



2024

Legislative Policies





2024 State Legislative Session Highlights:

- The 2024 session begins February 12. Adjournment date is May 20.
- The Legislature will consider Capital Investments, a supplemental budget, and various other policy initiatives.
- Minnesota remains under one party (Democrat) control of the legislature and all constitutional offices.

ADVOCACY

(AGC Sponsored or Endorsed Legislation)

General Obligation Bonds for Transportation and Utility Infrastructure Projects

AGC supports a significant level of General Obligation bonding for local system bridge construction, the Local Road Improvement Program, and maximum PFA bonding dollars to leverage water infrastructure projects. The largest capital investment package was passed during the 2023 session and the state's strong financial status will provide an opportunity for another public works package in 2024 to address community needs across the state. Additional capital funding is needed to build and construct projects that have had design appropriations executed in prior years.

Comprehensive Transportation Funding

AGC will heavily advocate for funding for transportation infrastructure -roads, bridges, and transit- that provide increased, stable, and dedicated funding to address unmet needs across the state. New and current state leaders have voiced their commitment to investing in the state's infrastructure. AGC will work with other groups to amplify our collective voice in support of a transportation package that includes various funding options, and the appropriation of the necessary dollars to match and leverage the maximum amount of federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) resources.

Wage Theft Clarifications

Wage theft laws passed in 2019 and 2023 instituted many new compliance measures to ensure proper payment to employees. AGC will advocate clarifying the statute with regards to initial notification for seasonal employees and ways to provide timely notice when an employee shifts projects or equipment. AGC supports certain measures to codify current interpretations and practice by the Department of Labor and Industry of the 2019 law. AGC will continue to oppose expansion of wage theft initiatives that shift risk on to general contractors, significantly increase administrative burdens, and/or put disproportionate and unfair hardships on good actors in the industry. Only a contractor's intentional violation of the Wage Theft Act should make a contractor liable under the Responsible Contractor Act.



Work Zone Safety

AGC will continue to advocate for a comprehensive approach to address safety for construction workers and the traveling public in a work zone. AGC will explore options to provide funding that improves safety and addresses workforce mental health concerns, particularly if funds can enhance the application of technology to prevent work zone accidents.

Worker Safety and Underground Damage Prevention

AGC supports legislation that prioritizes worker safety, the general public, and utility infrastructure safety. Highway, commercial building, and utility contractors have been facing mounting problems with improperly marked locates, timeliness of locating utility lines, and decreased participation by utility operators to attend required meetings for upcoming construction projects. Specifically, AGC supports amending the excavation notice system laws (Chapter 216D) to add worker and contractor protections, improve the quality of utility mapping, and allow for contractor recourse when they face downtime due to negligence by a utility. AGC is also working with the MN Office of Pipeline Safety and other interested parties to educate members on rights and responsibilities under current law.

SUPPORTIVE INVOLVEMENT **(Initiatives from Other Sources/Organizations)**

Building Jobs Coalition (BJC) – Construction Market Stimulus Initiatives

The Building Jobs Coalition recommends the State continue to use its bonding capacity to invest in asset preservation, pre-design and architectural services, infrastructure, and transportation. Infrastructure investment drives short-term growth by boosting demand for construction, employment, and long-term growth by increasing the potential supply capacity of our economy. Efforts will also continue to emphasize workforce development.

Permit Streamlining

AGC will evaluate opportunities to streamline permit processes and reduce regulatory burdens for the utility infrastructure, vertical, and transportation construction sectors.

Environmental Laws, Climate and Energy Policies

The MN construction industry must be an active participant in the policymaking process to ensure firms and the workforce grow and succeed. AGC supports a comprehensive strategy to maximize public and private investments that make infrastructure more resilient to disasters while allowing for flexibility on a project-based level. AGC will track and be a resource regarding any “Buy Clean” initiatives, which require certain materials be used in public construction projects. Any new standards must be fully vetted to consider the impacts to all actors in the construction supply chain and project delivery. AGC supports incentives to modernize current construction equipment.



Workforce Development Initiatives

Pre-Apprenticeships and Apprenticeships

AGC supports increased funding for pre-apprenticeship programs and Career Technical Education (CTE) programs that receive public funding to foster diversity and inclusion, prepare individuals to enter the construction workforce, and increase access by removing barriers for funding for apprenticeship programs.

Immigration

AGC supports legislative action that result in issuing identification (ID) initiatives that provide more stability for immigrant populations and communities. A strong, regulated and fully supported immigration policy is essential to providing necessary workforce solutions for the construction industry and the state's economy.

Drug-Free Workplaces

AGC supports employers' ability to maintain safe, drug-free workplaces, including the current safety-sensitive exemption in the current cannabis law.

MONITOR & ENGAGE (Initiatives from Other Sources/Organizations)

Industry Behavioral Health

Contractors, associations, industry service providers, unions, and project owners must work together to address the mental health and suicide crisis in construction occupations. AGC recognizes that project delivery schedules are being shortened in many cases, causing corresponding impacts to work hours. In the heavy civil market, and at times, commercial building market, work under live traffic puts constant pressure on workers. These realities must be considered as part of solutions by contractors and owners alike to determine effective mental health strategies for those in the industry.

Labor Relations Issues/Proposals

AGC will continue to monitor closely any proposals that may change prevailing wage law, project labor agreements, safety requirements, workplace requirements, wage theft initiatives, employee misclassification, etc.

4-10s at Straight Time:

AGC will explore opportunities to change state prevailing wage law and provide overtime after 40 hours and allow (4) ten- hour days paid at straight time rates.

Contract Procurement Issues

Initiatives to change public contract procurement processes are perennial at the Capitol. AGC will continue to engage and represent the interests of all contractors with any proposal that changes current public procurement laws.



Equipment "Right to Repair" Legislation

AGC will evaluate proposals that seek to allow consumers or independent distributors to repair and modify their own electronic devices and equipment. AGC will review potential impacts for contractors as it pertains to heavy equipment and encourage groups working on a legislative agreement to prioritize safety as well as continuing education for technicians.

Sales Tax Exemption for Building Materials

AGC will track legislative adjustments and will dialog with the MN Department of Revenue regarding clarifying provisions related to the sales tax exemption for construction materials and/or support legislation exempting construction materials from sales tax.

Workforce Hiring Goal Changes & State Administrative Procedures Act

AGC will continue looking for opportunities to enact changes that would require the Minnesota Department of Human Rights to be bound by provisions of the State Administrative Procedures Act when setting workforce participation goals on publicly funded projects. Specifically, this would require public hearing and public comment opportunity when changes to the goals are proposed.

Contractual Issues

AGC will monitor and engage as necessary on various contractual matters brought into public policymaking such as indemnification, retainage, and prompt payment.

Other

AGC will monitor and engage in any other items of interest to the industry that may arise.

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