

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.

A Note from WSSC Water's Intergovernmental Relations Office

Last week, Governor Wes Moore gave his State of the State address. His remarks focused on growing the economy to combat the state's looming financial challenges and protecting Marylanders from the impacts of major changes in the federal government. As Governor Moore advocates for his priorities, lawmakers continue their work to pass legislation on those issues and more.

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 fulfill our Smart One Water Mission and analyze the impact of state and federal legislation on WSSC Water. We ensure all communities thrive by ethically delivering safe, reliable and sustainable water and wastewater services. In every home, every business, we make everything possible by ensuring access to dependable and safe water for everyday life.

Legislative Updates

WSSC Water-sponsored bills [MC/PG 102-25](#), now [HB 1063](#), – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Design and Construction – Alternative Project Delivery and Solicitation Methods; and [MC/PG 112-25](#) – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Service Charges continue to advance. A bill hearing for HB 1063 is scheduled before the Environment and Transportation (E&T) Committee on February 25, 2025.

On February 7, the Prince George's County House Delegation's (PGCHD) Bi-County Committee again reviewed MC/PG 112-25. Staff was present to answer questions. The bill moved favorably to their full delegation where it was voted to support. The bill will now be considered by the Montgomery County House Delegation's Metro Washington Committee.

A bill hearing before the E&T committee will be scheduled at a future date for [MC/PG 101-25](#), now [HB 1064](#), – Montgomery County Planning Board and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Open Meetings – Live Streaming (Palakovich Carr). A bill hearing for [MC/PG 107-25](#) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – System Development Charge – Exemptions (Moon) will be reviewed by the PGCHD County Affairs Committee also at future date. [MC/PG 105-25](#) – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Membership, Transparency, Billing, and Planning (WSSC Transparency and Reform Act of 2025) (Korman, Wilkins, Barnes) continues discussion and review of potential amendments by the MCHD Metro Washington Committee.

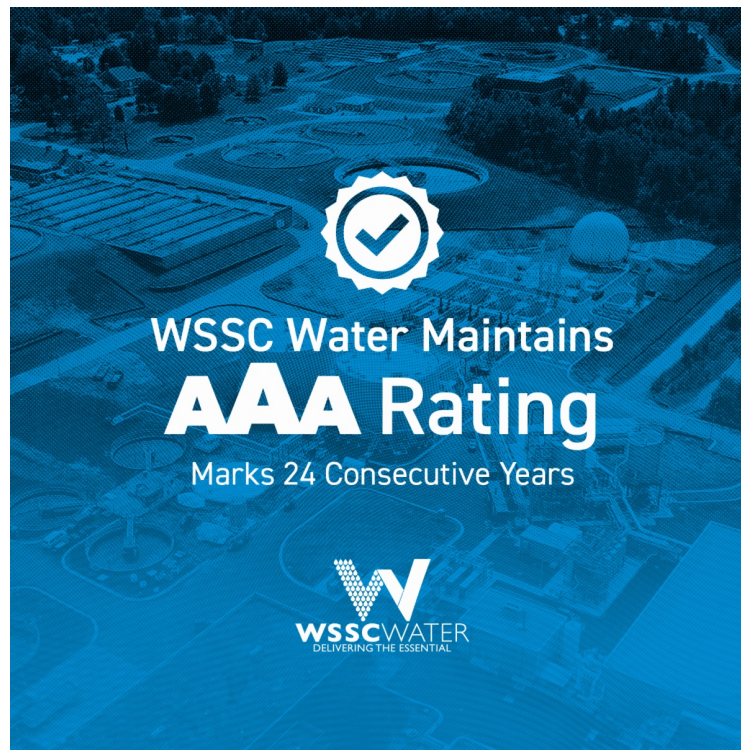
On February 5, the Prince George's County Senate Delegation reviewed [SB 654](#) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Raw Water Pipeline Project – Audit (Rosapepe). Staff was present to provide an overview and status of the project, detail the steps the Commission has already taken to pursue an audit of the project, and to answer questions. The Delegation is holding its position on the bill.

