



December 2019 Advocacy Newsletter

Capitol Connections: Join us in Olympia on Jan. 23!

AIA|WA's annual lobby day will take place on the Capitol Campus on Jan. 23. Thanks to all those who have signed up to participate.

Capitol Connections is your chance to talk to your legislators about issues important to architects in the state. You'll learn about the issues impacting the practice of architecture that are up for consideration during the 2020 legislative session; have the opportunity to join other architects at meetings with your own legislators; hear from legislators working on key AIA|WA topics; talk to AIA|WA's lobbyists; and get a glimpse into how your state legislature operates.

We'll be talking to legislators about legislation to allow a private financing mechanism for deep energy efficiency retrofits and resiliency improvements (PACE) and a number of bills to allow more affordable housing statewide. We'll provide all the info you'll need to talk with legislators about these issues.

There is a \$45 fee to participate, but all travel costs are reimbursable by AIA|WA, including airfare from eastern Washington.

Capitol Connections is our best chance to develop relationships with legislators, but we can't meet with your representatives unless you are there. Please join us!

For more info or to sign up click [here](#).

State Legislative Session Set to Begin

The second year of Washington state's 66th legislative session will kick off on January 13. It is scheduled to run through March 14. Watch this space and your email for updates on legislation AIA|WA is tracking on behalf of architects. Let us know what you think and consider reaching out to your representatives on these and other issues important to you.

Here are some key facts about the Washington State Legislature:

About the Legislature

The Washington State Legislature is a bicameral body with 49 members in the Senate and 98 members in the House of Representatives. Each district is served by one senator and two representatives. You can determine your district by entering your home address [here](#).

The citizen Legislature meets annually on the second Monday in January. In odd-numbered years the Legislature meets for 105 calendar days, and in even-numbered years for 60 days. The state's two-year budgets are determined in odd-number years, with budget work in the short session limited to supplemental changes. If necessary, the Governor can call legislators back to Olympia for a special session for a 30-day period. Legislators can call themselves into

Legislative Session, cont.

special session with a two-thirds vote of both bodies.

Currently, Democrats control both houses of the Washington State Legislature. Democrats hold a 57-41 majority in the House of Representatives and a 28-21 majority in the Senate, with one "Independent Democrat" senator caucusing with the Republicans.

History

The modern Washington Legislature was created in 1889 after Washington voters approved a state constitution and President Benjamin Harrison authorized Washington to become the 42nd state of the United States.



1891 State Capitol Building
(Willis Ritchie)

Washington's current capitol building was completed in 1928 and designed by Walter Wilder and Harry White. The original building, built in 1891, was designed by Willis Ritchie.

Vacancies

Unlike some state legislatures, the Washington State Legislature does not hold special elections midyear if a seat becomes vacant between regular elections. Instead, the board of county commissioners for the county or counties where the vacant district is located are given the responsibility of choosing the successor.



The original State Capitol Building today, 600 Washington St. SE. The building is currently the home of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The state central committee of the political party that last held the seat must submit a list of up to three candidates to the county board, which must make the final selection within 60 days of the vacancy. Special elections are then held at the next legislative election cycle.

Most recently, Rep. Davina Duerr (D-1) of Bothell was appointed to a vacant House seat via this process. In early December, Rep. Jeff Morris (D-40) of Bellingham resigned. Because his district covers parts of three counties, state Democratic officials will determine three names to forward to a panel composed of the Whatcom, Skagit, and San Juan county councils, which will select the district's new representative. Both Duerr and the new legislator from the 40th district will run for election in November 2020.

On Dec. 16, Rep. Kristine Reeves (D) of Federal Way announced that she would leave the legislature immediately; she'll be replaced by a candidate chosen by Pierce and King Counties.

Take Part in the Legislative Session

Legislators welcome constituent comments on legislative issues throughout the year. During the session, comments on specific bills can be made via the state's [comment website](#). You can also comment directly via email (legislator emails are listed [here](#)) or via phone (the state's "legislative hotline" number is 800-562-6000 and it will connect you to any office).

The Legislature's website, [leg.wa.gov](#), offers a wide array of resources for looking up bills, learning about legislators, monitoring committee action, and identifying upcoming hearings.

WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

Legislature Home

- House of Representatives
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What's happening on the floor?
The Legislature will convene for a Regular Session on January 13, 2020.

Scheduled hearings and floor sessions: Today

Committee	Agenda	Date/Time
There are no scheduled meetings for the selected date.		

Highlights

- Legislative Hotline: 1.800.562.6000
- Employment Opportunities

Public Records Requests
For information about submitting a public records request to either the House or the Senate, please follow the links below:
[House Public Records Request](#) | [Senate Public Records Request](#)

More Information

Get bills via web services: The Legislature makes bill, committee, and law information available via web services for developers using an information, see the [Legislative Web Services](#) page.

Budget Links:

- State Budget Documents (LEAF site)
- Fiscal Reports (FAP site)

Reports to the Legislature: find reports filed by state agencies and other organizations as requested by the Legislature.

Session Laws:

Gov. Inslee releases 2020 Supplemental Budget

On Dec. 18, Gov. Inslee released his proposed 2020 Supplemental Budget, which makes adjustments to the two-year state budget passed by the Legislature earlier this year. The budget proposal did not include any new tax increases. The state operates on a two-year, \$52.4 billion budget. In the 2020 session, lawmakers will make adjustments to the **operating budget** the legislature approved last April rather than writing a new budget from scratch.

