



THE SURETY &
FIDELITY ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA

The Value of Public Bonding

Surety protects.

INDUSTRY TOOLKIT

Join our Surety Protects campaign to elevate the value of public-sector bonding, as we inform and educate key state and local officials overseeing public construction projects about the many benefits of surety bonding. More than just protection from costly defaults, surety bonds save money, improve project quality and protect taxpayers.

The content below is based on a new economic analysis of surety bonding conducted by leading global management firm EY. Use these messaging materials to help communicate the value of public bonding.

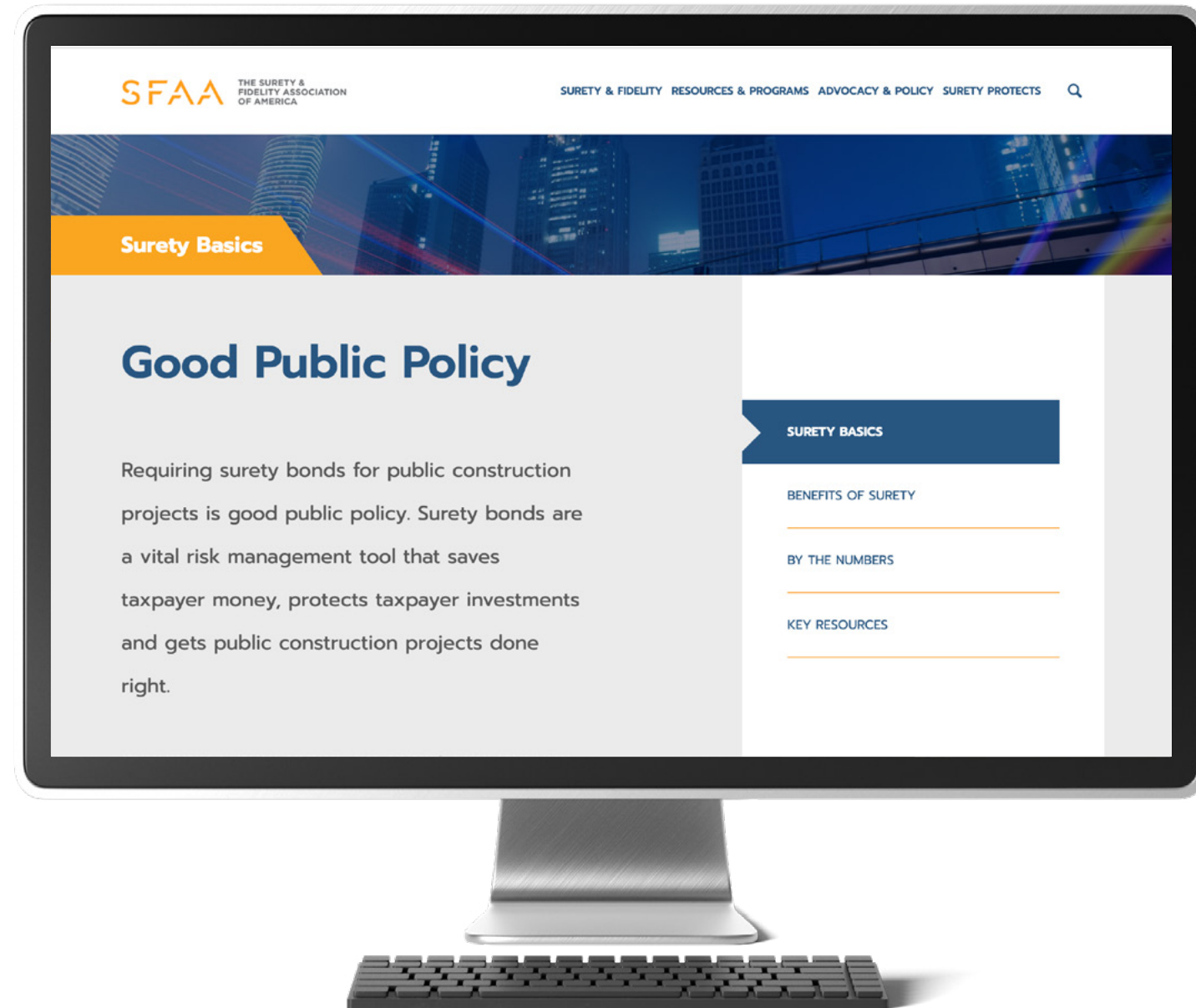
[Click here to download EY's report.](#)

WEB HUB

We've created a subsection of surety.org that puts campaign information and promotional resources at members' fingertips.

Anywhere you promote the campaign online, make sure to direct viewers to the link below, and promote the campaign with the #suretyprotects hashtag.

[Click here to access the campaign hub.](#)



INFOGRAPHICS

These infographics use simple visual design to break down the benefits of surety for different types of public construction. They can be printed for distribution and display, as well as shared on the web and social media.

[Click here to download infographics.](#)

Surety protects. Here's the difference a surety bond makes on a \$35 million highway construction project.

