



Building OHIO

News from the Associated General Contractors of Ohio

Issue: April 6, 2023

SIGN UP TODAY FOR AGC OF OHIO GOLF OUTING BENEFITTING THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

May 15, Northstar Golf Club, [Register here](#)

AGC of Ohio's 2023 Golf Outing will be held on Monday, May 15 at Northstar Golf Club in Sunbury, Ohio. Deadline to register is May 10th. Proceeds from the event benefit the AGC of Ohio Education Foundation's scholarship fund.

The event begins at 9:00 a.m. with registration and driving range practice, with a 10 a.m. shotgun start. Lunch will be provided on the course. If you cannot golf, you can still support the Scholarship Fund by sponsoring a hole or donating to the Education Foundation Fund.

Register for the event [here](#). Contact Parker Brown at parker@agcoho.com or call (614) 486-6446 with any questions.

AROUND THE STATEHOUSE...

The Ohio legislature began its spring break this week and will return to the statehouse the week of April 17. Much of the Ohio House and Senate's focus has been on the budget bills that come at the start of each new General Assembly (this year marks the beginning of the 135th G.A.)

Last week, the Transportation Budget (HB 23) was passed and signed into law. The \$13.5 billion budget, Ohio's largest transportation budget ever, incorporates significant federal dollars that includes funding for the Brent Spence Bridge. A heated policy debate involved the local governments' force accounts monetary thresholds, which were ultimately increased by 133 percent thanks to a last-minute compromise between local government groups and the Ohio Contractors Association (OCA).

While the state's capital (or bricks and mortar) spending bill is introduced on even years, the two-year Operating Budget Bill (HB 33) incorporates a significant amount of capital and infrastructure investments and policy of interest to the construction industry. They include:

- OFCC, Career Tech/Joint Vocational School Facilities Program – upgrades to training centers and equipment grants (\$200 million total); funding for additional OFCC staff
- All-Ohio Future Fund, \$2.4 billion: Site development/infrastructure, provide shovel-ready sites across the state
- Jail Improvements, \$50 Million
- Veterans Homes Upgrades, \$65 million: covers 1/3 of the project cost, remainder will be covered by federal funding
- Expo Improvements (upgrade state fairgrounds) - \$190 million for design work; if proposal and planned future funding is approved, it will be the largest capital improvement in state history

The massive budget totals nearly \$200 billion in all funds that are mostly combination of general revenue fund spending (\$86 billion) and a variety of one-time federal funds. AGC has expressed support for the capital investments and efforts to expand career tech/JVS to address the needs of in-demand careers like construction. The association is also trying to prevent the inclusion of problematic provisions during the budget's deliberations.

The Ohio House is expected to make significant spending and policy changes to the budget this month. It will then move to the Senate where that chamber will put its mark on the legislation. From there the bill will inevitably proceed to a Conference Committee, where key legislators from the House and Senate will hammer out the differences – choosing between the Executive, House or Senate proposals.

Other bills of interest in which AGC of Ohio has been engaged are:

- Cooperative Purchasing, S.B. 23 (Lang, R-West Chester). *AGC Action: Oppose. Testified in opposition, legislator outreach, coalition effort*
- Expedited Building Appeals, S.B. 41 (Roegner, R-Hudson). *AGC Action: Support, worked with sponsors to amend to prevent overloading appeals boards and provided testimony supporting updated language. Bill recently was voted out of committee.*
- Prompt Pay (private owner to contractor). *AGC Action: Support. Joint effort with subcontractors, will be reintroduced in House soon.*
- Digital Repairs/Right to Repair, S.B. 73 (Blessing, R-Colerain Twp). *AGC Action: Oppose in part. Provided testimony describing unintended consequences related to hi-tech construction equipment and requested an exclusion for construction equipment.*

NEW OHIO DISTRACTED DRIVING LAW GOES INTO EFFECT

Information Campaign www.PhonesDown.Ohio.gov

As of April 4, it is illegal to use or hold a cell phone or electronic device in your hand, lap, or other parts of the body while driving on Ohio roads. If an officer sees a violation, they can pull you over.

Under the new law, drivers over 18 years old can make or receive calls via hands-free devices, including: speakerphone, earpiece, wireless headset, electronic watch, and connecting phone to vehicle. In most cases, anything more than a single touch or swipe is against the law. Drivers can listen to audio streaming apps and use navigational equipment if they turn them on before getting on the road or use a single touch or swipe to activate, modify, or deactivate them. Drivers under the age of 18 remain restricted from using their devices in any way, including hands-free features.

There are several exceptions to the law, and law enforcement will issue warnings for violations over the first six months to educate and help motorists adapt to the new law. Beginning October 5, 2023, law enforcement will start issuing citations for violations.

The state of Ohio has created a website and tool kit to inform the public and provide resources to help employers educate their employees. The tool kit includes a fact sheet, sample newsletter articles, FAQs, presentation slides, and information on how to silence notifications on different devices. Learn more at www.PhonesDown.Ohio.gov.

AGC-A ANNUAL REPORT

AGC of America last month released its 2022 Annual Report: *Conquering Challenges, Building Opportunity*. Download the [Annual Report](#) and view the accompanying videos at <https://report.agc.org>.

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY WEEK, OSHA'S NATIONAL SAFETY STAND-DOWN TO PREVENT FALLS May 1-5, 2023

The first week of May is all about safety! Both Construction Safety Week and the National Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction are slated for May 1-5, 2023.

Learn more about Construction Safety week at [constructionsafetyweek.com](https://www.constructionsafetyweek.com) and [AGC's safety week webpage](#). AGC's latest [ConstructorCast](#) features the chairs on the Safety Week committee sharing some history of the tradition, what this annual campaign means to them, and how you can get involved.

Information about OSHA's tenth annual National Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction can be found at [OSHA's Fall Prevention Stand-Down webpage](#). The site offers a wide range of compliance resources in many languages, and OSHA encourages everyone to use #StandDown4Safety to promote the event on social media, and to share feedback after their events and obtain a personalized certificate of participation.

FALL PREVENTION SAFETY TRAINING

Fall protection violations continue to be among the most cited standards in the construction industry. Due to the number of violations, the seriousness of injuries caused by lack of/or improper fall protection, and the number of fatalities caused by falls, it is imperative that more emphasis be placed on fall protection training in the construction industry. AGC of America is offering FREE one-day fall protection training programs to meet the need for quality safety training in the construction industry.

Ohio is fortunate to have two of the AGC of America training sessions hosted in Cincinnati at Allied Construction Industries or ACI, which houses Cincinnati AGC. People can choose to attend a session on April 26 or April 27. Learn more and register [here](#).