

Roanoke Legislative Luncheon

The power of showing up in person and having small conversations can have a big impact for our industry. Just last month, the Roanoke District held their legislative luncheon where 6 Contractors and 24 construction firms discussed key issues from this past session and important issues facing the 2020 Session.

Legislators who attended were: State Senator John Edwards, Delegate Chris Head, Delegate Charles Poindexter, Delegate Sam Rasoul and Delegate Chris Hurst.



Workforce issues were top of mind for many in the room where AGCVA displayed our efforts around Build Your Future <https://virginia.byf.org>. The legislators attending all agreed this is the type of information their constituents need to hear. They plan on using the platform with talking with constituents. Legislators also reminded the attendees to be mindful of what you are competing against for future talent. Pay, benefits, opportunity to be trained more for future advancement are all key drivers for prospective employees.

As the group discussed the big issue for contractors from this past session – the Statue of Limitations. All the legislators in attendance agreed this issue needs to be addressed and most agreed that putting contractors on the hook for eternity is bad public policy. Delegate Charles Poindexter of Glade Hill (now the # 2 most Sr. Delegate on the House Appropriations Committee) pointed out the legislation may not be in the top 10 issues they addressed, but the issue has significant impact to the Commonwealth and anytime significant legislation is introduced, it takes more time and more conversations to position the bills for passage. Delegate Poindexter pointed out there is a study committee looking deeper at the impacts and a report will be provided prior to the 2020 Session.

Right to Work – The Panel discussed the possibility to eliminate Virginia’s Right to Work Law which says employees do not have to join a union. The entire panel said they don’t foresee a change to Virginia’s right to work law.

Issues that keep Roanoke Valley Legislators up at night. Each panel member was asked, as a legislator, what is keeping them up at night. Keeping viable economic development and competitive workforce were two issues legislators identified.