



WSSC Water

MISSION STATEMENT

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC Water) is a bi-county governmental agency established in 1918 by an Act of the Maryland General Assembly. It is charged with the responsibility of providing water and sanitary sewer service within the Washington Suburban Sanitary District, which includes most of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. In Montgomery County, only the Town of Poolesville and portions of the City of Rockville are outside of the District.

WSSC WATER'S PROPOSED BUDGET

WSSC Water's proposed budget is not detailed in this document. The Commission's full budget can be obtained from WSSC Water's Budget Group at the WSSC Water Headquarters Building, 14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, Maryland, 20707 (301.206.8000) or from their website at <https://wsscwater.com/budget>.

Prior to January 15 of each year, the Commission prepares a preliminary proposed capital and operating budget for the next fiscal year. On or before February 15, the Commission conducts public hearings in both counties. WSSC Water then prepares and submits the proposed capital and operating budgets to the County Executives of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties by March 1.

By March 15 of each year, the County Executives of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties are required by law to transmit proposed budgets, recommendations on the proposed budgets, and the record of the public hearings held by WSSC Water to their respective County Councils.

Each County Council may hold public hearings on WSSC Water's proposed operating and capital budgets, but no earlier than 21 days after receipt from the County Executive. Each County Council may add to, delete from, increase, or decrease any item in either budget. Additionally, each Council is required by law to transmit by May 15 any proposed changes to the other County Council for review and concurrence. The failure of both Councils to concur on changes constitutes approval of the item as originally proposed by WSSC Water. Should the Councils fail to approve the budgets on or before June 1 of any given year, WSSC Water's proposed budgets are adopted.

Accomplishments and Initiatives

- Operating and maintaining a system of three reservoirs impounding 14 billion gallons of water, two water filtration plants, six water resource recovery facilities, 6,000 miles of water mains, and over 5,700 miles of sewer mains, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Treating or delivering 162 million gallons per day (MGD) of water to over 480,000 customer accounts in a manner that meets or exceeds the Safe Drinking Water Act standards.
- Restoring normal service within 24 hours from when the agency is notified of an emergency, and to limit the time a customer is without water service to less than 6 hours.
- Implementing the Customer Assistance Program (CAP) to help those with financial hardship. The CAP was assisting 16,479

customers at the end of FY23.

Spending Control Limits

The spending control limits process requires that the two counties set annual ceilings on WSSC Water's water and sewer rate increases and on debt (bonded indebtedness as well as debt service), and then adopt corresponding limits on the size of the capital and operating budgets. The two councils must not approve capital and operating budgets in excess of the approved spending control limits unless a majority of each council votes to approve them. If the two councils cannot agree on expenditures above the spending control limit, they must approve budgets within these limits.

The following table shows the FY25 spending control limits adopted by the Montgomery and Prince George's County Councils, compared to the spending control results projected under WSSC Water's proposed FY25 budget and under the County Executive's recommended budget for WSSC Water. The Commission's proposed budget complies with all of the spending control limits approved by the two County Councils except for the Total Water and Sewer Operating Expenses, which are \$5.7 million higher than the Spending Affordability (SAG)- approved guidelines. The additional operating costs will be recouped with additional miscellaneous fee and revenue income.

FY25 Spending Control Limits Comparison (\$ in Millions)				
SPENDING CONTROL LIMITS	Approved Spending Control Limits		Projected Levels Under	
	Montgomery	Prince George's	WSSC's	County Executive
	County	County	Proposed Budget	Recommended Budget
Maximum Average Water/Sewer Rate Incre.	9.0%	8.5%	8.5%	8.5%
New Debt	\$390.3	\$390.3	\$390.3	\$390.3
Water and Sewer Debt Service	\$362.0	\$362.0	\$365.4	\$365.4
Total Water and Sewer Operating Expense	\$1,018.4	\$1,014.1	\$1,019.8*	\$1,019.8

* Covered by offsetting funding sources.

Source: WSSC Water FY25 Proposed Budget

County Executive Recommendations

Operating Budget

The County Executive recommends that WSSC Water's proposed FY25 budget be approved with an average water and sewer rate increase of 8.5 percent in FY25, consistent with the FY25 Spending Affordability Guidelines.

