



Newsletter

Contractors Association of West Virginia
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Newsletter 2017-09

March 3, 2017

GOVERNOR SUBMITS ALTERNATE BUDGET PROPOSAL

West Virginians would drive on state toll roads for free but pay more for vehicle registration fees under state budget alternatives presented in a news briefing Monday by Gov. Jim Justice. The proposals include updates to West Virginia's "Save Our State Budget," which Gov. Justice presented earlier this month and feature a mix of increases to fees and taxes as well as budget cuts of \$50 million or more. The state is facing an estimated deficit of at least \$500 million.

His updated proposals Monday included increasing the toll on the West Virginia Turnpike from \$2 to \$4 for out-of-state motorists, and increasing the gasoline excise tax by 4.5 cents a gallon, instead of the 10-cent increase he proposed earlier. He said his roads plan would create 48,000 immediate jobs and double the state's maintenance fund from \$150 million to \$300 million for repairing roads, potholes and bridges.

The governor also presented a budget plan that would add a tax of 1 cent per ounce on sugary drinks, which he said could create about \$85 million in revenue, and add 50-cents per pack to the state's cigarette tax to generate an estimated \$47.8 million.

A number of bills were introduced this week impacting construction. These include: a bill to increase the state gas tax 4.5 cents per gallon, restore the 3.5 cents per gallon wholesale tax that was lost with the declining price of gas, and increasing various DMV fees; continuing tolls on the West Virginia Turnpike instead of having them expire in 2019; imposing a 5 percent license tax on successful bidders of road construction contracts; and giving the Legislature authority on spending on various WV Department of Environmental Protection programs including AML, landfill closure, quarry reclamation and sewer projects.

These, and all the issues affecting CAWV members, will be detailed in the Monday, March 6 CAWV Legislative Bulletin. Anyone not receiving the bulletin can contact Cassidy Webb at cwebb@cawv.org to be placed on the mailing list.

GOVERNOR JUSTICE ASKS MEMBERS TO ATTEND SAVE OUR STATE TOUR

Gov. Jim Justice is asking all member companies, and as many of their employees as possible, to join him on his SAVE OUR STATE (SOS) tour to promote the need to invest in West Virginia's infrastructure of roads, schools and water and sewer systems. Below is information on dates and locations. Please try to be there and bring as many of your subs, suppliers and employees as possible.

Check local media for specific times and locations in your area in case of change.

Monday March 6th Nitro, Vacant field beside Pipe Plus, LLC
200 Independent Avenue at 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday March 14th Wheeling

(Location TBD on bridge project) at 12:00 p.m.

Thursday March 16th

Martinsburg

(Location TBD on RT. 340) at 12:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT TRUMP PLEDGES TO SPEND 'BIG' ON INFRASTRUCTURE

During a joint address to Congress this week, President Donald Trump said that he will ask lawmakers to approve legislation that spurs \$1 trillion worth of infrastructure investment. However, the president offered little specifics about his plan to upgrade America's crumbling roads, bridges and waterways, but said it should be paid for by private and public dollars. So far, the only clues had come from a white paper floated on the campaign trail that solely relies on federal tax credits for private investors, which had raised concern from rural Republicans and other critics.

"To launch our national rebuilding, I will be asking the Congress to approve legislation that produces a \$1 trillion investment in the infrastructure of the United States -- financed through both public and private capital --- creating millions of new jobs," the President said. Trump added that the legislative effort will be guided by a promise to 'Buy American – Hire American.'

The speech comes amid growing doubts about whether lawmakers will be able to tackle a major infrastructure bill during a packed legislative year. There have also been questions about how big the measure's price tag will be because fiscal conservatives have been typically reluctant to back massive federal spending on transportation. It remains to be seen if Republicans can warm to an infrastructure spending proposal, though Democrats have signaled that is an issue on which they can cooperate with Trump.

U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito confirmed her support for President Trump's efforts for infrastructure investment when the CAWV met with the senator's staff last week. A major topic of discussion was Trump's proposal to jump start the nation's economy through investment in infrastructure.

