



March 2024 Advocacy Newsletter

2024 State Legislative Session Final Report

It was a sprint to the finish for Washington state lawmakers this year! The 60-day 2024 legislative session came to a close on March 7th, marking another on-time adjournment. In a flurry of activity, nearly 1,200 new bills were introduced, with about 350 ultimately passing both chambers and being sent to the Governor's desk.

Major policy debates dominated long floor sessions, especially in the final days as the Democratic majority pushed to achieve their top priorities. While they accomplished some key goals, others fell short. Supplemental budget negotiations went smoothly, however, and no new taxes were adopted this year.

The biggest storyline was the introduction of six citizen initiatives targeting progressive policies. Three of these ballot measures narrowly passed in the Legislature's last week, setting the stage for major battles ahead.

Despite the hectic pace, lawmakers adjourned on schedule after another productive - if intense - short session in Olympia. Read on for more highlights on the session's key bills, budget wins, and the six citizen initiatives.

Session Wins

Climate

HB 1282 - After several years of trying to get embodied carbon legislation across the finish line, AIWA is excited to celebrate the passage of HB 1282, better known as Buy Clean and Buy Fair, promoting sustainable and ethical construction practices. This bill mandates transparency and accountability for building materials used in major state-funded projects by requiring firms to report Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs), Health Product Declarations, working conditions, and other data. It also directs the Department of Commerce to develop a public database for this information and establishes the "Buy Clean Buy Fair" workgroup.



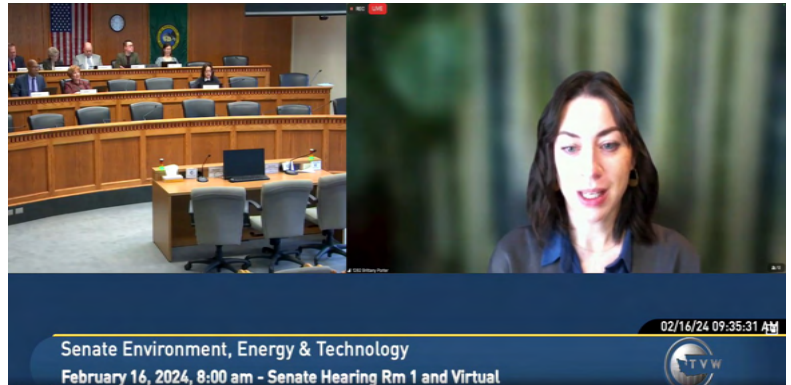
Embodied Carbon
Manufacture, transport and
installation of construction materials

Climate, *continued*

AIWA secured an important budget proviso in the **Operating Budget** allocating \$250,000 to the State Building Code Council to study embodied carbon language in other jurisdictions' building codes and provide recommendations for potential adoption by December 1, 2024.

While the Navigator (HB 1391) did not advance, AIWA's partners at Shift Zero secured \$3.5 million in the Operating Budget to facilitate access to energy assistance programs, including incentives, audits, and rebates for retrofitting homes and small businesses.

However, this funding is contingent on the Climate Commitment Act not being repealed by Initiative Measure No. 2117.



Livability

HB 2071-This session we saw multiple bills seeking to address the acute need for more affordable housing options, and the passage HB 2071 advances that goal. It directs the State Building Code Council to convene technical advisory groups and make recommendations to apply the International Residential Code (IRC) to multiplex housing of up to six units. Additionally, it calls for revisions to the International Building Code (IBC) to allow unit sizes smaller than current efficiency dwelling unit requirements.

The bill also requires the development of an illustrative standard plan set that meets or exceeds all energy code regulations for residential housing subject to the IRC. This optional plan set can be used by local governments and builders as a prescriptive pathway for energy code compliance.

HB 1998- The passage of HB 1998 aims to increase affordable co-living housing choices by requiring cities and counties to allow this type of development, featuring individually rented sleeping units with shared kitchen facilities, within urban areas zoned for multifamily or mixed-use.

Cities and counties cannot impose overly restrictive regulations related to unit sizes, parking requirements near transit, density calculations, and other development standards.



