

PARTICIPATING IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

An important success of your Advocacy Program is backing the candidates who understand and support the architectural profession. The American Institute of Architects California Council (AIACC) financially supports those candidates' campaigns through California Architects for Livable Communities Political Action Committee (CALCPAC).

CALCPAC is AIACC's bipartisan legislative political action committee—the instrument through which architects' interests are heard by state political leaders on issues affecting the built environment, our profession, our practices and our communities.

CALCPAC is the voice of the profession; by the profession, and contributions support candidates for state offices who know and understand the values of AIACC membership as well as the value of the design community.

A strong PAC is critical in Sacramento. It's an essential component necessary for us to build relationships with state leaders—leaders who support our initiatives and issues. Decisions affecting our profession will be made whether or not we are part of the conversation, so it is critical that we have a seat at the table to represent our members, our issues, and our concerns. Having a strong, healthy PAC gives us the opportunity to be part of that conversation.

Each year, your AIACC staff and volunteers reviews approximately 2,000 bills and of these we are continually monitoring or seeking amendments to 200 or more. These bills cover many aspects of the architectural spectrum including building code, interior design, school construction, and library bonds. An active Advocacy Program ensures the practice is protected and the policies of the AIACC are implemented. Below are some of the issues currently being debated by the Advocacy Program on your behalf:

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- Co-sponsor legislation with the California Preservation Foundation to enact a 25% to 30% state tax credit for work performed on historic properties

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

- Support efforts to improve the CEQA process without weakening the environmental protections CEQA provides

BUILDING STANDARDS

- Protect the building code adoption process and oppose efforts of politicians to write building codes with legislation

WATER

- Support efforts to give homeowners greater flexibility to make water-saving changes to their landscape

SMALL BUSINESS

- Encourage a change to state law to allow architectural firms to be classified as small businesses

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Support legislation to give California university campuses grants to make energy-efficient improvements

AIACC ADVOCACY PROGRAM CONTACTS

DONALD RUDY, AIA

Vice President of Legislative Affairs

GREG IZOR, AIA

Vice President of Regulatory Affairs

PAUL W. WELCH, JR., HON. AIA

Executive Vice President

pwelch@aiacc.org

MARK V. CHRISTIAN, HON. AIACC

Director of Legislative Affairs

mchristian@aiacc.org

- Legislation
- Political Outreach
- Bill Analysis

KURT COOKNICK, ASSOC. AIA

Director of Regulatory Affairs

kcooknick@aiacc.org

- Regulatory Liaison
- CAB/Licensing Questions
- Building Codes/ Regulation
- Special Interest Areas of Practice
- Contracts and Documents
- Insurance and Legal

MELISSA M. DAVIS

Resource Development Coordinator

mdavis@aiacc.org

Political Action Committees

“I AM AN ENTHUSIAST ON THE SUBJECT OF THE ARTS. BUT IT IS AN ENTHUSIASM OF WHICH I AM NOT ASHAMED, AS ITS OBJECT IS TO IMPROVE THE TASTE OF MY COUNTRYMEN, TO INCREASE THEIR REPUTATION, TO RECONCILE THEM TO THE REST OF THE WORLD, AND PROCURE THEM ITS PRAISE.”

THOMAS JEFFERSON, THIRD PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND ARCHITECT

AIA CALIFORNIA COUNCIL ADVOCACY PROGRAM: ADVOCATES IN ACTION

HOW DO WE HELP YOU?

By protecting the architectural profession and advocating on behalf of architects before California's Legislature and Regulatory agencies.

The Legislative Affairs Program provides a strong and continuing presence in the State Capitol. By sponsoring legislation critical to the profession's interest and actively monitoring other legislation affecting the profession's well-being, the Legislative Affairs program constantly promotes the critical relationships between the architects and the legislators.

The Regulatory Affairs Program monitors and represents architects before 18 state regulatory agencies, boards and commissions. The program actively advocates for state and federal building codes and regulations which are both sensible and workable for architects. The program also has a dynamic presence in the insurance and legal industries to ensure our voice is heard with regard to issues of professional liability.



