



## March 2022 Advocacy Newsletter

### 2022 State Legislative Session Final Report

The state legislature adjourned its 60-day session on March 10. Lawmakers passed over 300 bills before closing out the two-year biennium. This report provides general highlights on the session followed by AIA-specific issues.

#### Session Highlights

Notable bills that passed this session include:

- A delay in the implementation of the Washington Cares Act (long term care insurance) by 18 months
- Two bills clarifying police reform laws passed in 2021
- A ban on selling large-capacity magazines
- A plan to stop charging parents for the costs of placing kids in state juvenile detention facilities
- An amber alert program for missing Indigenous people
- A measure to establish minimum wages and benefits for Uber and Lyft drivers
- A bill making pickleball the state's official sport

Lawmakers did not pass:

- A bill to substantially increase the number of cannabis shops statewide in an effort to improve social equity in the cannabis industry
- The governor's proposal to make it a crime for politicians to lie about election fraud if their words incite violence or property damage.
- Minimum nurse staffing standards in hospitals
- A bill to reign in the executive branch's powers in an emergency

#### Budgets

Legislators have only one constitutional requirement to accomplish each session, and that is to pass the state's three major budgets: operating, capital, and transportation. The two-year budgets were passed during last year's long session, so budget work this year focused on adjusting those biennial budgets, which produces supplemental budgets that drive government spending through June 2023.



*Pickleball: Washington's new state sport*

*Continued next page*

## Budgets, *continued*

Note that the operating and transportation budgets largely reflect Democratic priorities because Democrats have a majority in both chambers. Republicans opposed the operating budget in particular because it did not include a tax cut as a result of very strong state revenues.

### Operating Budget

The 2022 supplemental operating budget added \$5 billion dollars to the 2021 biennial budget. Legislators also appropriated \$1 billion in unspent federal COVID-19 relief money. You can view a full summary [here](#).



### Capital Budget

The bipartisan 2022 supplemental capital budget makes significant investments to address the homelessness crisis, including more than \$500 million in new funding for affordable and emergency housing. Other large investments include \$251 million for water projects, \$200 million for infrastructure, \$100 million for broadband, \$100 million for school seismic projects, and \$98 million for behavioral health crisis stabilization. You can view a list of highlights [here](#).



### Transportation

The legislature adopted a 16-year, \$17 billion "[Move Ahead Washington](#)" transportation package to fund highways, transit projects, and bridges separately from the supplemental transportation budget. Large spending items in the package include \$3 billion for transit, \$1.2 billion for the I-5 Columbia River Bridge, \$1.3 billion for bike and pedestrian improvements, and \$512 million for electrification. Much of the revenue for these projects comes from the

Climate Commitment Act, the state's not-yet-implemented cap-and-trade program, and a transfer from the operating budget. Notably, revenue from a proposed export fuel tax had to be replaced in the face of strong opposition from neighboring states.

## Next Steps

Governor Inslee has not yet signed all of the bills approved by the legislature. He has 20 days from the time a bill is delivered to his desk to take action. To see bills that the governor has or will be signing into law, [click here](#).

Bills introduced during the 2021 or 2022 session that did not make it through the legislative process are now fully dead. In order for them to continue, they will need to be reintroduced as new bills during the 2023-2024 biennium.

## Elections

Legislators will spend the remainder of the year meeting with constituents, working on interim legislative projects, and running for reelection. The election picture will be clearer after the candidate filing deadline, May 20, has passed. Many legislators announced their retirement at the close of session, and more are expected to do so. Here is the current list of retiring legislators:



### **Seattle Metro**

Sen. Reuven Carlyle (D-36)  
Sen. David Frockt (D-46)  
Rep. Eileen Cody (D-34)  
Rep. Kirsten Harris-Talley (D-37)

### **Everett**

Rep. Mike Sells (D-38)

### **Tacoma Metro**

Rep. Steve Kirby (D-29)  
Rep. Jesse Johnson (D-30)

### **Olympia/Peninsula**

Sen. Tim Sheldon (D/R-35)  
Rep. Laurie Dolan (D-22)

### **Eastern WA**

Sen. Sharon Brown (D-8)  
Rep. Bob McCaslin (R-4)

## AIA Issues: Legislative Session

### Practice Issues

This year's legislative session was unusually light on practice issues. The only bill on AIA's list that passed was a "clean up" bill ([HB 1874](#)) to fix previously enacted legislation related to reducing barriers to professional licensure for individuals with previous arrests or criminal convictions. AIA supported this bill last year when it was initially passed but merely watched it this year.