Inslee's **proposal** adds \$319 million in spending over three years aimed at reducing homelessness with funds diverted from the state's \$2.5 billion emergency budget reserve to build emergency shelters and expand housing and shelter programs.

Other highlights from the Governor's budget include:

- A budgetary response to the passage of Initiative 976 – a \$454 million reduction in spending on 2020 transportation projects.
- \$35.9 million to implement the state's family and medical leave law, which takes effect in 2020.



- \$34 million in spending to boost salmon and orca recovery efforts, including more than \$29 million in capital budget projects for toxics cleanup, habitat protection, and fish hatchery improvements.
- \$1 million to create a new state Equity Office, which would help agencies reach diversity goals for hiring and contracting.

On climate, Inslee's legislative and budget proposals include:

- Limiting statewide greenhouse gas emissions.
- Establishing a clean fuel standard.
- Increasing the availability of zero-emission vehicles.
- Establishing an emissions standard for ride share fleets.
- Installing electric vehicle charging stations at state facilities.
- Extending a tax incentive for community solar projects that benefit low-income customers.

Who's in Charge of the Legislature this Session?

In the Senate, **Lieutenant Governor Cyrus Habib** serves constitutionally as the body's President. He runs the Senate floor debate and, fully blind since the age of 8, it is a wonder to watch him do it.

The Senate Majority Leader (leader of the Democratic senators) is **Andy Billig** of Spokane. The Minority Leader is Republican **Mark Schoesler** of Ritzville.

Rep. Laurie Jinkins of Tacoma was selected by House Democrats to become the next House Speaker in January. The House Majority Leader is **Pat Sullivan** (D-Covington) and the Republican Minority Leader is **J.T. Wilcox** from Roy.



Senate Leadership, left-right:
Lt. Governor Cyrus Habib (D)
Majority Leader Andy Billig (D)
Minority Leader Mark Schoesler (R)

House Leadership, left-right:
Speaker-designate Laurie Jinkins (D)
Majority Leader Pat Sullivan (D)
Minority Leader J.T. Wilcox (R)



Two New Members Join AIA | WA Board

In January, AIA|WA will welcome two new board members representing AIA Seattle. All other board members remain in place for 2020.

Elizabeth de Regt AIA is an architect and urban designer at ZGF specializing in master planning. She joined the AIA Seattle Board in September as an Advocate Director and will serve as the liaison between the two boards.

Elizabeth's passion lies at the intersection of architecture and urban design, and she seeks to create spaces that enhance sustainability at an urban scale. Elizabeth focuses on livability issues, with expertise in researching daylighting in the public realm as well as zoning issues that impact shared spaces.

She currently sits on AIA Seattle's Public Policy Board and chairs AIA Washington Council's Climate Committee, coordinating AIA's positioning and work combatting climate change.

Doug Ito AIA is a principal at SMR Architects and serves as the co-chair of AIA Seattle's Housing Task Force. He participates as a member of the City of Tacoma's Affordable Housing Action Strategy Technical Advisory Group and recently served on the Board of Directors of the Housing Development Consortium of Seattle and King County, including two years as Board President.

Doug is dedicated to preserving the historic fabric of communities throughout the state. His contributions to historic preservation include not only his rehabilitation work, but also his community participation as a former member for the Board of Directors for the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation and as the former Chair of the Pioneer Square Historic Preservation Board. Additionally, he volunteers on committees of several nonprofit housing providers.

Elizabeth and Doug will replace **Peggy Heim AIA** and **Mark Cork AIA** on the AIA|WA board. Thanks to both Peggy and Mark for your service and advocacy on behalf of architects in Washington.



Elizabeth de Regt AIA



Doug Ito AIA



Peggy Heim AIA



Mark Cork AIA

Help us advocate for you:

Are you seeing these practices in Washington?

AIA|WA is committed to addressing issues that are impacting the practice of architecture in Washington. Please let us know if you have information about the following potential issues, which we have heard about from members.

Engineers Stamping Architecture Plans

AIA|WA is seeking information about local jurisdictions that are allowing engineers to stamp architectural plans. We know that this is happening in Kennewick and we are trying to determine if this happens elsewhere.



B&O tax as a reimbursable expense

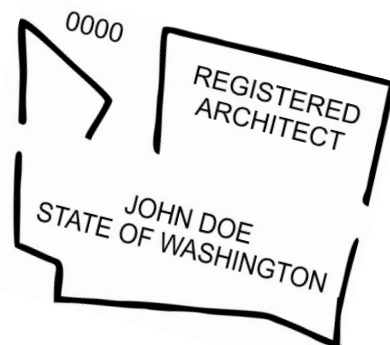
Are you seeing contractors listing their B&O tax on projects as reimbursables in construction contracts? We are not sure if this is legal, but we are trying to determine if this is being done in other industries.

Please let Kirsten know:

kirstens@aiaseattle.org

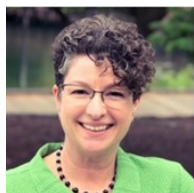
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Thanks!



AIA
Washington Council

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AIA Washington Council represents the common interests of AIA members in Washington state on government, legislative and regulatory issues that impact the practice of architecture.

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