

March 23, 2026

## **RE: AIA Massachusetts: 2026 Policy & Advocacy Update**

Dear Colleagues,

I'm honored to serve as the 2026 President of AIA Massachusetts and to work alongside such a dedicated and talented community of architects across the State.

As I step into this role, my top priorities are: strengthening AIA Massachusetts as a hub for climate leadership; translating research and best practices into practical, accessible tools for firms of all sizes; and fostering greater collaboration across industry, academia, and public partners.

Building on the strong momentum of our advocacy, education, and member engagement, I will advance policies that support carbon reduction, healthy buildings, and housing solutions. I am committed to making architects' expertise central to a more resilient and equitable built environment in Massachusetts.

I plan to build on the work of our members and committees. By collaborating with organizations that have developed the information and tools essential for progress, I am committed to advancing our practices, our State, and our country toward a more sustainable future for all.

At the start of the year, we outlined our 2025 Year in Review and previewed 2026 priorities. To provide a closer look at recent activity and progress, here are key updates by initiative.

### **Accessibility Reform – MAAB 30% Rule**

Efforts to reform the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board's (MAAB) 30% Rule are advancing. The rule currently uses property value, not project scope, as its trigger, discouraging reinvestment and leading to inconsistent accessibility. AIA Massachusetts collaborates with legislators to better align state accessibility triggers with the state building code and ADA Standards. This seeks a clearer, more consistent process. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Embodied Carbon Implementation**

Next, regarding Embodied Carbon Implementation: AIA Massachusetts is implementing [recommendations](#) from the [Embodied Carbon Intergovernmental Coordinating Council](#), focusing on education, alignment with national standards, and a phased approach as policies develop. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Healthy Schools & Campus Modernization**

The Green and Healthy Schools initiative advanced as the Massachusetts Senate passed a [\\$3.28 billion capital bond bill](#) to modernize and improve campus infrastructure. As negotiations continue, the bill presents an opportunity to promote sustainable learning environments. To view the report, [click here](#).

### **Historic District Legislation**

AIA Massachusetts is revising historic district legislation with a working group, aiming to simplify the proposal and build broader stakeholder support for the next session. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Single-Stair Housing Study**

For the Single-Stair Housing Study: AIA Massachusetts will advise a [state commission](#) studying the feasibility of single-stair multifamily buildings, balancing housing and life-safety concerns. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Interior Design Licensure**

Legislation to establish commercial interior design registration advances, reflecting a compromise that preserves architects' responsibility for structural and life-safety systems and creates a pathway for designer registration. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Liability and Indemnification**

AIA Massachusetts is collaborating with industry partners to address increased liability risks for design professionals following a recent court decision, developing guidance, and advocating for reasonable protections. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Housing & the ADU Design Competition**

AIA Massachusetts and the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities advance the statewide Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Design Competition, highlighting creative solutions to the state's housing challenges. For details, [click here](#).

### **Energy Affordability & Climate Policy**

The House advances legislation on energy affordability while upholding 2030 climate goals. Meanwhile, AIA Massachusetts monitors potential impacts on building decarbonization and the design sector. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Federal Education Policy**

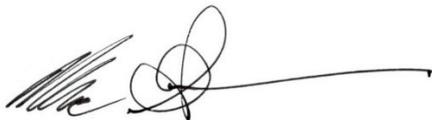
AIA Massachusetts is monitoring a proposed federal rule that could affect architecture's classification for student loans. This development has broad implications for education and the profession. For more information, [click here](#).

In February, ten AIA Massachusetts members joined nearly 700 architects at AIA National's Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. There, we engaged in advocacy, leadership training, and policy discussions on Capitol Hill, covering topics such as democracy, housing, and sustainable building credits. For more details, see our issue briefs [here](#). Our delegation met nearly every Massachusetts Congressional office, keeping architects' voices present on federal issues.

AIA Massachusetts's work is about ensuring that architects' expertise guides the decisions shaping our built environment. The progress we are seeing across so many fronts reflects the dedication of our members, the strength of our partnerships, and a shared commitment to advancing a profession that serves both our communities and the public good.

Thank you for your support and engagement.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Sternick', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marc Sternick, AIA  
President, 2026  
AIA Massachusetts