



# News

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **STATEMENT FROM AGC NYS PRESIDENT AND CEO MIKE ELMENDORF ON PROPOSED HIRING PREFERENCE ORDINANCE IN THE CITY OF SYRACUSE**

“The proposal from the Syracuse City Council to impose a local hire requirement on contractors doing business with the city, while well intentioned, completely misses the realities of the construction industry—and is plainly unconstitutional. If it were to become law, it would not only be challenged and overturned, but would serve to undermine the good work that is currently underway to bring opportunities for careers in construction to our communities most in need of economic opportunity.

There’s no doubt that the construction industry faces serious workforce challenges and shortages. AGC NYS, as New York’s leading statewide construction industry association, has long worked to help identify opportunities in construction that lead to solid careers and good paying jobs in every corner of our state. For example, since 2007, our industry and Membership have played a lead role in Syracuse’s successful Construction Career Days Program; which has introduced more than 3,400 students to potential careers in construction, including representatives of every inner city school in Syracuse who have accounted for about half of the participants. Most recently, we’ve been working with the State Education Department to partner with our schools, particularly in our inner cities, to help open the doors of opportunities in construction to communities that are most in need.

Rather than moving in that direction, local hire provisions such as this serve to create walls which will keep people in as much as keep others out. Construction work is transient; a firm and its workers who are this month working in Syracuse may next month be performing work in Rochester. What happens to those Syracuse workers who, because other communities adopt similar local hire provisions, are left home without work? No one wins.

Construction, by its very nature, requires a trained, skilled workforce—and one doesn’t arrive at that status overnight. That’s why real workforce development in all of our communities is the right solution for both meeting the workforce needs of the construction industry and expanding economic opportunity for all.

Proposals such as this have consistently been held by the courts, from the U.S. Supreme Court on down, as being discriminatory and in clear violation of the Privileges and Immunities Clause of the U.S. Constitution. As such, any effort to impose such an unwise and illegal restriction in New York should expect to be met by a legal challenge that will prevail.

At a time when our infrastructure needs are abundantly clear and pose serious risks to our communities and economic opportunities, we should instead be working together to rebuild our state and create the jobs and workforce that will make that possible.”

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For more information about AGC NYS, please visit [www.agcnys.org](http://www.agcnys.org).

*AGC NYS is New York's leading statewide contractor association providing advocacy and education for contractors and affiliated firms helping grow the State's economy and constructing its \$30 billion annual building, transportation, civil and environmental infrastructure.*