

BOMA Briefs



Winter 2014

Download Materials from the WBM/NIC

This year's *Winter Business Meeting and National Issues Conference* (WBM/NIC), held just blocks from Capitol Hill in downtown Washington, D.C., was a huge success. Whether or not you were able to join us, there is an abundance of materials from the various sessions now available online for your use locally. Find everything from advocacy talking points to a sample legislator thank you letter in the [NIC toolkit on the BOMA Local Leaders team site](#). You can also find a [WBM/NIC recap](#) and [photographs](#), BOMA's newly minted policy positions on [e-cigarettes](#) and [electric vehicle charging stations](#) and BOMA's new [Year in Review video](#) on the BOMA International website. We encourage you to share these materials with your boards and with your members.



BOMA Takes the "Pulse of the Industry"

At the WBM Board of Governors meeting, BOMA International President Henry Chamberlain shared the results of the BOMA "Pulse of the Industry," our annual survey of local association leadership. According to the results, attracting well-trained and qualified workforce employees was a top challenge for BOMA members, followed by balancing work-life-volunteer duties. Two new issues that face members today are staying on top of emerging technologies and corporate consolidation. Keep these member challenges in mind when your local association plans its events for the year. A "lunch and learn" demonstrating the latest CRE technology or a new mentorship initiative for your best and brightest young professionals can meet a demonstrated need for your membership. On the positive side, for the fourth straight year, the Pulse results showed a projected decline in vacancy rates, and nearly 30 percent of respondents said they expected to see rental rate increases in 2014. [Read a full recap of the Board of Governors meeting.](#)

BOMA Members Storm Capitol Hill

During WBM/NIC, attendees visited the offices of more than 200 lawmakers to discuss the issues most important to the commercial real estate industry—and many stopped by to [chat with BOMATV](#) about their visits. From leasehold depreciation and the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) to tax reform, the Congressional outcomes on these issues have the potential to impact the CRE industry for many years to come. If you weren't able to join us in Washington, your local association can still get involved in the political process in other ways, whether you arrange a visit to your legislative representatives in their district offices or simply contact lawmakers via e-mail or phone. To help you in your efforts, the advocacy team at BOMA International has created a handy [advocacy guide](#) for 2014, containing highlights of BOMA's federal, local and codes priorities, for your reference. You also can find advocacy resources on the [Industry Issues page](#) of the BOMA International website. As debates over key economic issues intensify both in Congress and in the states, BOMA's advocacy efforts are needed now more than ever to ensure commercial real estate is not unduly burdened.

Did You Know...?

BOMA International is a founding member of the International Property Measurement Standards Coalition (IPMSC), a coalition of more than 30 organizations from around the world created to develop global standards for measuring property. The IPMSC Standard Setting Committee (SSC) released the draft of its first standard, IPMS for Offices, in January and is [seeking public comment](#) on the draft through April 7.

Fast fact: BOMA International saved the CRE industry \$2.50 per square foot through codes representation during the 2013 ICC development cycle.