

**NEWS RELEASE**

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## Local architects advocate for resilient design

*More than 130 architects, associates and architecture students met with lawmakers for the 2020 AIA Florida Legislative Day.*

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – Local legislators met with members of The Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Florida) in Tallahassee recently for the association’s 2020 AIA Florida Legislative Day.



*AIA Florida Gulf Coast members from Sarasota meet with Rep. Tommy Gregory. Left to right: Arthur Sheffield, Assoc. AIA, Rep. Tommy Gregory, Stephen Panzarino, AIA, Jedd Heap, AIA.*

Local Sarasota architect Stephen Panzarino, AIA took the helm at the legislative event in his first official act as the 2020 President of AIA Florida, the 3900-member organization of architects. For an initial outing, it was a doozy.

Panzarino shepherded over 130 architects, associates and architecture students from around the state through the busy halls of Florida’s Capitol to advocate for strong building codes and professional licensure requirements along with the legislation to protect Florida cities, by design, from the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise.

Armed with a unique, stylized “blueprint” that illustrates the extreme destruction in Mexico Beach after Hurricane Michael, members highlighted AIA

Florida’s legislative goals to increase sustainable and resilient buildings.

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*The Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects, headquartered in Tallahassee, represents the interests of more than 3,900 members in Florida and the Caribbean. Members adhere to a code of ethics and professional conduct that assures the client, the public and colleagues of an AIA-member architect’s dedication to the highest standards in professional practice.*