SENATE TO VOTE TO REPEAL BLACKLISTING REGULATIONS NEXT WEEK

AGC is urging members to contact your member of the House of Representatives and Senators to let them know that you want the Blacklisting and other midnight Obama regulations impacting your construction business repealed. In the final year of the Obama administration, federal agencies issued nearly 4,000 new regulations. Many of those regulations negatively impact the construction industry. Congress-through the Congressional Review Act (CRA)-has an opportunity to repeal just a handful of Obama-era regulations issued after approximately May 30, 2016.

Among the most unnecessary and burdensome regulations are those implementing the former president's "Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces" Executive Order 13673, commonly called the Blacklisting Executive Order. Under the Blacklisting regulations, both prime and subcontractors would report violations of 14 federal labor laws and undefined state labor law before contract award and again every six months after contract award on federal contracts (not federally-assisted contracts) exceeding \$500,000. Federal contractors officers would then determine if contractors would be allowed to bid on federal construction work based on that their labor law compliance record. Such a process would introduce a significant degree of subjectivity into the federal construction procurement process. It would allow federal contracting officers to effectively debar-or blacklist-companies without the protections of due process afforded under suspension and debarment proceedings. It would also layer a new federal procurement

bureaucracy above contracting officers-in the form of labor compliance advisors-which would further delay the procurement process.

To take action on this issue, members can [click here](#) or visit:
<http://advocacy.agc.org/votervoice/?vvsrc=%2fCampaigns%2f49555%2fRespond>.

CAWV STATE MEETING INCLUDES GOVERNOR JIM JUSTICE, LEGISLATIVE LEADERS

Registration is now open for the CAWV State Meeting, being held March 22 at 7:30 a.m. at the Charleston Civic Center in conjunction with EXPO. The cost to attend is \$35. Members can register by visiting http://wvexpo.com/page_Registration.php and selecting to attend event #3 on the line-up. Members can also contact Wendy Long at long@cawv.org or (304) 342-1166 to register.

The CAWV State Meeting will recognize members for excellence in their safety programs and the CAWV Scholarship Foundation recipient will accept his or her CAWV scholarship check. Nearly 200 CAWV members and guests, along with state and federal contracting officials, attended the meeting last year, which is held during EXPO. The breakfast will be held in the newly constructed entrance area of the Charleston Civic Center, currently undergoing a \$93 million addition and renovation project.

Immediately following the presentations, Governor Jim Justice, House Speaker Tim Armstead and Senate President Mitch Carmichael will share their thoughts on economic development and infrastructure investment in the state of West Virginia, as well as any design or construction initiatives that the West Virginia Legislature has under consideration.

Members must register to attend EXPO and they can do so by visiting www.wvexpo.com. Anyone needing further information about EXPO can call Cassidy Webb at (304) 342-1166. A registration form is attached to this week's Newsletter.

LAST CALL FOR EXPO BOOTHS

WVEXPO is encouraging everyone finalize their booth(s). The deadline for the show program is next week and we want to get everyone published in the professional directory. The show map is also being created. If you have not purchased your booth(s) for EXPO 2017, please do so by [clicking here](#). **Spaces are still available!**

The region's largest trade show for the construction, engineering and architectural industries will showcase over 300 exhibitors with 450 indoor booths and over 5,000 regional decision-makers expected to visit. The event will be held March 22 and 23 at the Charleston Civic Center. Print your name badge online and avoid the registration line at the show. Visit the [REGISTRATION](#) page at www.wvexpo.com and submit the form. Your name badge will be emailed instantly to the address you provide. Badge holders will be available at the EXPO Registration area in the Lower Lobby of the Civic Center. Name badges can also be printed on-demand at the show.

The show is open 10:00 am to 8:00 pm on Wednesday, March 22, and 8:00 am to 12:00 pm on Thursday, March 23. Call EXPO at (304) 342-3976 or email expo@wvexpo.com with any questions.