



# The Annapolis Observer

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## Welcome Back

As the 2009 Maryland General Assembly Session gets ready to convene next week, we wanted to welcome you back to The Annapolis Observer and give you a taste of things to come this Session. The Intergovernmental Relations Office is your eyes and ears in Annapolis. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like another bill included in this publication.

## What to Expect

This publication is designed to keep you informed about legislation impacting WSSC during the 2009 Maryland General Assembly Session. Previous issues of the *Observer* are available on the Intergovernmental Relations Office (IRO) webpage [www.wsscwater.com/iro/website](http://www.wsscwater.com/iro/website).

The Observer provides brief updates on major initiatives that could impact the Agency. For more detailed information about the bills listed in this document, please contact the WSSC IRO at 301-206-8228.

## Dates of Interest

- 1/14/2009 General Assembly Convenes (by noon)
- 1/21/2009 Final date for Governor to introduce budget bill
- 1/29/2009 Governor delivers the State of the State Address
- 2/6/2009 Senate Bill Introduction Date  
*Senate bills introduced after this date referred to the Senate Rules Committee*
- 2/13/2009 House Bill Introduction Date  
*House bills introduced after this date referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee*
- 3/30/2009 Opposite Chamber Bill Crossover Date  
*Opposite chamber bills received after this date subject to Rules Committees*
- 4/6/2009 Budget Bill to be passed by both Chambers
- 4/13/2009 Adjournment "Sine Die"
- 5/13/2009 Final date for an extended session

## Bills of Interest to WSSC

Keep in mind dates shown are a mix of calendar days and legislative days. Dates provided reflect those posted on the General Assembly website.

### Bi-County Bills

**PG/MC 101-09 Montgomery County – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Financial Oversight Act** - This bill amends the Sanitary District Laws to require the WSSC to file a certified copy of its annual audit and current financial statements each year with the Montgomery County Council AND it authorizes the County Council of Montgomery County to audit and examine the books and records of the Commission under certain circumstances as long as such an audit or examination is without cost to the WSSC. Current law contains these requirements for the Montgomery County Executive, Prince George’s County Executive and the Prince George’s County Council.

<b>PG/MC 101-09 Positions</b>	
WSSC	No Position at this time
Montgomery County Council	Support
Montgomery County Executive	Support
Prince George’s County Council	
Prince George’s County Executive	

<b>PG/MC 101-09 Bill Status</b>
Montgomery County House Delegation
Prince George’s County House Delegation
Montgomery County Senate Delegation
Prince George’s County Senate Delegation
House
Senate

**PG/MC 104-09 Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – System Development Surcharge - Exemptions** – This bill expands current law regarding the WSSC’s SDC exemptions from those community based organizations whose “exclusive” use of the property is to provide programs and services to youth whose property those whose “primary” use of the property is to provide programs and services to youth. Additionally, this bill changes the current law’s sunset from 2009 to 2012.

<b>PG/MC 104-09 Positions</b>	
WSSC	Support
Montgomery County Council	No Position
Montgomery County Executive	No Position
Prince George’s County Council	Support
Prince George’s County Executive	

**PG/MC 104-09 Bill Status**

*Prince George's County House Delegation*

*Montgomery County House Delegation*

*Prince George's County Senate Delegation*

*Montgomery County Senate Delegation*

*House*

*Senate*

**PG/MC 105-09 Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Budget Approval** - This bill provides that if the county councils of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties fail to concur on the WSSC capital budget or any provision within the capital budget by a certain time, the funding levels may not exceed the previous year's funding levels. The bill includes language that allows a single line item to be rejected for any single capital budget project, similar to a line item veto. The WSSC believes this bill would have a negative impact on the Agency should it become law for several reasons. First, the construction industry may find it problematic to bid under such uncertainty. If projects were cancelled, vetoed, or financially constrained after awarded, it would be costly to the WSSC and the ratepayers. Additionally, projects including MBE and SLBE subcontractors could potentially be delayed, creating a detrimental impact on these businesses. Second, there could be a negative impact on facilities included in the 30 Year Infrastructure Plan to recapitalize the WSSC's aging infrastructure. Third, the WSSC AAA Bond Rating would be in jeopardy given the importance rating agencies place on governance of public entities in their rating criteria. Finally, the WSSC could face IRS penalties if the Agency's ability to spend bond money in a timely manner was hampered and arbitrage rules broken.

**PG/MC 105-09 Positions**

WSSC Oppose

*Montgomery County Council* Oppose

*Montgomery County Executive* Oppose

*Prince George's County Council* Support

*Prince George's County Executive*

**PG/MC 105-09 Bill Status**

*Prince George's County House Delegation*

*Montgomery County House Delegation*

*Prince George's County Senate Delegation*

*Montgomery County Senate Delegation*

*House*

*Senate*



## Maryland Bills To Watch

Stay tuned for statewide bills of interest the WSSC is watching in this section.

The 2009 Session will provide many challenges for lawmakers, least of which will be tackling continued budget shortfalls and growing housing foreclosures. The General Assembly anticipates legislation dealing with the Chesapeake Bay, high energy prices, increased energy demand with decreased capacity, renewable energy opportunities, water resources for effective growth, and more.

For a complete listing of all bills introduced before the Maryland General Assembly, visit their website [mlis.state.md.us](http://mlis.state.md.us).

## Legislative Lingo: Word of the Week

### *“The Bi-County Process”*

The Bi-County process adds an additional layer to the legislative process for local legislation. In deference to local issues and leaders, the General Assembly typically will not take up or move Bi-County Legislation until it completes the Bi-County process and is approved Favorably by both delegations. Exceptions to the local and Bi-County process are rare. There are only two Bi-County Agencies in Maryland: WSSC and MNCPPC.

