



Associated General Contractors of Alaska

2024 Legislative Priorities

Priority: Workforce Development

Position Statement: Workforce development is vital to a healthy Alaskan economy. Access to a skilled workforce ensures Alaska is ready to capitalize on economic opportunities for all sectors across our state. AGC of Alaska supports legislation and administrative efforts focused on attracting and maintaining a quality workforce for Alaska's construction industry. AGC of Alaska supports educational and training opportunities which will develop and increase employment in construction. This includes:

- Supporting construction curriculum, from elementary schools through post-secondary and vocational training programs
- Ensuring excellence in educational and training opportunities which provide added benefit to addressing Alaska's population challenges
- Prioritizing funding Alaska Job Centers, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WIOA Youth), TVEP and STEP grant programs

Priority: Sustainable State Budget

Position Statement: AGC supports the continued focus on a responsible and sustainable budget aimed at enhancing and diversifying Alaska's economy while supporting and attracting infrastructure investments. A predictable state budget is vital for the construction industry. Without this, we run the risk of project cancellations, delays, reduced payments, layoffs, and more, which have far-reaching and significant impacts on every sector of Alaska's economy and our way of life. Along with a balanced state budget, AGC also supports and requests the timely passage of a capital budget.

Alaska's capital budget should include new investments and investments in the maintenance of existing state assets. Providing critical infrastructure investment to promote and sustain Alaska must include commitments to both new development and the care of current infrastructure. AGC supports a long-term statewide plan which prioritizes the backlog of deferred maintenance projects for state owned facilities and infrastructure. AGC encourages the legislature to:

- Prioritize funding for a timely capital budget and robust deferred maintenance program
- Maximize state match and grant opportunities for federally funded programs and projects
- Support the percent-of-market value approach to balancing public investments, Permanent Fund dividends and the State's budget

Priority: Responsible Resource Development

Position Statement: AGC supports responsible resource development strategies that enhance Alaska's private sector and promote and attract investment in Alaska's infrastructure, which contribute to economic certainty. AGC encourages the Alaska Legislature and the Administration to streamline Alaska's regulatory and permitting laws and policies to facilitate additional exploration, site development, employment, infrastructure, research, reclamation and natural resource production in Alaska.

This includes:

- Minimizing state regulatory burdens and support a timely permit review process
- Supporting legacy projects, recognizing the State's investment thus far, ensuring those investments are not lost, and reaping the benefits of the projects
- Maximizing private/public partnership opportunities to promote and support resource development
- AGC supports the State of Alaska's assumption of permit primacy when appropriate/applicable

Priority: Workers' Compensation Reform

Position Statement: AGC of Alaska supports continued efforts to reform workers' compensation regulations. We support a series of changes to the Alaska workers' compensation insurance statutes, including:

- Emphasizing return-to-work programs
- Incorporating directed medical care
- Reforming the current vocational rehabilitation program
- Focusing on outcome-based treatment options
- Addressing opioid and prescription drug abuse