



*Over the past year your government affairs team has been focused on and participating in the flurry of political activity leading up to Election Day and beyond. We are working hard to use resources wisely and support candidates that understand and support a strong business environment and our industry initiatives.*

### **2014 Session:**

- There were several bills for additional licensing, Structural Engineers, Roofing Contractors, but the Secretary of State prefers no new licensing and boards, did not proceed.
- P3 legislation SB255 was introduced, we attended informational meetings and were prepared to testify on the Hill regarding our and AIA National suggested changes, tabled till next year
- SB 269 – Lien order of payment for architects and engineers, Failed to receive a hearing in Senate Committee and became ineligible.
- SB 301- Using wood construction in public schools if in compliance with state minimum standards, Passed became law July 1, 2014
- SB305 – Fire Marshal and ability to remedy prior to denial, Passed became law July 1, 2014
- HB 308 – Tax credit for historic preservation, Failed to receive a hearing in Committee and became ineligible
- HB – 802/HR 1109 Use of ESPLOST funds for anything other than capital improvement, This bill was reported out of House Committee favorably but was not called on the House floor so became ineligible

**Moving Forward:** AIA GA proposed a two pronged approach: Follow Legislation and Build Relationships

**Don Bolia with Peachtree Government Relations brought on in April – P-T Lobbyist**

### **Looking ahead to the 2015 Session**

- HB 153 - SPLOST to allow such taxes to be imposed at a rate of less than 1 percent.
- HB 195 - TSPLOST to have the option to consolidate counties to provide for the method for creation of special districts for the purpose of special district transportation sales and use tax.
- HB 802 - County sales and use tax to allow SPLOST taxes to be used for operations and maintenance and not strictly for capital improvements.
- SB 269 - Relating to Architects Liens: Liens of mechanics and materialmen (Architects) that provides for priorities between liens for unpaid architectural services with respect to financial institutions. Don says the banks will fight this.
- SB 363 - Miscellaneous Liens: To create a procedure for certain contractors to receive information from a bank regarding viability and disbursement of funds to real estate improvements. Developers and Bank may fight this.
- SB 255 - P-3 legislation: P3 will come back to the floor this next session. The issue of Non-Solicited bid will be a part of the Bill. State Council members had discussion on impacts and on AIA-National's

model legislation concerning P3. State Council members discussed legislation has been passed in VA, TX and NC. Need to develop dialogue with authors of the Bill in Georgia.

- HB 308/HB 128 - Historic Preservation: Downtown corridors and historic preservation.
- HB 788 - Ad-Valorem taxes: To provide for an ad valorem tax exemption for property owned by the University System of Georgia that is operated by a third party.
- SB 301 - Use of wood: To provide for the use of wood for construction of public schools.

## **LEGISLATION (2014/2015) Details**

- **P3.** The P3 bill will be returning in 2015. It is likely that this bill will be pre-filed. We will be meeting with Senator Hunter Hill after the election to discuss his thoughts on the bill and the timeline. The P3 legislation – SB 255 – would grant board authority to state and local governments to finance design and build all types of infrastructure projects through the P3 model.

Late in the 2014 session, proponents of the legislation decided to cease efforts to pass the bill due to some of the state agencies that still had concerns we could not address during the final days of the session.

- **LENDER FORCLOSURE / LEIN RIGHTS.** Senator Lindsey Tippins introduced two bills in the 2014 session that covered the same subject in hopes that one would gain traction. These bills were designed to level the playing field for contractors by allowing their liens to survive a lender foreclosure.

This bill was strongly opposed by the lender community and ultimately failed on the Senate floor. We will be meeting with Senator Tippins following the election to get the roadmap for these bills next year.

## **CANDIDATE MEETINGS**

- Brews and News at Fado, supporting Ed Setzler
- Dinner with President Pro Tem David Shafer
- Met with Governor Deal as part of a small group made up of contractors and architects. We were very pleased with the conversation and felt that it was important to be a part of that group.
- Met with Speaker Pro Tem Jan Jones.

## **PAC CONTRIBUTIONS**

We have delivered 7 of the 13 approved checks for a total of \$8,750 in 2014 contributions.

We will schedule additional meetings with these legislators before the end of the year.

List of contributions:

Representative	Stacey	Abrams	Atlanta (District 89)*
Governor	Nathan	Deal	Gainesville*
Representative	Virgil	Fludd	Tyrone (District 64)*
Senator	Steve	Henson	Tucker (District 41)
Senator	Hunter	Hill	Atlanta (District 6)
Representative	Jan	Jones	Milton (District 47)*
Sec. of State	Brian	Kemp	Athens
Representative	Allen	Peake	Macon (District 141)
Representative	Lynn	Riley	Johns Creek (District 50)*
Representative	Ed	Setzler	Acworth (District 35)*
Senator	David	Shafer	Duluth (District 48)*
Representative	Ron	Stephens	Savannah (District 164)
Senator	Lindsey	Tippins	Marietta (District 37)

*\* Donates contribution has been delivered.*

### **LOCAL ADVOCACY**

Peachtree Government Relations (PGR) has developed strong relationships all around the state through the annual ACCG and GMA conferences and other events/meetings. They represent Fulton County at the State as well as the Fulton County School Board – therefore they understand local governments. PGR would like to visit with local chapters and speak/present legislative initiatives and updates.

### **QBS**

AIA GA will be joining with ACEC to revisit this important aspect of public work. More on this next year.

### **CONTRACTS ALLIANCE**

Representatives from the AEC community have been working with GSFIC and BOR to improve their contracts and will continue that work into next year.

### **BOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

This is an AEC advisory committee that meets with the BOR (Jim James) to discuss issues which arise within the AEC community. AIA Ga. Has been providing a member to that committee who reports back so we can share with the components.

### **JOIN THE PAC!**

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