

2023-2024 Annual Report



Committee Name: Government Affairs

Date: May 30, 2024

Committee Chair/Vice Chair: David Krock, OHM Advisors (Chair)
Ed Kagel, American Structurepoint (Vice Chair)

Committee Mission:

Provides direction for the Council's Government Affairs activities; monitors legislation introduced in the Ohio General Assembly and rules and policies promulgated by state administrative agencies; coordinates with other committees to develop the Council's position on legislative and regulatory issues; works with the Council's staff and lobbyist to actively represent the industry's position on legislative and regulatory matters.

Summary of 2023-2024 Committee Activities/Accomplishments:

Federal: (Monitoring, Tracking, and/or Advocating)

- R&D Amortization – coordinated w/ACEC National – Katherine Motley
 - HR 7024 – passed by the House, awaiting action in the Senate
- IIJA – thanking members of Congress for passing the bill, providing feedback on how funding is being used, challenges that are slowing disbursements, and encouraging the next round of funding.
- Talent Pipeline – continuing to advocate for workforce development, expanded H1b Visas, and with over 50% of graduate students from overseas – focus on keeping talent in the USA.

State: (Monitoring, Tracking, and/or Advocating)

- Reviewed Performance and Recommended the extension of the contract for Calendar Year 2024 with Government Advantage Group (Kevin Futryk).
- Monitoring Statehouse Leadership transitions in the House and Senate
 - Kevin Futryk helps to keep the GA committee informed and advised on positioning of the PAC
- Election District Maps approved
 - After many attempts, the new maps were approved – this is important for providing clarity and consistency for voters on who their representatives are
- Property Tax Valuations:
 - Large increases in property valuations during re-valuation process (tracking)
- Municipal Income Tax Collections:
 - COVID impact....competing bills for handling remote / hybrid workers for local tax (tracking)

- Recreational Marijuana:
 - Tracking impact on Ohio businesses, hiring / drug testing, risk, etc.
- State of the State – Governor DeWine
 - Reviewed and analyzed the Governor’s speech and future goals as it pertains to our industry
- Capital Bill - \$700M target
 - Tracking progress of bill
- HB 430 County Engineers
 - Tracking changes that impact County Engineer’s ability to serve, compensation, etc.
- HB 145 / SB 23 – Joint Purchasing
 - Monitoring to protect QBS
- ODOT LPA Conflict of Interest
 - ACEC worked successfully with ODOT Leadership to understand goals and adjust language to better accommodate the interests of ODOT, local communities, and the Engineering industry.

Future Goals:

- Duty to Defend (logical next step after Indemnification Bill was recently passed)
- City Engineer – Best Practices Guidance
- Continue Monitoring, Tracking, and Advocating for legislation and administrative policies and rules that support the business of engineering and our collective firm’s interests.