WSSC legislation begins in either the Prince George’s or Montgomery County House Delegation. The origin of the bill will determine which county hears it first. For example, in odd years such as 2009 WSSC initiatives begin with Prince George’s County. On even years such as 2010 WSSC initiatives begin with Montgomery County. Bills introduced by Delegates or Senators begin in their respective county’s delegation.

Bills will receive a HB or SB number and be assigned to standing committees, but those committees will typically wait until a bill has completed the entire Bi-County process before acting. If the bill fails at any point in the Bi-County process by receiving an Unfavorable report, the bill will be withdrawn. The votes from local delegations are not recorded on the General Assembly’s website and no reason will be listed when the bill is withdrawn.

In general, a Bi-County bill must follow these steps to reach the standing committees and chamber for General Assembly passage:

- Assigned to county House delegation as indicated above. Usually referred to subcommittee on Bi-County issues. Subcommittee hears bill and votes to make recommendation to the full House delegation for a vote. If reported Unfavorable, the bill is withdrawn. If reported Favorable, the bill proceeds to the other county House delegation.
- The process repeats. If the full House delegation reports the bill Unfavorable, the bill is withdrawn. If reported Favorable, the bill proceeds to the first county’s Senate delegation.
- The Senate delegation hears the bill and votes. If reported Unfavorable, the bill is withdrawn. If reported Favorable, the bill proceeds to the other county Senate delegation.
- The Senate delegation hears the bill and votes. If reported Unfavorable, the bill is withdrawn. If reported Favorable, the bill has completed the Bi-County process and proceeds to the standing committee in the appropriate Chamber for consideration according to the standard legislative calendar and process.

### *Bonus Facts*

Session dates are established by the Maryland Constitution, statute, rule, and custom as follows:

Convening: Article III, Section 14 of the Maryland Constitution requires the General Assembly to convene on the “second Wednesday of January.”

Limitation on Length of Session: Article III, Section 15(1) of the Maryland Constitution permits the General Assembly to continue for a period “not longer than ninety days” each year. The General Assembly or Governor may extend the session for up to thirty days.

## Did You Know That...?

Each Session an average of 2,300 bills are introduced. Only a fraction of those tend to become law. To view all bills introduced in the 2009 Session and those in the past, go to the General Assembly’s webpage [mlis.state.md.us](http://mlis.state.md.us)

## The Week at a Glance\*

WHO	WHERE	WHEN
Montgomery County Bi-County Committee	TBD	TBD
Montgomery County House Delegation	TBD	TBD
Prince George's County Bi-County Committee	Room 150	Wednesdays at 8:30 am
Prince George's County House Delegation	Room 150	Fridays at 10:00 am
Montgomery County Senate Delegation	TBD	TBD
Prince George's County Senate Delegation	TBD	TBD

\* Dates, times and location subject to change anytime, at the discretion of the Chairs

## County Information

### Montgomery County Delegation

<http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/>

#### House Delegation

Delegate Brian Feldman, Chair  
Delegate Susan Lee, Vice Chair  
Phone: 301-858-3010

#### Senate Delegation

Senator Rich Madaleno, Chair  
Senator Jamie Raskin, Vice Chair  
Phone: 301-858-3137

### Prince George's County Delegation

<http://www.princegeorgesghousedelegation.com>

#### House Delegation

Melony G. Griffith, Chair  
Michael Vaughn, Vice Chair  
Delegate Marvin E. Holmes, Jr., 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
Phone: 301-858-3074

#### Senate Delegation

Senator C. Anthony Muse, Chair  
Phone: 301-858-3410

### Montgomery County Bi-County Agency Committee Members

Del. Kathleen Dumais, Chair  
Del. Luiz Simmons, Vice Chair  
Del. Al Carr  
Del. Bill Frick

Del. Tom Hucker  
Del. Ben Kramer  
Del. Krill Reznik  
Del. Herman Taylor

### Prince George's County Bi-County Committee Members

Del. Aisha Braveboy, Chair  
Del. James Hubbard, Vice Chair  
Del. Ben Barnes

Del. Tawanna Gaines  
Del. Marvin Holmes  
Del. Jay Walker

## Annapolis Transportation & Parking



For many visitors the easiest option is to park at the Naval Academy Stadium and take the Annapolis Transit Trolley Shuttle. There are several public garages including Whitmore, Gotts, and the Gorman Street garages. They fill up fast. There is also limited metered parking, but they ticket often. Your best bet is to arrive early, and car-pool if possible.

## About IRO

The IRO oversees the Commission's legislative agenda and represents WSSC before elected bodies. The office is responsible for researching, developing, analyzing, and lobbying for or against legislation impacting the Commission. We also serve as a liaison between the Commission and elected officials.

## How To Reach US

### Annapolis Office (during session)

68 State Circle, Suite 3  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
phone: 301.261.2789 fax: 410.268.9593

### Laurel Office (year round)

14501 Sweitzer Lane, Suite 1226A  
Laurel, Maryland 20707  
phone: 301.206.8228 fax: 301.206.8229

## On The Web

The WSSC IRO has its own webpage to keep you up to date and informed with our legislative activities. In addition to introductory information about the Office and Maryland General Assembly, you will find links to information about bills and our Annapolis Reports archive. [www.wsscwater.com/iro/irowebsite](http://www.wsscwater.com/iro/irowebsite)

## Who We Are

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