AIA | CC
CALIFORNIA COUNCIL

AIA CALIFORNIA COUNCIL

1303 J Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, California 95814-2935
p: 916.448.9082 | f: 916.442.5346
www.aiacc.org

A WINNING RECORD

The AIA California Council has had a long and successful history of advocating for the profession. Efforts of this regard are a continuous priority in our Advocacy Program, and as a result, garner much success. Consider the many initiatives that have been decided in a favorable way when it comes to the architecture profession. However, you may not be aware of the influence we've had on making certain the following issues did not have a negative impact:

LICENSING

- Defeat the effort to create a Practice Act for interior designers
- Protect the profession by requiring architects approve a change "in writing" in order to be held liable for changes
- Give architects advanced warning that they will be a defendant in a lawsuit by requiring the Certificate of Merit be served on the architect
- Amend the regulations governing how architects can advertise their services to conform to existing practices

BUSINESS

- Protect the architect and the firm by opposing the elimination of the flexible overtime law
- Support the effort to clarify the definition of "independent contractors" to prevent various government agencies from having different and conflicting interpretations
- Monitor the State Board of Equalization to ensure certain architectural services are not incorrectly subjected to the state sales tax

BUILDING REGULATION

- Oppose efforts to prevent the adoption of the international family codes as the California Building Codes
- Avoid an increase in the level of ambiguity and uncertainty architects face when attempting to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act by resisting efforts to create a Californian's with Disabilities Act that applies to the design profession
- Reduce the cost to construct community college facilities by supporting the effort to exempt those facilities from the Field Act
- Encourage seismic retrofit projects by supporting legislation to continue property tax incentives

2013 USE OF ARCHITECTS' INSTRUMENTS OF SERVICE

- Clearly states in law that one must have written permission from the architect before using the architect's instruments of service

2012 INTERIOR DESIGN PRACTICE ACT

- Helped defeat legislation that would have created an Interior Design Practice Act and an Interior Design Licensing Board

2012 DISABLED ACCESS – SB 1186 LAWSUIT REFORM

- Helped craft the Certified Access Specialist Program provisions of SB 1186

2010 INDEMNIFICATION ON COURT PROJECTS

- Worked to ensure an insurable indemnification clause in contracts between architects and the Administrative Office of the Courts

2009 ELIMINATION OF ORAL FORMAT CSE

- Candidates for licensure can now take the CSE in a computer-delivered setting six-days a week at 17 testing sites in California and 22 additional sites out-of-state

2008 INTERIOR DESIGN PRACTICE ACT

- Helped defeat legislation that would have created an Interior Design Practice Act and added interior designers to the California Architects Board

2007 GREEN BUILDING CODE DEVELOPMENT

- The AIACC participated heavily in the development of CALGreen, advocating for the profession and blocking the efforts by competing interests to create code requirements that would have disadvantaged the architects

2006 INDEMNIFICATION

- Prohibits indemnification clauses in contracts with local government agencies from requiring the design professional be responsible for claims unless the damages are caused by the design professional's negligence, recklessness, or willful misconduct

2005 REUSE OF SCHOOL PLANS

- Requires a school district that reuses architectural plans with a different architect to indemnify and hold harmless the original architect

2003 CERTIFIED ACCESS SPECIALIST PROGRAM (CASp)

- Helped to craft the language of Senate Bill 262, the bill that required the State Architect (DSA) to establish a program for voluntary certification by the State of any person who meets the specified criteria as a Certified Access Specialist (CASp). Through the AIACC's involvement architects were assured a priority position in the CASp requirements

2001 DEFINITION OF CERTIFICATION

- Defines an architect's use of the words "certify" or "certification" to mean an expression of professional opinion, and not a warranty or guarantee

1999 UNAUTHORIZED CHANGES TO ARCHITECT DOCUMENTS

- Requires an architect to approve changes to architectural documents in writing in order for an architect to be held responsible for damages caused by those changes

1998 DEFEAT OF THE COMPETITION KILLER, PROP 224

- If prop 224 passed, it would have required all state-funded engineering or design projects be performed by government employees. Coalition members in the campaign to defeat Prop. 224 actively worked to ensure this initiative was voted down. This was a huge victory for all architects in California

1998 DEFEAT EFFORTS TO CREATE AN ARCHITECTURAL SALES TAX

- Would have amended the State Board of Equalizations Regulation 1506 to require architects pay an Architectural Services Sales Tax on instruments of service

1996 ARCHITECTS WRITTEN CONTRACT

- Ensured civil suits would be avoided by requiring architects to use a written contract -- increasing the understanding between architects and clients

1991 CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION

- Establishes a one-step plan check for schools in the Office of the State Architect, and consolidates building code approval with the Building Standards Commission

1990 GOOD SAMARITAN LAW

- Eliminated the fear of liability for architects willing to voluntarily help local governments inspect buildings after natural disasters

1985 BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS

- Added an additional architect to the board to create parity between the members

1979 CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

- Established legislation to help architects avoid frivolous lawsuits (amended 1983, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1995)

1963 ARCHITECTS PRACTICE ACT

- Enhanced the architectural profession and protected the public by moving the regulation of architects from a Title Act to a Practice Act

“DESIGN ACTIVITY AND POLITICAL THOUGHT ARE INDIVISIBLE.”

-THOMAS JEFFERSON