



**WCIC represents the construction industry in Washington State. Members include:**

*American Council of Engineering Companies of Washington • Associated Builders and Contractors of Western Washington • Associated Builders and Contractors, Inland Pacific Chapter • Associated General Contractors of Washington • Building Industry Association of Washington • Sheet Metal Air Conditioning Contractors of Western Washington • Inland Northwest Associated General Contractors • Masonry Institute of Washington • Master Builders Association of King & Snohomish Counties • National Association of Industrial & Office Properties, Washington State Chapter • Puget Sound Chapter, NECA • Utility Contractors Association of Washington • MCA of Western Washington • Washington Aggregates & Concrete Association • Washington Asphalt Paving Association • Washington REALTORS Association • Washington State Conference of Mason Contractors*

The Washington Construction Industry Council (WCIC) whose membership includes the many associations listed above and is the voice of the breadth of the construction industry across Washington.

Construction is vital for the livability and vitality of our communities. From roads and bridges to public works projects, business expansion to affordable housing, construction is key to Washington's economy.

The COVID-19 emergency creates unique and specific challenges for our members and Washington's economy. We support the work of our business partners to identify business and worker challenges across all sectors. The construction industry has identified sector-specific issues and solutions from our member organizations.

Our local, state, and national organizations work tirelessly to ensure we provide safe, durable, and reliable structures for our citizens. We are offering our collective expertise and commitment to training, safety, and community engagement.

From our experience, construction delays impact current contracts with consumers and businesses, bank loans, worker availability and increase the backlog across the industry. Construction work can be impacted by weather or other physical factors that, depending on the project and location, could lead to a complete loss of progress for the construction season or damage to structures if we are unable to proceed when mother nature allows. We ask that you consider our needs and work with our coalition on common sense, real-time solutions, and support the leadership necessary to keep our economy moving forward.

- We need priority and emphasis by state and local governments to make sure regulatory processes proceed in a timely and efficient manner. State and local governments may need to deploy competent engineers/architects, third-party experts, use video or other technology to allow inspections and permitting processes to continue. The best way to support Washington's economy is to make sure work progresses by expediting plan review and inspection using creative emergency-based solutions.
- We need flexibility to accept electronic signatures, process paperwork electronically, and keep timelines open while we navigate this crisis.
- We need flexibility from state and local governments for our business and worker licenses. The COVID-19 emergency is a test of our resiliency in that if this was a catastrophic natural disaster, steps would be taken to implement flexibility for renewal dates, training, continuing education, and other procedural requirements for obtaining and maintaining professional licensure.
- We ask that any new rules, codes or ordinances be placed on hold during this emergency so that government and businesses can focus on completing those projects in-process.

- We ask that state and local governments use an “all hands-on deck” approach to making sure we keep projects moving forward this construction year before weather becomes an obstacle. We encourage the use of electronic systems for permitting, plans review and inspections, and we are willing work with our local and state partners to address questions of safety.
- We ask that contractors and workers in Washington who are in good standing receive “safe harbor” during this crisis for non-life safety procedural errors related to building and land use processes, and that state and local communities exercise maximum, fact-based discretion understanding that all of us are in this together.
- We ask that our citizen volunteering boards, commissioners and councils be used as business sector think tanks for state and local government. We ask that the institutional knowledge that exists through our boards, commissioners, and councils remain in place and that members are allowed to meet (electronically) as a means to provide feedback.
- We ask that those areas where we need legislative relief or recognition for actions taken be considered when the legislature meets again. We are also a resource for long-term solutions.
- Finally, we ask that you support a proclamation recognizing the value of construction in our economy and encouraging all state and local agencies involved in this essential work to take the steps necessary to keep Washington working in this time of crisis.

We are thankful for the leadership of the Governor and the legislature during this time of crisis.