Practice

This year we spent a large part of the legislative session focused on one major practice issue: the rolling clock. As you know, AIAWA championed **HB 1880** with the goal of eliminating the rolling clock in our state. Now, let's hear a from our **AIAWA President, Dave Buescher**, on the outcome of this legislation:

The 2024 Washington State legislative session marked a significant success for AIAWA and its advocacy priorities. Despite its condensed timeframe of just 60 days, this session witnessed the passage of several bills that AIAWA had championed tirelessly. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time during this year's session traveling to Olympia and sharing their expertise through testimony before the Senate and House committees. Most importantly, we express our gratitude to Samantha, Tammie, and Chris for their support and oversight throughout the entire process. We truly could not have achieved this success without your help.

We collectively celebrate the passage of HB 1880, a critical milestone in removing barriers to licensure. Its enactment will eliminate the rolling clock in state statute for licensure, providing much-needed flexibility and ensuring a more inclusive pathway for aspiring professionals. Through extensive efforts by AIAWA, this bill garnered unanimous support from both legislative chambers and has officially been signed into law by Governor Inslee.

The removal of the rolling clock provision is set to take effect on July 1, 2024.

We have been in the planning stages of some big changes at Washington Council all of which will better serve our members across the state. We will be highlighting these changes in next month's newsletter so be sure to stay tuned.



Session Challenges

While AIAWA saw great success on many of our key priorities, there were multiple bills that failed to make it across the finish line this session. We will be monitoring these issues closely throughout the interim to determine our next steps for the upcoming biennium.

HB 2160- Promoting transit-oriented development (TOD) statewide has been a longstanding priority for AIAWA. We have convened a workgroup of members from across Washington to help inform TOD legislation that works for our state's diverse communities. HB 2160, which aimed to increase housing density and affordability in areas around transit stations, failed to advance out of the Senate Ways & Means Committee. We have been told that one of our coalition partners plans to champion the issue during the next legislative session, and we look forward to the opportunity to engage with them to help craft balanced policy that recognizes the unique needs of different regions.

HB 1433- This legislation aimed to lay out a path to standardized residential energy reports based on US Dept of Energy's Home Energy Score and produced by Home Energy Auditors. Providing a standardized home energy report would allow residents to better understand and plan for their monthly energy use. Further, these reports would provide valuable information regarding which home renovations or equipment replacements would help lower their electric/gas bills. Unfortunately, this bill stalled in the Senate Rules Committee due to the time constraints of a short session. This policy is likely to return next session in the form of a new bill.

HB 2252- This bill sought to allow small "neighborhood cafes" to open in residential areas, providing more dining options and conveniences for local residents. The original proposed legislation would have required cities and towns to permit these small cafes serving limited menus in zones that currently allow housing. To qualify, a cafe would need to have at least 500 square feet of floor space and no drive through facilities. If a cafe opted to serve alcohol, it must also have offered food. However, this legislation was effectively gutted by Senate amendments, changing the language requiring cities and towns to permit these cafes to simply allowing them. Additionally, the amendments restricted alcohol sales and allowed cities to limit noise, signage, and freight traffic. Though this version of the bill advanced out of committee to Senate Rules, it failed to be brought to the floor. Members noted the bill still needs work, so it is possible we will see some iteration of the bill next year.

SJR 8207- We saw multiple attempts to address the difficulty of passing school district bonds this session. One such attempt was Senate Joint Resolution 8207 which would have submitted a proposed constitutional amendment to the voters at the next general election to allow school districts to issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes, levy taxes to make payments on those bonds, and exceed the constitutional debt limit with majority voter approval. Unfortunately, it failed to advance out of Senate Ways & Means this year.



Initiatives

During this legislative session, six Republican-backed citizen initiatives were certified for consideration by lawmakers. After lengthy debates, the fate of these initiatives was decided as follows:

Initiatives Passed by the Legislature:

- **I-2081**: Parental Rights in Public Education
- **I-2111**: Prohibiting State and Local Income Taxes
- **I-2113**: Standards for Police Pursuit of Suspects

These three initiatives received bipartisan support and were approved by relatively large margins, with some Democratic lawmakers voting against them. As approved initiatives, they will become law without the Governor's signature.

