



INVEST IN CRITICAL FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT A ROBUST CAPITAL BUDGET

OVERVIEW

Washington State has a bright economic future which depends on its to support education and other critical public services. Now is the time to invest in our State's public facilities. [HB 1115](#) and [SB 5097](#) are a good start but more needs to be done.

The recession took a significant toll on the State's ability to meet critical needs of its schools, colleges, universities and other public agencies. Over the past five years the capital budget has been underfunded. At least \$1.7 billion was diverted to fund other programs. The State has not made the necessary investments to keep pace with the needs of its communities or extend the life of its campuses and facilities.

In the interest of investing in our State's future, we support the following initiatives:

Utilize all of the funding available under the State's constitutional debt limit.

- Every \$1 billion spent on design and construction creates between 13,000 and 14,000 jobs and over \$700 million in wages.
- Infrastructure and facility investment not only creates short-term jobs but also lays the foundation for future economic growth.

Fund the projects that have previously been funded for predesign or design.

- The State has already invested significant funds in the planning and design of these projects, which were identified through a careful selection process.
- Delaying completion of these projects increases their cost project due to escalation, codes.
- There is also a cost to losing the collective memory and shared understanding that has been created amongst the owner's team and the design team.

Fund projects at the budget for which the project was designed.

- In many instances, funding for the projects in the Governor's proposed capital budget does not align with the budgets that the Legislature provided in the predesign and design phase allocations.
- These projects are ready to go to construction in July 2015. Bid documents are nearly complete. Changing project budgets now will trigger redesign of the projects, which is not cost effective due to increased fees and schedule delays.

KEY POINTS

- *Fund capital projects to the full amount constitutionally permitted within current budgetary debt limit guidelines*
- *Prior to funding any new projects fund the next phase of all existing projects that have, in previous sessions, been funded for Pre-Design or Design*
- *Fully fund projects to the level at which the project was initially designed*