Practice bills that did not survive include:

- [HB 1592](#) to allow provisional licenses for military spouses moving to Washington with a license from another state. AIA/WA was neutral on the legislation because it would have allowed licensing authorities, including the Board for Architects, determine whether another state's qualifications are equal to Washington's.
- [HB 2049](#) to eliminate local plan review for most plans stamped by an architect or engineer; AIA opposed this bill although it did not receive a hearing. It drew a number of Republican and Democratic co-sponsors due to a bill title indicating that it would speed up housing production.
- [SB 5964](#) aimed at consolidating and streamlining local permit review processes. This bill would not have had a significant impact on architects, and AIA was neutral. It passed the Senate and one House committee.

## Tax, Education & Capital Budget

### Tax

Tax legislation was not seriously considered in 2022. The state's Tax Structure Work Group, charged with identifying potential reforms to Washington's taxation system, is expected to release major tax restructuring recommendations this summer with legislation following for the 2023 session. AIA has been monitoring this process, particularly with respect to the B&O tax.



### Education

#### School Seismic Grants [SB 5933](#)

A bill to authorize a grant program to cover the cost of retrofitting or relocating K-12 public school or state-tribal education compact school facilities located in high seismic areas or tsunami zones passed and was funded at \$100 million through the remainder of the fiscal year (June 30, 2023).

#### School Bonds [HJR 4200](#)

Legislation to amend the state constitution to allow a simple majority of voters to authorize school district bonds for facilities improvements failed to pass again this year. These bills are aimed at rural districts where school bonds are harder to pass, but they are not supported by some legislators because they are viewed as a tax increase. Because this change would require a constitutional amendment, two-thirds of legislators must approve the bill in each house for it to pass.

### Capitol Budget

The legislature's 2022 supplemental capital budget is covered on page 2. AIA has spoken with legislators and agency personnel about cost escalation issues that will get worse over time. Rising costs for materials and labor mean that projects funded in previous budgets will no longer be able to be constructed at the allocated funding amount. The final budget includes \$8 in an inflation and contingency fund for this purpose, far below the \$39.5 million in the Senate's version of the budget. This will be an ongoing topic of conversation between legislators, the agencies, AIA, and others in the coming year.



## Climate



Key building electrification bills fell afoul of opposition from the gas utilities, homebuilders, and some unions, including: **HB 1770** to develop a voluntary residential energy reach code that local governments could opt to use instead of baseline state code; and two bills that would have required utilities to begin the transition process to electric power and authorized public utilities to provide incentives to ratepayers for electrification projects.

Bills that passed included **SB 5722** to extend state building performance requirements to smaller buildings (commercial buildings 20,000-50,000 sq ft and multifamily buildings over 50,000 sq ft) and **HB 1280** to require an analysis of the use of all-electrific systems as part of the pre-design work for large state buildings.

**HB 1099**, which would have added a climate element to the state's Growth Management Act requirements, also failed to pass. This legislation needed to pass this year to impact the 2024 comp plan updates. It passed both houses and passed the Senate a second time but failed to receive a vote on the House floor to approve the conference committee version of the bill in the final minutes of the session.



AIA|WA opposed legislation (**SB 5732**) that would have required a combination of green roof technology and solar on all commercial and multi-family buildings over 50,000 sq ft because it did not offer flexibility or choice; we expect to see a version of this bill back next year.

Other bills that passed include **SB 5862**, a technical fix to the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy & Reliance (C-PACER) program that was enacted in 2020; and **HB 1619**, which establishes new efficiency standards for some appliances and updates existing standards for others.

