

AIAVA 2025 ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES - SUMMARY

This document summarizes the advocacy activity of AIA Virginia during CY 2025

Continued relationship with Patrick Cushing, Esq, Hon AIAVA as Contract Lobbyist (Virginia)

Continued registration of AIAVA EVP Paul Battaglia, AIA as Registered Lobbyist (Virginia)

Continued our Joint Legislative Committee (JLC)

- Continued collaboration with American Council of Engineering Companies of Virginia (ACEC)
- Reviewed and determined position of proposed legislation/bills (monitor, support, oppose)
- Enacted appropriate activities to further these positions (e.g., advocacy, testimony, etc)

Continued our Political Action Committee (PAC)

- Solicited investments from members and firm
- Distributed contributions to state-level incumbents per PAC Plan approved by PAC Board of Trustees
- Attended approximately thirty-six fundraising events, including party caucuses

Established an Alternative Path to Architectural Licensing Education Requirement

- Proposed and Supported HB 2154 and SB 1310 which passed and directed DPOR/APELSCIDLA to develop and adopt regulations establishing work and education experience equivalencies that provide an alternative to the requirement of a professional degree in architecture from a program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB)
- Regulations related to the proposed alternate path to the architecture education requirements were approved by the full APELSCIDLA Board August 2025
- The new path is expected to be fully established and available to aspirants in May 2026

Cooperated with Administration on gubernatorial appointments

- AIAVA once again holds all three architectural seats on the state regulatory board (APELSCIDLA), including the vice-chair
- AIAVA members appointed by Governor to serve on many boards, e.g., State Building Code Technical Review Board, Art and Architecture Review Board, Fair Housing Board, Secure and Resilient Commonwealth Panel, Virginia Board of People with Disabilities

Attempted to improve connection to Virginia Department of Emergency Services (VDEMS)

- Continue to request a meeting to remind of AIVA capabilities (e.g., State Disaster Coordinator, SAP cohort) and rehearse points of contact

Met with both gubernatorial campaigns prior to election

- Briefed campaign representatives on interests/concerns of AIAVA and its members
- Suggested topics for collaboration/available subject matter expertise
- Emphasized need to fortify connection with VDEMS; awaiting appointment of new director
- Collaborated with ACEC on this effort
- Followed up with winning campaign post-election

Established an SME Portal

- Hosted portal on AIAVA website
- Affords members opportunity to indicate their interests and subject matter expertise (SME)
- Will be used to facilitate information for/discussions with various stakeholders including elected officials

Developed and socialized an AIA Virginia Advocacy Framework

- Summarizes and stipulates commitment of state-level component to various advocacy activities
- Identifies and suggests opportunities for activities by local components
- Affords opportunities for increased and continued discussion/coordination between state and local components

Continued to send letters in response to violations of Qualifications-based Selection and/or the Virginia Public Procurement Act

- Grievances conveyed to those issuing RFPs for Architectural/Engineering services (without attribution to the source/those who make AIAVA aware of the issue)
- Violations most typically concern requests for fees, requirements for indemnification, and failure to include requirements for High Performance Building standards (energy reduction initiatives)

Collaborated with Virginia Department of General Services to address issues with State Capital Projects/Contracts

- Negotiated updates to the CO-3a Terms and Conditions of the A/E Contract
 - Refined Standard of Care Language: removal of the phrase “highest standard of care”. This revision brings the standard of care in line with industry norms—requiring services to be performed with the care and skill ordinarily used by members of the profession practicing under similar conditions—which eliminates insurability concerns
 - Updates to Section 32 – Contractual Claims: clarifies and makes explicit how issues beyond the immediate control of the A/E can establish a cause for claim for compensation, and how the process for resolving that claim should proceed
 - Incorporation of CPSM-Related Language: relevant content from Section 9 of the A/E Manual, related to Design Not to Exceed (CPSM), has been relocated and integrated into Section 32 of the contract. This realignment ensures that CPSM provisions are directly and clearly addressed within the contractual framework
 - Section 12 establishes the maximum amount of Professional Liability Insurance required, regardless of the Design-not-to-exceed Budget
- These meetings now recur quarterly

Continued to meet with stakeholders

- Meet with various stakeholders: partners and lobbyists from related/allied industries, agencies, etc
- Socialize status of and plans for past, present, and future advocacy efforts
- Seek to identify opportunities for coalition and/or resolve issues of opposition

Planning 2026 AIA Virginia Hill Day

- Opportunity for AIAVA members to observe and experience proceedings at the Virginia General Assembly
- Event planned for Tuesday 27 JAN 2026
- Registration site is open