

AIA Washington

A Council of The American Institute of Architects
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Walk the Walk
Architects Leading the Sustainable Evolution™



Founded in 1857 (WA chapter in 1894), The American Institute of Architects has long been an advocate for architects at the state and federal level. In Washington, AIA Washington Council (AIA|WA) is an architect's voice to the legislature. AIA|WA seeks to be an effective proponent of the balance between the natural, built and economic environments. The AIA|WA protects the interests of the profession by participating in political races and election campaigns that support architect friendly candidates and legislators.

Policy Goals for 2010

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Liability Reform

- Provide protection for architects against increases to liability laws, especially for housing development
- Support passage of a balanced law that provides consumers redress when residential construction professionals do not fulfill their contractual obligations

Licensing

- Support passage of a new law to modernize architecture licensing
- Stop legislation that:
 - allow non-architects to practice architecture
 - weaken current licensing standards
 - require less education and put the public at risk

Taxes

- Stop additional taxes on the profession, including prevention of a sales tax on professional services and raises to the Business & Occupation (B&O) tax

Sustainable Development

- Protect the gains made in 2009 on energy conservation and ensure implementation of the new Washington State Energy Code

Public Works Procurement

- Provide protection for the integrity of the state's Qualifications Based Selection Law (QBS) by encouraging law clarification as needed

Employer Gag Rule

- Stop the passage of laws that restrict employers free speech and right to communicate with their employees

False Claims Act

- Prevent the passage of laws encouraging frivolous lawsuits against state government contractors over contract provisions and payment claims

Capital Budget Funding for Design Projects

- Restore funding for pre-design and design projects instead of only "shovel-ready" projects