## Housing

The legislature considers four general types of housing bills. They are listed below along with specific bills that were considered in each category this year. In the past few years, the legislature has found bills it can pass in three of the four categories. It has provided strong funding for affordable (subsidized) housing, for example. But it has yet to find a way to take meaningful action on measures that would increase housing capacity.

### Housing Capacity

Legislators failed to pass bills aimed at increasing housing capacity by overriding the authority of local governments to restrict missing middle housing in single family detached only zones. Disagreement among Democrats and very strong opposition by cities killed **HB 1782** (and its Senate equivalent), which started out by requiring fourplexes to sixplexes in areas traditionally dedicated to single-family detached housing (depending on city size and proximity to frequent transit). Similarly, **HB 1660**, to prohibit local restrictions related to ADUs such as owner-occupancy requirements and parking, also failed to pass.

### Removing Barriers to Housing

AIA supported two bills to reduce barriers to housing, both of which passed: **SB 5818** to limit SEPA and GMA appeals on affordable housing projects and **HB 1643** to provide for a real estate excise tax (REET) exemption for selling property to nonprofits and public housing authorities to use for affordable housing.



## Housing, cont.

### Local Government Funding Mechanisms

**HB 1882** to create a housing benefit district pilot program to plan and fund land acquisition for affordable housing near major transit stops also failed to pass.

### Affordable Housing Funding

The legislature's supplemental operating and capital budgets, which adjust the biennial budget through June 2023, included over \$440 million new dollars for housing justice priorities, including:

- \$114 million for the Housing Trust Fund
- \$240 million for Rapid Housing Acquisition
- \$15 million for homeless youth facilities
- \$55 million for frontline homelessness service providers
- \$68.5 million for rental assistance
- \$45 million for services to help transition people experiencing homelessness into affordable housing

You can view AIA's full bill tracking list [here](#).

## Looking Ahead to 2023: Interim Outreach

The time to start thinking about the 2023 session is now. Over the interim period, legislators will have time to consider new or particularly complicated issues in advance of the next session. AIA|WA will be meeting with legislators on issues identified below, but we encourage you to connect with your legislators on topics of importance to you. Look to the next page for more details on connecting with legislators over the interim.



### Practice

- Help legislators think about new ways to expedite housing projects without sacrificing public safety by eliminating plan review.
- Work with Sen. Jamie Pedersen, author of 2019 condo liability reform legislation, on additional measures to facilitate condos, including a combination of state and local changes needed to design stacked flats as condos in Seattle.
- Highlight funding needs for unreinforced masonry building retrofits.

### Climate: Buildings

- Continued outreach on building electrification, specifically on a voluntary residential reach code for local governments.
- Discuss the need for flexibility & choice around green roof requirements for commercial & multifamily buildings.

### Taxes, Education, Capital Budget

- Systematic tax reform: the state's multi-year work on tax system reform will become legislation in 2023; AIA will engage with legislators on the B&O tax, highlighting the need for a tax on net income rather than revenue and the need to fix the double taxation on businesses that rely heavily on subcontractors.
- Highlight the importance of supplemental funding to address capital budget project cost escalation.

### Housing

- Work with legislators and potential coalition partners on legislation to add housing capacity via missing middle housing and ADU policy.
- Identify ways that architects can use design skills and experience with land use/development to add to the discussion.

Do you have profession-related ideas for future legislation? Please let us know!  
Also let us know if you would like to work on any of these topics with AIA.

# Engaging in Advocacy



## Get to know your state legislators

- Sign up for your legislators' email newsletters via their homepage (search for/click on their names [here](#)).
- Watch a town hall for constituents—your delegation hosts these throughout the year to talk about what they're working on and answer questions—info is available via their newsletters or check out their homepage.
- Meet with one or more of your legislators to discuss an issue important to you or one of AIA's issues—legislators are very accessible between sessions. We can help you with the request.
- Host one of your legislators on a tour of a building in their district. We can help with this, too.

