

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

Legislators continue to assess the state's financial outlook following the latest revenue projections from the Board of Revenue Estimates. The board recently lowered projections by \$280 million over two years, citing expected federal budget cuts and job losses that could cost Maryland 30,000 federal jobs and \$3 billion in wages by 2025.

Governor Wes Moore's administration is working to address these challenges with a budget proposal that includes tax increases on high earners, modest reductions for 60% of taxpayers, and the elimination of itemized deductions. Additionally, lawmakers are considering a [2.5% sales tax on certain business-to-business services](#), a measure that has drawn opposition from Republican legislators who argue for spending cuts over tax hikes.

The Maryland General Assembly is also quickly approaching Crossover Day on March 17, a critical deadline in the legislative process. Bills that have not passed at least one chamber - either the House or the Senate - by this date face significant hurdles to becoming law. Lawmakers are working to advance key legislation before the deadline, and we are closely monitoring the progress of proposed bills that could impact our work and the communities we serve.

As we continue to track budget negotiations and their implications, IRO remains committed to 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. We will provide updates on legislative developments impacting our communities and workforce.

Legislative Updates

Committee hearings continued this week in the House for our sponsored and related bills. On March 6, WSSC Water Deputy Director of Customer Service, Mpande Musonda-Langley provided [favorable testimony](#) before the Environment and Transportation (E&T) Committee on our WSSC Water-sponsored bill [HB 1168](#) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Service Charges. During this same hearing, WSSC Water Government Affairs Manager, Kenneth Simons provided [favorable testimony](#) on [HB 1064](#) Montgomery County Planning Board and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Open Meetings – Live Streaming (Palakovich Carr). Additionally, General Manager, Kishia Powell provided [informational testimony](#) on [HB 1195](#) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Membership, Transparency, Billing, and Planning (WSSC Transparency and Reform Act of 2025) (Korman, Wilkins, Barnes). Due changes in the schedule, a hearing for [HB 1230](#) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – System Development Charge – Exemptions (Moon) has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 11. WSSC Water will provide favorable written testimony for this bill.

Our other WSSC Water-sponsored bill, [HB 1063](#) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Design and Construction – Alternative Project Delivery and Solicitation Methods, continues to progress. It was voted favorably by the E&T Committee following its hearing and awaits a vote by the full House of Delegates.

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's Patuxent Watershed 2025 Season

On March 15, 2025, all six WSSC Water recreation areas will be open to the public for all permitted activities, including boating, fishing, hiking, horseback riding and picnicking. The watershed spans over 6,000 acres along its two reservoirs, Triadelphia and T. Howard Duckett, in Montgomery, Prince George's and Howard counties. The reservoirs serve as drinking water sources for WSSC Water.

Visitors are encouraged to download the WSSC WATERshed app to help plan visits and explore all recreation areas. The app includes interactive

maps and pictures to help find amenities like shoreline fishing and picnic areas, playgrounds, boat launches and bathrooms. Maps are also available to download to your phone for use when cellular service is weak or unavailable. The free app is available on the [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play](#).

All watershed visitors who are 16 years or older must have a valid permit, which can be purchased online at wsscwater.com/watershed or in person at the Brighton Dam Visitor Center, 2 Brighton Dam Road, Brookville, Maryland 20833. The Visitor Center is open daily from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., including weekends. To reach staff at the center, please call 301-206-7485. Complimentary permits are available for visitors 65 or older, active military and disabled veterans.

WSSC Water Security

WSSC Water has always taken steps to ensure the security and safety of our water supply and facilities. Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, WSSC Water has been even more vigilant in watching over every part of the system that delivers the water you rely on every day.

In concert with the steps we take to ensure the quality and safety of your drinking water, WSSC Water is actively engaged in guarding the physical security of our water supply and distribution system. To keep the system safe from sabotage and attack, our police force is on guard 24 hours a day. To learn more about our water security, please visit wsscwater.com/what-we-do/water-security.

Suspect Water Theft

If you suspect water theft, report it to WSSC Water Police at 301-206-8888. WSSC Water relies on your help to prevent suspicious or illegal activity. [Review these Frequently Asked Questions](#) so you'll know how to report possible crimes to WSSC Water Police.

Additionally, please watch the video below for more information.



WSSC Water Launches Second Temporary Water Bill Assistance Program

WSSC Water's successful temporary water bill assistance program returns tomorrow, March 1, to help income-constrained customers with delinquent water/sewer bills. Get Current 2.0 will run through June 30. The program assists eligible customers with a delinquent balance as of February 1, 2025, by providing bill credits up to 50 percent and 100 percent of late payment charges and turn-on fees waived.

**Behind on your
WSSC Water bill?
Get Current**

**Up to
50% + 100%**
in bill credits late payment charges
& turn-on fees **WAIVED**

Limited-Time Program 

Find out if you're eligible for Get Current
and sign up to be notified on March 1.
wsscwater.com/getcurrent

Eligible residential customers whose household income is below 150 percent of the area median income* will receive the following benefits:

- 50 percent bill credit for payment in full of the delinquent amount and 100 percent of late payment charges and turn-on fees waived; and
- 25 percent bill credit for 50 percent payment of the delinquent amount and completion of a six-month payment plan. Upon completion of the payment plan, 100 percent of late payment charges and turn-on fees are waived. The 25 percent bill credit is applied after completion of the payment plan.

To learn more about WSSC Water's Get Current 2.0 program, visit wsscwater.com/getcurrent. Customers can access additional information on assistance programs at wsscwater.com/assistance.



Customer
Notification
System

**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 shutoff 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)

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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

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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

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