



**AIAWA**  
ARCHITECTS POLITICAL COMMITTEE



**AIA Washington Council** is your advocate in state government, working for you on key issues impacting the architecture community. The legislative and regulatory environment is arguably the most important arena that impacts how we provide our professional services. The AIA|WA Architects Political Committee (APC) supports lawmakers who understand and champion our advocacy priorities by supporting their campaigns and raising issues important to architects. APC enables architects to become a voice for the design and construction industry by positively impacting the relationships AIA|WA has with legislators.

We can't do it on our own. Your expertise and advocacy is critical for the profession of architecture. Your investment in APC will provide face-to-face opportunities to educate legislators about what we do and a platform to advocate for Washington architects' priorities. APC provides architects with a strong political voice by contributing to candidates running for state office who align closely with AIA|WA's legislative priorities and the profession's values.



## Successes in Recent Years

- Advocated successfully to preserve A/E Basic Services and fair compensation in state public works projects, securing updated hourly rates and a commitment from OFM for stakeholder-inclusive review of future guidelines (2024-25)
- Passed Washington's first embodied carbon legislation, a critical first step in reducing embodied carbon (2023-24)
- Removed the Rolling Clock barrier to architect licensure allowing candidates to keep all passed exam sections (2023-24)
- Passed legislation to remove single family zoning, allowing more housing opportunities in urban areas (2022-23)
- Opposed efforts to create stock school plans that would not address individual community and educational needs (2022-23)
- Opposed efforts to weaken the state's energy code and the authority of the State Building Code Council. (2020-21)
- Protected architect licenses from attempts to weaken licensing restrictions that protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. (2020-21)
- Fended off legislative attacks to the state's energy code, including the ability of the State Building Code Council to implement code changes. (2019-20)
- Passed legislation to reduce legal risks in the design and construction of condominiums. (2019-20)

## Appointments to Boards and Commissions

In addition, AIA|WA has successfully advocated for its members to be appointed by the Governor to the following Boards and Commissions that impact our communities and the profession:

- Washington State Board for Architects
- Capitol Projects Advisory Review Board (CPARB)
- Technical Advisory Committee, Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Architects Representative to the Architects Engineers and Agencies Committee

# Policy Focus Areas

## Practice Issues Affecting your Business

We advocate for the practice and business of architects in our state. This ranges from contracts, project delivery, and Qualifications-Based Selection to condo liability, architect licensing, and changes to the Architects Practice Act.

We are a voice in Olympia for tax reform including the B&O tax on architecture services and systematic reform of the state's taxation system. We support maintaining a robust Capital Budget that fully funds projects and monitoring the development of building and energy codes including participation on the State Building Code Council.

## Impact on the Environment through Climate Action

We support efforts to protect our environment including reducing carbon emissions in the built environment, building electrification, energy efficient building incentives and programs to fund greater energy efficiency.

Buildings contribute 40% of greenhouse gases. The built environment has a strong role to play in reducing emissions related to climate change, and architects have the knowledge and experience to help develop these policies.

## Community Livability and Housing Affordability

We support robust regional planning that allows for affordable housing innovation, increased urban density particularly transit-oriented development to allow all members of community a safe, healthy place to live. We advocate for the protection of the Growth Management Act and its comprehensive impact on the environment and our communities.

AIA supports a comprehensive approach to creating housing affordability, including funding mechanisms for housing and homelessness services, reviewing GMA policies, and providing for up-zoning adjacent to transit centers.

# APC Needs You!

- APC's political and legislative activities protect and shape the architecture profession in Washington State. Our legislators are making critical decisions that impact our work in so many ways!
- Your investment gives architects a voice in Olympia. The experience of architects is needed as a resource on design, the built environment, and sustainability related issues.
- A strong PAC is critical to our advocacy efforts and is completely funded by members just like you.
- Speak up! APC and AIA/WA's policy committees need your insight, expertise and energy. Consider participating in one of our committees that focus on issues such as the environment or professional practice, and help shape our legislative agenda.

## Your investment is appreciated!

Please visit: <http://aiawa.org/apc/>  
[Twitter.com/aiawa](https://twitter.com/aiawa)

## Governance

APC's governance and distributions are directly managed by AIA/WA's Board of Directors.

All APC contributions go directly to candidates; administrative expenses are paid for by AIA/WA.

To learn more about AIA Washington Council, visit [aiawa.org](http://aiawa.org)

## Cover

**Mukilteo Multimodal Ferry Terminal** - LMN Architects  
Photography: Benjamin Benschneider

## Interior (right strip, top to bottom)

**Blakely Elementary School** - Mithun  
Photography: Kevin Scott

**Clyde Hill Elementary School** - Integrus Architecture  
Photography: Lara Swimmer

**Goldendale Observatory State Park** - EHDD  
Photography: Sozinho Imagery

**City of Tukwila Justice Center** - DLR Group  
Photography: Lara Swimmer