

## 2026 CORE POLICIES

*Approved by AGC Board of Directors–January 23, 2026*

### BUSINESS AND TAX POLICIES

- Preserve SAIF and its reserve funds for the purpose of increasing worker safety and protecting injured workers' benefits
- Support minimizing the pyramiding effect and other impacts of the Corporate Activity Tax, while opposing increases to the baseline tax amount
- Preserve the small business reduced pass-through entity tax rates for construction and Oregon's connection to the Federal Tax Code related to business taxes and deductions
- Support a comprehensive approach to address the state's ongoing fiscal challenges to grow the economy, control costs, and provide new revenues for proven targeted education investments
- Preserve Oregon's nationally recognized workers' compensation system (as a result of the 1990 Mahonia Hall reforms) and limit changes to the workers' compensation system to those that benefit both workers and employers, and the system as a whole
- Support efforts to improve Oregon's business climate and to make Oregon a nationally competitive business environment

### PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

- Preserve Highway Trust Fund and support adequate and targeted funding for new transportation capital improvements, including vehicle miles traveled and project-driven tolling investments
- Advocate for traditional physical infrastructure funding to meet federal, state and local level infrastructure needs (including, but not limited to, water and sewer systems, education capital investments (K-16))
- Advocate for comprehensive transportation funding to meet growing statewide maintenance, preservation, and expansion needs, and mitigate congestion, and support multi-modal transportation investments
- Support the replacement of the Interstate Bridge, while ensuring opportunities for Oregon and SW Washington contractors and workers on the bridge project

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENTS

- Support Career Technical Education and workforce development that emphasizes the value of career paths that do not require four-year college degrees
- Support flexible and aspirational apprenticeship goals on large state-funded projects, in recognition of the limited existing apprenticeship programs in different geographic regions

## COMPETITIVE PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTING LAWS

- Support the use of CMGC, Design-Build, Public-Private Partnerships (P3), and other alternative contracting methods only when the public benefits have been verified, and all contractors are able to compete on a level playing field
- Preserve marketplace competition and construct-by-contract principles and oppose impractical government-mandated material and/or contractor preferences
- Support aspirational diversity efforts focused on strengthening contractors' capacity to compete for work
- Advocate for prevailing wage projects limited to true "public works" and onsite work only
- Oppose project labor agreements/community benefit agreements/community workforce agreements, or other similar agreements, mandated or pre-negotiated by the government
- Support voluntary agreements that effectively diversify and expand the needed industry skilled workforce
- Support changes to Oregon's prevailing wage system that result in individual regions' true and prevailing labor market wages

## INDUSTRY SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

- Advocate for an incentive-oriented approach that covers the full cost for emissions reduction equipment, and oppose California's strict off-road emissions equipment rules and indirect source permit regulations that inhibit construction
- Oppose new environmental regulations that will impose a financial burden on the industry and/or the broader economy
- Support climate change resiliency investments and mitigation efforts through energy efficiency and/or greenhouse gas emissions reduction, without imposing infeasible or onerous industry, economic, procurement, scheduling, or labor mandates and costs

## INDUSTRY STANDARDS AND PRACTICES

- Licensure Standards: Preserve principal features of enhanced commercial licensure standards. Consider modifications aimed at reducing unnecessary costs for all contractors
- Prompt Pay: Support strengthening existing laws to ensure prompt payment throughout chain of commerce- owner to General Contractor, to Specialty Contractor, to Supplier
- Retention: Preserve retainage as industry practice to ensure accountability, predictability and stability throughout chain of commerce- owner to General, to Specialty Contractor, to Supplier
- Preserve the Construction Contractors Board's ability to effectively and efficiently serve our industry
- Advocate for increased highway construction work zone safety measures that lead to reduced fatalities and serious injuries
- Support the preservation of a single statewide building codes
- Support land use/planning/permit reform to streamline processes, improve outcomes and efficiency, and reduce overall costs

## EMPLOYEE-EMPLOYER RELATIONSHIP

- Oppose unnecessary, "one-size-fits-all" government intrusions across business sectors
- Oppose additional employer-paid mandates
- Support a state preemption of local wage, hour, and benefit mandates
- Support stronger requirements to ensure payment of substantiated wage claims without shifts in an individual contractor's wage liability
- Oppose attempts to require accommodation of marijuana use in the construction workplace
- Advocate for laws that maintain legitimate contractors' use of true independent contractors
- Oppose the imposition of new private rights of action into the employer/employee relationship
- Oppose government mandates that negatively impact industry's need to grow and retain its workforce