## Join AIA's Advocacy Efforts

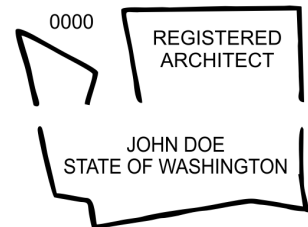
- Join one or more of AIA's policy committees:
  - ⇒ Practice
  - ⇒ Tax/Education/Capital Budget
  - ⇒ Climate
  - ⇒ Livability & Affordability
- Ask AIA|WA to make a presentation on advocacy to your firm
- Share your ideas for what AIA should be working on at the state government level.

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Washington Board for Architects Position Open

The Washington State Board for Architects will have a Board Member position open starting in June 2022. The seven-member, governor-appointed board is made up of one member of the public and six registered architects who reside in Washington and have at least eight years' experience in responsible charge of architectural work. The Board's primary function is to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare through regulating the practice of architecture. Board member responsibilities include:

- Attending board meetings (approx. four a year)
- Participating on board committees for specific projects
- Acting as a case manager or as part of the judicial panel in disciplinary cases
- Representing the board responsibly to the profession and the public
- Attending national council meetings as needed
- Reviewing applications as needed



More information about this position is available [here](#). Applications are made through the governor's website and can be found [here](#); they should be submitted by close of business April 15.

### AIA National Future Forward Grant

AIA's Future Forward Grant supports emerging professionals in the testing of new ideas that disrupt the traditional conception of practice, process, and product in the field of architecture. The grant provides up to \$10,000 for projects that advance exploration, innovation, and disruption in the architecture profession. Proposals are accepted in the following categories: practice, process, and product.

Eligible applicants must have been licensed to practice architecture for fewer than 10 years, Associate AIA members, and members of The American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS). Applications must be received by April 30. More info [here](#).

# COMPONENT EVENTS

## AIA Seattle

- Climate Summit: **Practicing Equity & Advocacy in Rapid Decarbonization**, April 25-26.

## AIA Northwest Washington

- Webinar: **IBC Building Areas, Fire Areas, and Mixed Occupancies**, April 13.

## AIA Southwest Washington

- AIA SW WA Golf Tournament - June 24, The Links at Hawks Prairie. **Player & sponsor registration.**
- AIA Vancouver Golf Tournament - July 14, Lewis River Golf Course. **Player & sponsor registration.**

## AIA Spokane

- **Spokane Design Awards**  
March 25: Registration deadline  
April 1: Submission deadline  
April 21: Awards ceremony, Spokane Convention Center
- Architecture Month—April. Theme: Tomorrow Defined Today

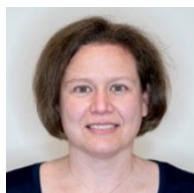


## AIA Washington Council

### STAFF



**Tammie Sueirro**  
Executive Director  
[tsueirro@aiawa.org](mailto:tsueirro@aiawa.org)  
(206) 957-1925



**Kirsten Smith**  
Manager of Policy & Advocacy  
[kirstens@aiaseattle.org](mailto:kirstens@aiaseattle.org)  
(206) 708-3199

*AIA Washington Council serves as the collective voice for and a resource on state government policies that impact the practice of architecture for all architects and the profession through AIA components in Washington State.*

## 2022 Board of Directors

### President

**Doug Ito**, AIA—Seattle | [dito@smrarchitects.com](mailto:dito@smrarchitects.com)

### President-Elect

**Tom Rieger**, AIA—Southwest Washington  
[tom@tasolympia.com](mailto:tom@tasolympia.com)

### Past President

**Carl Dominguez**, AIA—Seattle | [carld@mithun.com](mailto:carld@mithun.com)

### Secretary-Treasurer

**Steve Mallory**, AIA—Central Washington  
[smallory@arculus.net](mailto:smallory@arculus.net)

**Jed Ballew**, AIA—Seattle/Northwest Washington  
[jed@zervasgroup.com](mailto:jed@zervasgroup.com)

**Stephen Black**, AIA—Southwest Washington  
[stephen@fiarchitecture.com](mailto:stephen@fiarchitecture.com)

**David Buescher** AIA—Spokane | [dave@studiohdg.com](mailto:dave@studiohdg.com)

**Elizabeth de Regt**, AIA—Seattle  
[elizabeth.deregt@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.deregt@gmail.com)