Capital Budget

The County Executive recommended the WSSC Water FY25-30 Capital Improvements Program budget be approved as submitted by the Commission.

Overall Budget

FY25 fiscal projections for all funds and budgets are shown below.

Expenditures by Category - FY25 WSSC Water Proposed and Executive Recommended						
(\$ in Thousands)						
	WSSC Water	WSSC Water	CE	CE	CE	% Change
	Total	Total	Capital	Operating	Total	(CE Rec. vs.
	Approved	Proposed	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended	WSSC Water
Expenditure Categories	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY25	FY25	Proposed)
Salaries and Wages	\$170,120,000	\$191,116,000	\$32,120,000	\$158,996,000	\$191,116,000	0%
Heat, Light, & Power	\$27,631,000	\$27,593,000	\$302,000	\$27,291,000	\$27,593,000	0%
Regional Sewage Disposal	\$64,201,000	\$76,908,000	\$0	\$76,908,000	\$76,908,000	0%
Contract Work	\$384,209,000	\$512,237,000	\$512,237,000	\$0	\$512,237,000	0%
Consulting Engineers	\$84,116,000	\$83,705,000	\$83,705,000	\$0	\$83,705,000	0%
All Other	\$506,773,000	\$503,461,000	\$162,903,000	\$340,558,000	\$503,461,000	0%
PAYGO	\$44,000,000	\$50,601,000	\$0	\$50,601,000	\$50,601,000	0%
Reserve Contribution	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	--
Debt Service	\$333,201,000	\$365,449,000	\$0	\$365,449,000	\$365,449,000	0%
Total Budget	\$1,614,251,000	\$1,811,070,000	\$791,267,000	\$1,019,803,000	\$1,811,070,000	0.0%
Note: Total expenditures include the water and sewer operating funds and the two capital funds.						

Source: WSSC Water FY25 Proposed Operating Budget

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Contact Letitia Carolina-Powell of the WSSC Water at 301.206.8379 or Richard H. Harris of the Office of Management and Budget at 240.777.2795 for more information regarding this agency's operating budget.

WSSC WATER PROPOSED BUDGET: SIX-YEAR FORECAST FOR WATER & SEWER OPERATING FUNDS

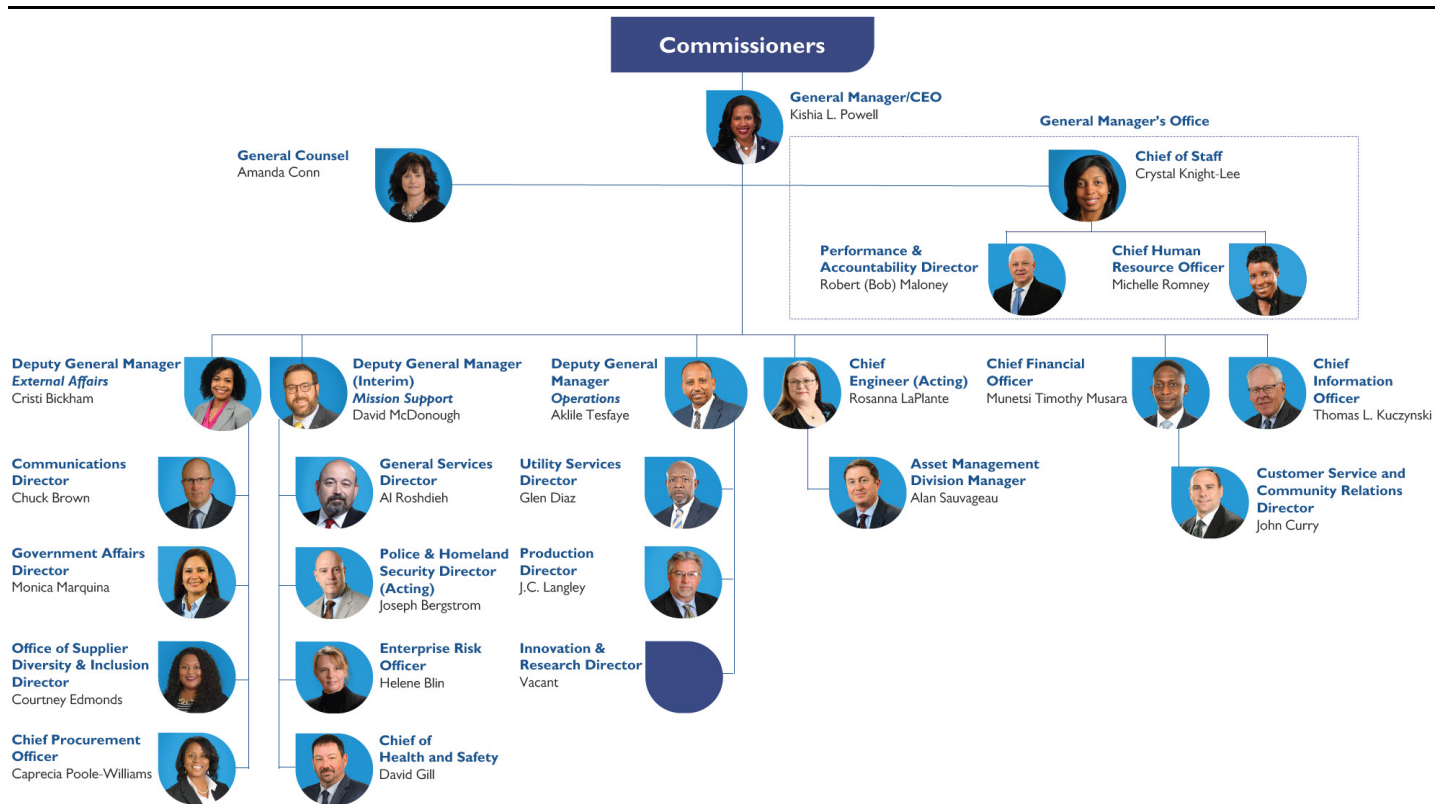
(\$ IN THOUSANDS)