Initiatives Sent to the Voters:

- **I-2109**: Repealing the State's Tax on Capital Gains
- **I-2117**: Repealing the State's Climate Commitment Act, a cap-and-trade program for greenhouse gas emissions.
- **I-2124**: Allowing Opt-Out of the State's Long-Term Care Insurance Program

Democratic leaders cited the potential fiscal impact on existing programs as the reason for not considering these three initiatives during the legislative session. Instead, they will be placed on the ballot for the upcoming November general election, allowing voters to have the final say on these measures.

Stay tuned for more information on these initiatives as we approach the fall elections. Your participation in the democratic process is crucial, and we encourage you to make your voice heard at the ballot box.

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 2023 or 2024 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 2025-2026 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 10, has passed. Many legislators announced they are leaving the Legislature this year, either to seek new office or to retire:

Senate: Majority Leader Andy Billig, D-Spokane, Karen Keiser, D-Des Moines, Sam Hunt, D-Olympia, Lynda Wilson, R-Vancouver, Mark Mullet, D-Issaquah (running for Governor), and Kevin Van De Wege, D-Sequim (running for Lands Commissioner).

House: Reps. J.T. Wilcox, R-McKenna, Joel Kretz, R-Wauconda, Jacqueline Maycumber, R-Republic (running for Congress), and Spencer Hutchins, R-Gig Harbor.

House seeking one of the open Senate seats: Marcus Riccelli, D-Spokane, Bill Ramos, D-Issaquah, Jessica Bateman, D-Olympia, and Mike Chapman, D-Port Angeles.

Senators who may or may not return depending on their race for higher office: Manka Dhingra, D-Redmond (Attorney General), Patty Kuderer, D-Bellevue (Insurance Commissioner), Emily Randall, D-Port Orchard (Congress), Drew MacEwan, R-Shelton (Congress), and Rebecca Saldana (Lands Commissioner).

Engaging in Advocacy

The time to start thinking about the 2025 session is now. Though legislators will be busy with the campaign cycle, they will also spend time during the interim considering new or particularly complicated issues in advance of the next session. AIAWA will be meeting with legislators on issues important to the profession, but we encourage you to connect with your legislators on topics of importance to you.

Do you have profession-related ideas for future legislation? Please let us know!

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 your legislators to discuss an issue important to you or one of AIA's issues. 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 AIAWA's Advocacy Efforts

- Join one or more of AIAWA's policy committees:
 - Education
 - Climate
 - Education
 - Historic Resources
 - Livability & Affordability
 - Practice
- Ask AIAWA to make a presentation on advocacy to your firm
- Share your ideas for what AIA should be working on at the state government level.
- Donate to [AIAWA's Political Committee](#) to invest in candidates who support our issues.

AIA Leadership Summit

Last month, AIAWA sent multiple members to the AIA Leadership Summit in WA DC. Architects from nearly every state met with over 300 Congressional offices to advocate for our shared priorities, including H.R. 7024 the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act, H.R. 964/S. 366 the Democracy in Design Act, and addressing the 6% cap on federal contract design fees. Here is a first-hand account from [AIAWA's President-Elect, Kyle Lepper](#):

I had the privilege of attending the AIA Leadership Summit last month, marking my debut at a national AIA conference, and it surpassed all expectations. The event was filled with enlightening keynote speakers, engaging breakout sessions, and invaluable networking opportunities with architects nationwide. One memorable highlight was advocating on Capitol Hill, where we met with Washington state's congressional representatives to discuss federal policies affecting our profession and the built environment. Senator Cantwell's genuine interest in our concerns was particularly encouraging. Another standout moment was the large states dinner, where I connected with leaders from California, Florida, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, exchanging insights and experiences within the AIA community. I eagerly anticipate future AIA conferences, including the Leadership Summit, to continue this my growth as an AIA representative.



COMPONENT EVENTS



- Climate Summit- **Future Forward: Accelerating Change Together**, April 15-16.



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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.

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