



# Associated General Contractors of Alaska

## 2020 Legislative Priorities

### **Priority: Sustainable State Budget**

**Position Statement:** AGC supports the continued focus on a responsible, sustainable and balanced budget, which includes strategies to enhance and diversify Alaska's economy and support and attract infrastructure investments. A sustainable and predictable budget is vital for our industry to properly plan for projects. Without it, we run the risk of project cancellations, delays, reduced payment, layoffs, and more.

The construction industry continues to be significantly impacted by extreme reductions to the capital budget. In addition, failure to pass the capital budget in a timely manner has long-lasting negative impacts on our industry.

AGC supports a long-term statewide plan which prioritizes the backlog of deferred maintenance projects for state owned facilities and infrastructure.

Support the Percent of Market Value approach for balancing public investments, PFDs and the State's budget.

- Prioritize funding for a timely capital budget and deferred maintenance program
- Maximize state match funds for Federally funded projects
- Priority should be given to infrastructure development and we support prudent revenue generation to accomplish that goal.

### **Priority: Responsible Resource Development**

**Position Statement:** AGC supports responsible resource development strategies to enhance Alaska's private sector by promoting and attracting investment in Alaska's infrastructure and providing 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.

- Minimize state regulatory burdens
- Address term limit and timelines on permit review processes

- Support of legacy projects, recognizing the State investment thus far and ensuring those investments are not wasted.
- Maximize AIDEA and other private/public partnership opportunities to promote and support resource development

### **Priority: Worker's Compensation Reform**

**Position Statement:** AGC of Alaska supports continued efforts to reform workers' compensation regulation. Alaska's workers' compensation insurance rates rank among the highest in the nation, affecting every Alaskan employer and making Alaska less competitive in creating and maintaining jobs.

The recent rate reductions were primarily due to the industry's efforts in reducing workplace injuries and mandating safety as an extremely important part of workplace culture. It's time for government to do their part. We support a series of changes to the Alaska workers' compensation insurance statutes.

- Emphasis on return to work programs
- Directed medical care
- Reform the current vocational rehabilitation program
- Adoption of a medical fee schedule established by the Alaska Worker's Compensation Board.
- Focus on outcome-based treatment options
- Address opioid abuse and prescription drug abuse

### **Priority: Workforce Development/Education**

**Position Statement:** Workforce development and investment are vital to a healthy Alaskan economy, which benefits all Alaskans. Access to a vital, trained workforce ensures Alaska is ready to capitalize on economics for all regions and sectors in our state. AGC of Alaska supports legislation and opportunities focused on attracting and maintaining a quality workforce for the construction industry in Alaska. Recent reductions in program funding have resulted in fewer educational and training opportunities for Alaska's workforce. AGC supports increasing educational and training opportunities in the STEM fields, both in school and in the trades.

- Prioritize funding for One Stop Regional Job Centers throughout Alaska
- Continue WIOA Youth and STEP grant funding
- Promote the hire of Alaska residents
- Support TVEP reauthorization and continued funding through unemployment insurance payments, using historical distribution percentages