FISCAL PROJECTIONS	FY24 APPROVED	FY25 CE REC	FY26 PROJECTION	FY27 PROJECTION	FY28 PROJECTION	FY29 PROJECTION	FY30 PROJECTION
SPENDING AFFORDABILITY RESULTS							
New Water and Sewer Debt	\$379,960	\$390,262	\$424,741	\$338,696	\$364,232	\$368,903	\$364,597
Total Water and Sewer Operating Expenses	\$924,352	\$1,014,059	\$1,104,020	\$1,176,142	\$1,231,237	\$1,280,300	\$1,331,966
Debt Service	\$328,467	\$361,968	\$379,871	\$394,235	\$413,359	\$430,851	\$447,426
Average Water and Sewer Rate Increase	7.0%	8.5%	9.0%	7.0%	5.5%	4.2%	4.2%
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	\$314,748	\$319,101	\$319,101	\$319,101	\$319,101	\$319,101	\$319,101
REVENUES							
Water and Sewer Rate Revenue	\$790,142	\$809,105	\$881,933	\$943,487	\$995,210	\$1,036,899	\$1,080,683
Interest Income	\$8,000	\$8,860	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
Account Maintenance Fee	\$36,259	\$59,964	\$65,361	\$69,923	\$73,757	\$76,846	\$80,091
Infrastructure Investment Fee	\$44,180	\$74,839	\$81,575	\$87,269	\$92,053	\$95,909	\$99,958
Plumbing and Inspection Fees	\$20,380	\$21,356	\$21,998	\$22,657	\$23,336	\$24,037	\$24,759
Rockville Sewer Use	\$3,100	\$3,300	\$3,300	\$3,300	\$3,300	\$3,300	\$3,300
Grants Revenue	\$1,761	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Miscellaneous	\$26,961	\$27,251	\$27,540	\$27,833	\$28,127	\$28,426	\$28,730
Uncollectable	-\$7,901	-\$7,901	-\$8,819	-\$9,435	-\$9,952	-\$10,369	-\$10,807
Cost Sharing Reimbursement	\$743	\$7,013	\$12,860	\$12,860	\$7,158	\$7,004	\$7,004
Miscellaneous	\$45,044	\$53,519	\$59,379	\$59,715	\$54,469	\$54,898	\$55,486
Total Revenues	\$923,625	\$1,006,287	\$1,096,248	\$1,168,394	\$1,223,489	\$1,272,552	\$1,324,218
SDC Debt Service Offset	\$5,772	\$5,772	\$5,772	\$5,748	\$5,748	\$5,748	\$5,748
Underwriters Discount Transfer	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Miscellaneous Offset	\$1,200						
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$932,597	\$1,014,059	\$1,104,020	\$1,176,142	\$1,231,237	\$1,280,300	\$1,331,966
EXPENDITURES							
Salaries and Wages	\$141,179	\$158,146	\$167,695	\$175,241	\$183,127	\$191,367	\$199,980
Reconstruction							
Heat, Light, and Power	\$27,373	\$27,278	\$26,470	\$27,267	\$28,085	\$28,928	\$31,381
Regional Sewage Disposal	\$64,201	\$76,908	\$78,446	\$80,015	\$81,615	\$83,248	\$84,913
Debt Service	\$328,467	\$361,968	\$379,871	\$394,235	\$413,359	\$430,851	\$447,426
PAYGO	\$44,000	\$50,601	\$116,524	\$154,506	\$169,952	\$180,338	\$191,803
All Other	\$319,132	\$339,158	\$335,014	\$344,878	\$355,099	\$365,568	\$376,463
TOTAL USE OF RESOURCES	\$924,352	\$1,014,059	\$1,104,020	\$1,176,142	\$1,231,237	\$1,280,300	\$1,331,966
REVENUE/EXPENDITURE SURPLUS/(GAP)	\$8,245	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
YEAR END FUND BALANCE w/o additional reserve contribution	\$314,748	\$319,101	\$319,101	\$319,101	\$319,101	\$319,101	\$319,101
Adjustments	-\$3,892						
Additional Reserve Contribution	\$8,245						
TOTAL YEAR END FUND BALANCE	\$319,101	\$319,101	\$319,101	\$319,101	\$319,101	\$319,101	\$319,101
Debt Service as a Percent of Water and Sewer Operating Budget	35.5%	35.7%	34.4%	33.5%	33.6%	33.7%	33.6%
Total End of Fiscal Year Operating Reserve	\$319,101	\$319,101	\$319,101	\$319,101	\$319,101	\$319,101	\$319,101
End of Fiscal Year Fund Balance as Percent of Operating Revenue	34.5%	31.7%	29.1%	27.3%	26.1%	25.1%	24.1%
Total Workyears (all funds)	1.836	1.963	1.963	1.963	1.963	1.963	1.963

