

THE ARCHITECT'S POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

YOUR VOICE IN WASHINGTON STATE POLITICS



"JUST BECAUSE YOU DO NOT TAKE AN INTEREST IN POLITICS DOESN'T MEAN POLITICS WON'T TAKE AN INTEREST IN YOU." - PERICLES, GREEK PHILOSOPHER

WE DID IT! With fiscal support from the Architects Political Action Committee (APAC) the AIA Washington Council passed the most sweeping changes to the state's architecture licensing laws in 25 years.

With the passage of Senate Bill 5529 illegal practices, permitted by confusing exemptions, have been stopped. SB 5529 will:

- Stop illegal practice by rewriting confusing exemptions.
- Ensure every business offering architecture services is registered.
- Ensure architectural decisions are made by architects.

This historic success is due to **APAC's support of lawmakers who back architect issues** and architects from across the state contacting their lawmakers. With the right lawmakers in place, we were finally able to garner broad support for public safety reforms.

We are working to build upon this success by continuing to build APAC. We have set a goal of raising \$75,000 this year. Although that seems like a lot, its only \$30 if every AIA member in Washington State contributes. **This means, your personal contribution is vital to the future of the profession in our state.**

Your contribution is especially vital because our success is not always guaranteed.

There are many special interests who oppose architects' interests and vision for a more sustainable future. With huge political budgets, these special interests can contribute to legislators and causes that block the success of architect's goals; our misfortune regarding economic issues is a prime example.

Despite facing the worst economy in a generation or more, the majority of the legislature was unresponsive to the economic plight of architects. They:

- Increased the Business & Occupations Tax on architects by 20%, costing A&E firms \$70 million over the next 3 years.
- Increased business taxes by \$700 million this year and \$2.3 billion over 3 years.
- Cut design funding in the capital budget by more than 50%.
- Transferred about \$1 billion out of the capital budget to other programs.

Architecture firms already pay the highest B&O Tax rates. Architects have withstood layoffs, pay-cuts and even closures. For these reasons the AIA|WA fought against the massive tax hikes and capital budget cuts. But, the forces working against us were too strong.

The cuts to design funding don't only impact architects. If there is no design, ultimately, there is no construction. Every dollar spent on design supports \$10 to \$15 dollars in construction. Every \$10 million dollars spent on building construction creates 285 full-time, family wage jobs.

Higher costs to the construction industry will prolong the recession. The state is relying upon construction. Construction relies upon architects.

With your help we can turn our hardships into triumphs. The AIA|WA and APAC are taking an active interest in policy and politics to promote and defend the profession.

We have learned that while we have made progress, we have more to do to ensure the viability of the profession in our state.

While AIA|WA coordinates the legislative and grassroots activities for state architects, APAC is the profession's political voice. Through APAC we need to support more legislators and leaders who are responsive to the economic plight of architects.

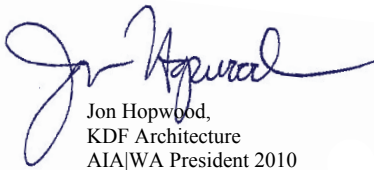
It is time we get rid of those who don't understand or care to understand our profession and our businesses; and, to elect lawmakers who will support the profession. With APAC we can support new candidates who agree with the AIA's pro-sustainability and pro-business positions.

Contributing to APAC increases our ability to get the right lawmakers elected or re-elected. Unlike making a donation directly to a candidate, with APAC your donation is combined with the donations of many other architects and thereby multiplies its effectiveness.

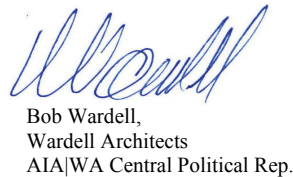
In addition, APAC has the expertise to carefully evaluate each candidate and legislative race for its impact on the profession's legislative and political goals. APAC evaluates all 98 House and 25 Senate races for how they would affect the profession.

However, APAC relies upon individual architects and firms donating to our efforts. **Federal law prevents the AIA|WA from donating directly to political races or using dues in any election activities;** so the AIA|WA cannot use any of your dues to support political action. Prompt support is critical to our success. APAC must be ready to support key candidates early in order to improve our chances for success.

Please send in a contribution to APAC to help us elect pro-architect candidates in this year's elections. The enclosed brochure has a contribution form. **Or, you can contribute online at aiawa.org/apac.html.**



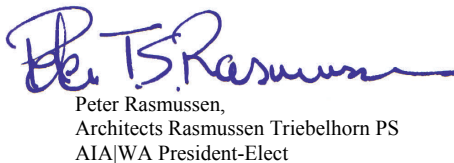
Jon Hopwood,
KDF Architecture
AIA|WA President 2010



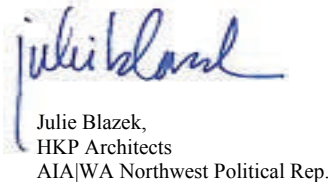
Bob Wardell,
Wardell Architects
AIA|WA Central Political Rep.



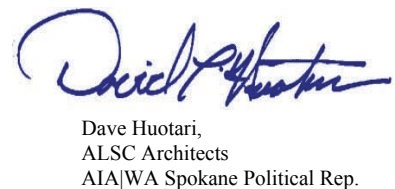
Mike Slater,
McGranahan Architects
AIA|WA Southwest Political Rep.



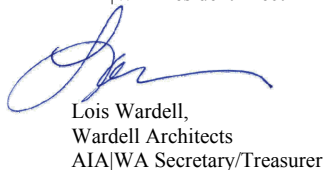
Peter Rasmussen,
Architects Rasmussen Triebelhorn PS
AIA|WA President-Elect



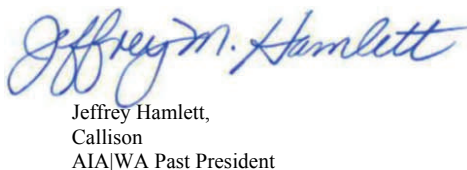
Julie Blazek,
HKP Architects
AIA|WA Northwest Political Rep.



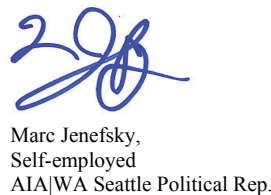
Dave Huotari,
ALSC Architects
AIA|WA Spokane Political Rep.



Lois Wardell,
Wardell Architects
AIA|WA Secretary/Treasurer



Jeffrey Hamlett,
Callison
AIA|WA Past President



Marc Jenefsky,
Self-employed
AIA|WA Seattle Political Rep.



Ryan Wilson,
Wilson Associates Architects
AIA|WA Vancouver Political Rep.

For more information on our success, goals and how to donate, please see the enclosed APAC brochure. For additional information on APAC or to donate online, please visit: www.aiawa.org/apac.html.