



Proposed Legislation
for the
216th Annual Communication
of the
Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
of
Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio

October 24, 2025
Sandusky, Ohio

My Brethren:

The following is information regarding Proposed Legislation for the next Annual Communication. As you review this information in your Lodges, I would ask that you remember the following:

1. The Lodge should not “direct” you to vote any certain way. You should go to Grand Lodge as an independent delegate. You should hear the arguments presented and make up your own mind.
2. The presentation of proposed legislation is covered in the Code and By Laws of the Grand Lodge of Ohio.
3. In the following documents, legislation numbered 2025-1 through 2024-5 are ready for consideration.
4. The Jurisprudence Committee will review the Legislation and attempt to determine if it is in proper form. This Committee will not pass on whether it is desirable legislation.
5. The Jurisprudence Committee will present the Proposed Legislation and move its adoption. The Motion for Adoption of the Legislation is only to place it properly before the delegates. It does not imply that the Jurisprudence Committee endorses the legislation. An affirmative vote supports adoption; a negative vote will reject the vote.
6. The Advisory Committee of the Grand Lodge (the Elected Officers of the Grand Lodge; the Immediate Past Grand Master; and the Chairman of Ways, Means and Accounts; Chairman of Masonic Jurisprudence and the Chairman of Membership) has reviewed the legislation. Their recommendation will be given to the delegates after the Legislation is submitted for decision.

Richard A. Dickerscheid, PGM
The Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence

C. Michael Watson, PGM, Vice Chairman

Daniel Hall, Junior Grand Deacon
Jeffrey Sime, Grand Orator
Neil M. Smalley, PGM, Emeritus
Terry W. Posey, PGM, Emeritus
Douglas N. Kaylor, PGM
Charles Armstrong
Jonathan Krapf
Robert R. Rettig
Thomas R. Schuck

Partial Report 1
Proposed Legislation 2025-1

*The Advisory Committee
recommends to adopt*

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

We, the undersigned members of Grand Lodge, propose the following legislation.

NOW: Current CHAPTER 6:

CHAPTER 6 GRAND LODGE DUES, FEES AND APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 6.01. *Dues, Fees and Appropriations.* (a) Every Subordinate Lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge, previous to its annual communication the following Annual Grand Dues, namely: the sum of two dollars (\$2.00) for each candidate initiated (made an Entered Apprentice), during the fiscal year, and the sum of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) in 2016-2017 and each year thereafter, for each member (Master Mason) in good standing.

CHANGE TO READ:

CHAPTER 6 GRAND LODGE DUES, FEES AND APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 6.01. *Dues, Fees and Appropriations.* (a) Every Subordinate Lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge, previous to its annual communication the following Annual Grand Dues, namely: the sum of two dollars (\$2.00) for each candidate initiated (made an Entered Apprentice), during the fiscal year, and the sum of **TWENTY (\$20.00)** ~~fifteen dollars (\$15.00) in 2016-2017~~ **the next full year following the year of adoption (i.e. if adopted at the 2025 Annual Communication, the increase becomes effective on the 2027 Annual Return) THEN TWENTY-THREE DOLLARS (\$23.00) the following year; THEN TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$25.00) the following year; THEN TWENTY-EIGHT DOLLARS (\$28.00) the following year** and each year thereafter, for each member (Master Mason) in good standing.

Keith W. Newton, PGM
Michael L. McCandlish, Junior Grand Warden
Troy L. Davis, Junior Grand Deacon
William M. Carter, III, Deputy Grand Master
Wayne A. Fischer, Grand Orator

Partial Report 2
Proposed Legislation 2025-2

*The Advisory Committee
recommends to adopt*

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

We, the undersigned, propose the following changes to the Ohio Masonic Code in both Sec. 40.02 and Sec. 41.02 to add Temporary Suspension when applicable, to a member's status.

SEC. 40.02 *Felony*. A Brother who has been convicted of a felony or pleads guilty thereto in a court of competent jurisdiction shall be charged with unMasonic conduct by the Master of the Lodge in which he is a member.

Promptly upon receiving information of such conviction or plea, the Master shall appoint an investigating committee whose responsibility it shall be to obtain promptly a copy of the judgment order and to ascertain that the individual named therein is a member of the Lodge. After receipt of a copy of the judgment order and ascertaining that such individual is a member of the Lodge, the Master shall charge such brother, in writing, with unMasonic conduct, prepare specifications thereof, and forward the same to the Grand Secretary, who shall transmit the same to the Trial Commissioner-in-Chief for proceedings under the provisions of Chapter 43 of the Code.

THE GRAND SECRETARY WILL THEN FORWARD THE INFORMATION TO THE GRAND MASTER WHO AFTER REVIEW, MAY PLACE THE BROTHER ON TEMPORARY SUSPENSION PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE CRIMINAL TRIAL.

SEC. 41.02 (a) *Charges Preferred*. Any member of a Lodge may prefer charges against a Brother for unMasonic conduct, specifying the particular acts complained of, which must be filed with the Secretary and entered in full upon the minutes of the Lodge. Provided, however, that complaints and charges against the Master of a Lodge or against a present or past officer of the Grand Lodge shall only be made in conformity with the provisions of Code Section 44.01.

