1024 was held before the Environment and Transportation Committee. The Committee's next voting session is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12.

Find the status and position on WSSC Water-related bills in our [Legislative Update](#).

Around WSSC Water

DID YOU RECEIVE AN ESTIMATED BILL?

Estimated bills are given when WSSC Water is unable to capture an actual reading. The estimated bill is based on your historical usage during the same time last year. Customers who receive an estimated bill may be able submit an actual reading.

If you have a water meter inside your home, but is unsure about how to read it or where it is located, please watch the video below to be guided through the simple process. More information is also available at wsscwater.com/meter, or call 301-206-4001 for more information

When a Water Main Breaks

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!

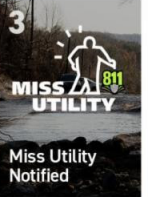
Please visit our [Water Main Breaks Page](#) for more information.

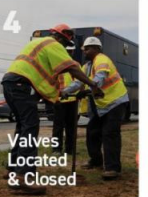
WHEN A WATER MAIN BREAKS

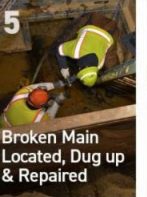
The first step to repairing a water main break IS YOU.

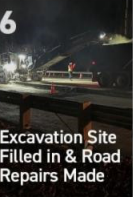
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1 Report it to WSSC Water 301-206-4002
- 


2 WSSC Water Inspector Dispatched
- 

3 Miss Utility Notified
- 

4 Valves Located & Closed
- 

5 Broken Main Located, Dug up & Repaired
- 

6 Excavation Site Filled in & Road Repairs Made

 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.



Receive alerts about WSSC Water-related incidents near your home, office, school, or other important addresses.



Register for *text or email* alerts on up to three addresses.

REGISTER AT WSSCWATER.COM/CNS

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 Financial 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

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301-648-6953

Southern Prince George's County (areas south of Central Avenue, MD 214)

Stephen Billingsley

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240-444-5803

Southern Montgomery County (areas south of Randolph Road)

Brandon Stewart

Brandon.Stewart@wsscwater.com

301-642-1712

Northern Montgomery County (areas north of Randolph Road)

Phil Callahan

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240-204-2123

Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

Calendar

- March 18, 2024 – Crossover
 - April 1, 2024 – Budget bill to be passed by both Chambers
 - April 8, 2024 – 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](#)

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

Monica Marquina – *Government Affairs Director*

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Terry Walker-Morris – *Administrative Professional*

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Contact Us

(301) 206-8228

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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