Architects play a vital role in the delivery of public projects in the State of Iowa. With the overriding responsibility to protect and safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public, architects that serve our communities play an integral and essential role in the delivery of projects, designing structures that serve the greater good with our clients’ best interests.

**Recommendations for Action:**

AIA Iowa recommends that the State of Iowa upholds the current law, a system in place that has proven to serve taxpayers well. The Chapter remains open to discuss alternate delivery options with stakeholders to achieve positive outcomes as long as the following criteria are met:

1. Qualifications Based Selection, an open selection of architects on the basis of qualifications.
2. Direct collaboration, between an Architect and owner is vitally important to the success and safety of the building.
3. Licensure and Qualifications, to Practice Architecture and Engineering in the State ensures professionalism and quality.
4. Longevity of Materials and Systems, selected must exceed the length of time that the project is financed.

**Current Iowa Law:**

Iowa law, Chapter 26, is a proven system that has served Iowa taxpayers well. This law states that public owners must comply with the Design Bid Build Process, a method of project delivery in which the owner procures design and construction documents from an independent designer, uses competitive bidding to obtain prices for all work required to build the project as specified, and then selects a contractor to build the project on the basis of a responsive low bid received from a responsible contractor.

For more information contact AIA Iowa at 515-244-7502 or info@aiaiowa.org
Qualifications Based Selection:
The AIA supports public policies, requirements, and administrative procedures in public procurement processes that mandate the open selection of architects on the basis of qualifications and oppose the hiring of architects on the basis of fees or bids. Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) is essential to fostering quality design that serves health, safety, and welfare in the built environment. The AIA supports best practice QBS criteria that are clear and concise, encouraging fair market competition, and opposes any requirements by public agencies for uncompensated design solutions as part of QBS processes.

Ethical Responsibility:
Architects have a professional and ethical responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public in all Project Delivery methods, while providing reasonable and competent design guidance to the owner and representing their best interests. Architects create solutions through the design process with long-term cost savings in mind that benefit the tax payer.

Communication and Collaboration:
Direct communication between the architect and owner is vitally important to the success and safety of a building. Design and construction is a complex process requiring the coordinated teamwork of many diverse entities. Architects are uniquely qualified and positioned to lead the development and design of building projects at all stages and for all delivery methods. The AIA supports a collaborative teamwork approach among architects, engineers, designers, owners, communities, jurisdictions, contractors, and industry partners, to achieve successful project completion.

Design Excellence:
The AIA advocates for the creation and preservation of publicly funded buildings, places, and projects of lasting significance and usefulness that represent the highest ideals of citizens and their government. Public buildings should demonstrate advanced sustainability strategies for integrated teams and systems, resource efficiency, community responsiveness, and human health and well-being. Society is best served by public buildings that meet and exceed the specific requirements inherent to each individual project, site, and situation.

Resources:
- Iowa Construction Industry Forum Public Owner’s Guide to Legal Issues on the Bidding and Award of Construction Contracts in Iowa: [www.aiaiowa.org/page/resources](http://www.aiaiowa.org/page/resources)

For more information contact AIA Iowa at 515-244-7502 or info@aiaiowa.org