To add the following:

SEC 41.02 (b) When charges of unMasonic conduct are filed or a lodge receives valid information that a brother has been charged and/or arrested or plead guilty to any Offense of Violence and/or moral turpitude as listed in the Ohio Revised Code, the Master, or his designee, will obtain written documentation of such charge/arrest through Public Records supporting the same and forward to the Grand Secretary with forms 31 and 32. The Grand Secretary will then forward the information to the Grand Master who after review, MAY place the brother on TEMPORARY SUSPENSION pending the outcome of the criminal trial. If the charges are dismissed or subject found not to be guilty, the brother will be immediately reinstated to Good Standing with no loss of service time and re-installed into office if one was held.

James L. Cardelein, Past District Deputy Grand Master
Keith W. Newton, PGM
Daniel K. Rannebarger, Past District Deputy Grand Master
Troy L. Davis, Senior Grand Deacon
J. Randolph Clark, Associate Grand Chaplain

Partial Report 3
Proposed Legislation 2025-3

*The Advisory Committee
recommends to adopt*

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

We, the undersigned, propose the following changes to the Ohio Masonic Code in Sec. 24, to require all petitions to be accompanied by a Background Check using the Grand Lodge preferred company.

We the undersigned, in order to ensure future candidate qualifications, propose the following legislation inclusion/insertion of section (c) in Sec. 24.01 following (b) and be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 24.01

(b) A petitioner for the degrees may be required to answer a questionnaire which thereafter must be destroyed.

(c) A petitioner for the degrees shall be required to obtain a background check prior to petitioning the Lodge. All background checks are to be accomplished using the independent background check company approved by the Grand Lodge of Ohio. The name and link are found at the Grand Lodge of Ohio website. The petitioner is responsible for the fee. The background check must accompany the petition and thereafter must be returned to the petitioner.

Keith W. Newton, PGM
Troy L. Davis, Senior Grand Deacon
Michael L. McCandlish, Senior Grand Warden
J. Randolph Clark, Associate Grand Chaplain
Steven M. Grindle, PGM

Partial Report 4
Proposed Legislation 2025-4

*The Advisory Committee
recommends to adopt*

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

We, the undersigned propose the following changes to the Grand Lodge resolutions.

Resolution No. 13 currently reads:

Resolution No. 13-ASSOCIATE GRAND CHAPLAIN

Whereas, the talents of those serving as Grand Chaplain are lost at the completion of their term of office, and

Whereas, Masonry should do everything possible to cement a closer relationship with the churches, and

Whereas, having an Associate Grand Chaplain located in various sections of the State would make it possible to further utilize the talents of a trained minister,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that all those who have served as Grand Chaplain of The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, shall be known as Associate Grand Chaplain following their term of office as Grand Chaplain.

Revision to Resolution No.13

Resolution No. 13-ASSOCIATE GRAND CHAPLAIN **or ASSOCIATE GRAND TYLER**

Whereas, the talents of those serving as Grand Chaplain **or Grand Tyler** are lost at the completion of their term of office, and

Whereas, Masonry should do everything possible to cement a closer relationship with the churches, **and the members of the fraternity**, and

Whereas, having an Associate Grand Chaplain **or Associate Grand Tyler** located in various sections of the State would make it possible to further utilize the talents of a trained minister, **or an experienced Grand Tyler during Grand Lodge ceremonial functions**,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that all those who have served as Grand Chaplain **or Grand Tyler** of The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio shall be known as Associate Grand Chaplain **or Associate Grand Tyler respectively** following their term of office as Grand Chaplain **or Associate Grand Tyler**.

William M. Carter III, Grand Master
J. Randolph Clark, Associate Grand Chaplain
Shawn A. Johnson, Deputy Grand Master
Delbert M. Braund, Jr., Past Grand Tyler
Wayne A. Fischer, Junior Grand Warden
Troy L. Davis, Senior Grand Deacon
Eric W. Muehlenbein, Grand Orator
Steve A. Argast, Past Grand Tyler
Keith J. Manbeck, Past Grand Tyler
Walter G. Barner, Jr., Past Grand Tyler
Shaun R. Marolt, Past Grand Tyler

Partial Report 5
Proposed Legislation 2025-5

Withdrawn

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

We, the undersigned members of the Grand Lodge of Ohio submit the following addition to the legislation.

Resolution 20 - Election of Grand Lodge Officers

Be It Resolved, that the members of the Grand Lodge of Ohio desire to be more involved in the selection of their leadership.

Effective with the passage of this resolution, the following rules shall be used for election of Grand Lodge Officers:

- 1. Each candidate for elected office shall declare his intention to run for the office no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled opening of the Grand Lodge Communication.**
- 2. Each candidate for elected office shall have up to 5 minutes during the Grand Lodge Communication to introduce himself to the voting delegates of the Grand Lodge. This speech does not constitute electioneering.**
- 3. After each candidate for an office has spoken, a ballot shall be taken. A majority of the valid ballots (voting for a nominated candidate) shall constitute election. Blank or invalid ballots shall reduce the number required for election.**
- 4. If no majority is reached, the top two candidates will be eligible for a runoff election. A majority of the valid ballots (voting for only one of these two candidates) shall constitute election. Blank or invalid ballots shall reduce the number required for election.**

Kenneth B. Cohen
David L. Daugherty
Tim Redick
Daniel D. Hrinko
Chad Kopenski