Assumptions:

1. The CE Recommended operating budget is for FY25 only and incorporates the CE's revenue and expenditure assumptions for that budget.
2. The FY26-30 projections reflect WSSC Water's multi-year forecast and assumptions, which are not adjusted to conform to the CE's Recommended budget for WSSC Water. The projected expenditures, revenues, and fund balances for these years may be based on changes to rates, fees, usage, inflation, future labor agreements, and other factors not assumed in the CE's recommended FY25 water and sewer operating budget for WSSC Water.
3. The FY25 estimated spending affordability results are the values for the four spending affordability parameters implied by the FY25 budget approved by Montgomery and Prince George's counties, though Montgomery approved a 9.0% average rate increase and Prince George's County approved a 8.5% increase, which is what was ultimately used by WSSC Water. The FY25 Proposed spending affordability results are the values of the spending affordability parameters associated with WSSC Water's proposed FY25 budget. The FY25 recommended spending affordability results are the spending affordability parameters associated with the County Executive's recommended WSSC Water budget for FY25. The FY26-30 spending affordability figures correspond to the values of the various spending affordability parameters based on the revenue and expenditure forecasts shown for the given year and are provided by WSSC Water.
4. The total FY25 estimated workyears shown correspond to the actual workyears as of December 2023.
5. Estimates of revenue in FY26-30 assume the rate increases projected by WSSC Water in the Average Water and Sewer Rate Increase line.
6. Totals in this chart and WSSC Water's FY25 Proposed Long-Range Fiscal Plan for Water and Sewer Operating Funds may not match due to rounding.

Source: WSSC Water FY25 Proposed Budget Long-Range Financial Plan for Water and Sewer Operating Funds



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