Lastly, another bill impacting WSSC Water has developed, [SB0732/HB0909](#) Sewage Sludge Utilization Permits – Per – and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances – Concentration Limits.

Bill hearings are scheduled in the coming weeks and WSSC Water staff will testify on the significant impacts of the proposed legislation. IRO will also provide an overview on the bill to Commissioners at this month's Commission meeting.

IRO will continue to monitor legislation and provide updates. Find the status and position on WSSC Water-related bills in our [Legislative Update](#).

Around WSSC Water



WSSC Water Maintains Financial Excellence with AAA Bond Ratings

For the 24th consecutive year, [WSSC Water has received AAA bond](#) ratings from all three financial rating agencies – Fitch Ratings, Standard & Poor's Global (S&P) and Moody's Investor Service on a February 6th sale of \$311.5 million in consolidated public improvement general obligation (GO) bonds. The bond sale includes \$30 million in green bonds.

Proceeds from the general obligation bonds will fund key capital projects, including:

- \$65.8 million for the Water Reconstruction Program
- \$46.6 million for the Large Diameter Water & Large Valve Rehabilitation Program
- \$26.9 million for the Sewer Reconstruction Program
- \$20.2 million for the Anacostia Maintenance Depot Reconfiguration
- \$19.5 million for the Water Storage Facility Rehabilitation Program

Proceeds from the sale of \$30 million in green bonds will fund the following upgrades:

- Potomac Water Filtration Plant: \$20 million
- Large-diameter water distribution system: \$10 million

To learn more about WSSC Water's financial information, visit wsscwater.com/fin.

WSSC Water Claims Process

Need to file a claim for damages? Call us at 301-206-7095 during normal business hours or email claimsc@wsscwater.com. The claim is assigned to a claims agent who

will contact you within 48 business hours of the claim assignment. Your claims agent will explain the process and documents needed to investigate your claim.

If we fail to make contact within 48 hours, please call the claims section at 301-206-7095. We recommend you also notify your homeowner's insurance company of the incident, whether or not you decide to file a claim with the carrier.

Read our claims process [here](#), or visit wsscwater.com/claims for more details.

WSSC Water 2025 Commissioners' Engineering Scholarship

Applications are available for the 2025 Commissioners' Engineering Scholarship. The deadline to apply is **Saturday, February 15, 2025**.

- 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 undergraduate or graduate students with permanent residency in Montgomery or Prince George's counties and are enrolled in a full-time college or university engineering program. Graduating high school seniors accepted into a college engineering program are also eligible.
- Applicants must include an introductory video and essay, two reference letters, an official transcript and proof of residency in WSSC Water's service district.

You may access and submit your application online [here](#), or via US mail. Applications submitted via mail must be postmarked by February 15, 2025, and addressed to: Julianne Montes de Oca, Corporate Secretary, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, 14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707.

Please visit wsscwater.com/scholarship to get complete details and application requirements.



Don't Forget! Temporary Water Bill Amnesty Program Launches March 1

Get Current 2.0 will help income-constrained customers with delinquent water/sewer bills. The amnesty program assists eligible customers by providing bill credits up to 50 percent and 100 percent of late payment charges and turn-on fees waived.



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. 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 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)

Walter Guzman

Walter.Guzman@wsscwater.com

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

Philip.Callahan@wsscwater.com

240-204-2123

Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

Calendar

- March 13, 2025 – WSSC Water’s Legislative Luncheon
 - March 17, 2025 – Crossover
 - April 7, 2025 – Sine Die
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Related Links

[Maryland General Assembly](#)

- [Session Calendar](#)
- [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*

Monica.Marquina@wsscwater.com

Kenneth Simons – *Government Affairs Manager*

Kenneth.Simons@wsscwater.com

Thomas Johnson – *Government Affairs Manager*

Thomas.Johnson@wsscwater.com

Terry Walker-Morris – *Administrative Professional*

Terry.Walker-Morris@wsscwater.com

Contact Us

(301) 206-8228

iro@wsscwater.com

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

WSSC Water | 14501 Sweitzer Lane | Laurel, MD 20707 US

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