

# Using Twitter to Explain Your Next Construction Project

Article By:

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With fall arriving, many governments are already considering their plan for projects in 2018. Construction season can be a very exciting time, and as this newsletter and our firm seminars have conveyed over the years, it can also be a nerve-wracking experience unless you adequately prepare and understand the universe of legal issues involved in those projects.

In today's world of short sound-bytes and "tweets" as the primary sources for news (or other information), I wanted to try and capture the best of both worlds in this article. In essence, I am going to address numerous laws and legal issues that come to mind (or at least, should come to mind) as you consider and start your public construction project – but in a social media format. Specifically, each issue will be addressed in 140 characters or less, the maximum length of a "tweet" you can put out on Twitter. Do not overlook the "hashtags" I added, as those may also provide some important, related tidbits.

Obviously, the format is for entertainment purposes only. This is not an exhaustive list of laws at issue, nor is it a thorough explanation of all of the issues the laws present. However, it should get you pointed in the right direction.

## **Professional Services**

Need a surveyor, engineer, and don't have one? Illinois law typically requires interview process.  
#professionalservicesselectionact

## **Oversight**

Do you want someone in-house to oversee project? Do you want a committee to monitor project?  
#projectmanagerscanhelpstreamlineprocess

## **Bids**

Services, labor & materials may need a bid. Don't be cute and split up a project to avoid bid project.  
#whatisyourbidthreshold

## **Freedom of Information**

Any documents created for the project are subject to the Freedom of Information Act.  
#includesbidpacket #claimoftradesecretisoverused

### **Prevailing Wage**

Prevailing wage required for (sub)contractors on public works—anything funded in whole or part with public funds.

#nomonetarythreshold

### **Employees**

Want to use employees on project? Do you have work comp coverage? Did you hire them just for project?

#avoidingprevailingwageisfrownedupon

### **Bonds**

Contractors may automatically be required to get construction, performance, and other bonds.

#askforthemanyway #askforanoriginalcertifiedcopy

### **Insurance**

Ask your contractor to provide you with proof of insurance and your government to be listed as additional insured.

#inadditiontobonds

### **Substance Abuse Policies**

Illinois law requires contractors to share their employee substance abuse policies with you if they want to work on your project.

#anyIllinoisproject #yeseventhisproject

### **Change Orders**

Should you only discuss and simply agree on necessary changes during project? No. Demand formal change order.

#geteverythinginwriting

### **Prompt Payment**

If contractor fulfills obligations and you refuse to pay, you may be charged penalty.

#promptpayment #youmusttellthemifyoudontlikeit

### **Open Meetings**

Problem with the project? Litigation “imminent”? Closed session at public meeting is possible.

#whatisyourdefinitionofimminentlitigation

### **Statute of Limitations**

Do you know how long you have to sue on a breach of contract claim?

#typicallytenyearstosuecontractor #contractoronlyhasoneyeartosueyou

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