THE VALUE OF SURETY BONDS
Protecting taxpayers and local businesses as we build for the future

SAVES TAXPAYER MONEY
Delivers **\$140,000** in taxpayer savings, even if a default never occurs.

GETS THE JOB DONE RIGHT
Appropriate vetting
ensures government agencies hire reliable, financially stable contractors who can complete the job.

SUPPORTS LOCAL BUSINESSES
Local subcontractors, suppliers and workers **all get paid** even if the general contractor defaults.

PROTECTS TAXPAYER INVESTMENT
Prevents **\$8 million** in potential taxpayer loss if a contractor defaults – and the surety company steps in to help finish the job.

SAVES TIME
Bonded projects are **5x more likely** to finish on time or ahead of schedule compared to non-bonded projects.

THE VALUE SURETY BOND
Protecting taxpayers and local businesses as we build for the future

Highways are the backbone of our economy, both locally and nationwide. Surety helps our investments in construction and improvements produce top-quality roadways.

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SAVES TIME
Bonded projects are **5x more likely** to finish on time or ahead of schedule compared to non-bonded projects.

THE VALUE SURETY BOND
Protecting taxpayers and local businesses as we build for the future

The quality of our water systems affects all of us. Maintaining the safety and cleanliness of our water is one of the fundamental duties of civil society, and surety helps waterworks construction projects maintain community health and quality of life.

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SAVES TIME
Bonded projects are **5x more likely** to finish on time or ahead of schedule compared to non-bonded projects.

Streamlines prequalification
to save time for construction leaders.

THE VALUE SURETY BOND
Protecting taxpayers and local businesses as we build for the future

A public school construction project is too important to fail. Our children, educators and community depend on its success.

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Prevents **\$6.2 million** in taxpayer loss if a contractor defaults – and the surety company steps in to help finish the job.

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Survey results based on EY-SFAA Value of Surety Survey (September 2022). The survey contained responses from 100 owners and developers of construction projects in the public and private sectors. Costs are estimated based on the EY-SFAA survey. Dollar amounts are calculated as the anticipated hours of work saved times the average hourly wage paid to construction managers (occupation 19-902). Construction managers are employees that plan, direct, or coordinate activities concerned with the construction and maintenance of structures, facilities, and systems. Construction managers participate in the conceptual development of a construction project and oversee its organization, scheduling, budgeting, and implementation. Data are from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimate. Default costs are based on data from SFAA loss severity study, provided to EY in May 2021 by SFAA. Loss is spread over the cost of the project and its present value.

FACT SHEET

This fact sheet provides key facts and data points, detailing selected EY report findings. Distribute to key stakeholders to help demonstrate the value of surety bonds.

[Click here to download factsheet.](#)

Surety protects.



Surety Bonds protect taxpayers & get the job done right

Public construction projects like highways and transportation infrastructure, water projects and schools deploy taxpayer dollars to advance the public good – so ensuring project success is a vital responsibility for government agencies.

The benefits of surety bonds extend well beyond protection from default – reducing taxpayer costs, putting well-qualified contractors on the job, supporting local small businesses, and saving project time.

Surety bonds ensure qualified contractors are on the job.

- Surety companies lead a rigorous prequalification process that includes in-depth analysis of a contractor's finances, billing patterns, jobs-in process, timeliness, of completion and more.
- Greater experience delivers greater efficiency: by vetting and prequalifying contractors, sureties save public construction leaders time.
- Unbonded construction projects are more likely to default than bonded projects – perhaps by 10 times.

Surety bonds protect taxpayers.

- Using a surety bond on a typical \$35 million construction project protects taxpayers from an \$8 million loss in the event of contractor default.
- Should financial difficulties arise, a general contractor is five times more likely to prioritize finishing bonded projects than non-bonded ones.
- If a contractor defaults, surety companies intervene, saving public construction leaders time and headaches – and saving taxpayers additional costs.

Surety bonds protect small businesses and local workers.

- When a contractor defaults on an unbonded construction project, the cost of completion is 85% higher than on projects protected by surety bonds.

Surety bonds pay for themselves, saving taxpayers money.

- Analysis by global consulting firm EY finds portfolios of bonded construction projects outperform unbonded project portfolios.
- Even for projects that don't end up defaulting, the cost savings for a bonded portfolio of projects cover the cost of the bonds themselves.
- Three in four developers surveyed by EY reported surety bonding reduces contractor pricing due to greater project certainty provided by surety bonding.

- When bonds are used on a typical \$35 million construction project, surety bonds deliver \$141,000 in taxpayer savings even if a default never occurs.

Surety bonds get the job done.

- Surety bonds guarantee contractual obligations are met and projects are delivered.
- But when completion of a bonded project is threatened, the surety company intervenes to give a contractor technical expertise, extend financial support, and quickly get the project back on track.
- If a contractor defaults, the surety will hire a qualified replacement contractor or even handle rebidding the contract.



What's a surety bond?

A surety bond for a public construction project is a three-party written agreement under which the surety company guarantees a government agency that the principal (typically a general contractor) will execute work according to contract terms. The surety bond protects the government agency by guaranteeing performance if the contractor does not fulfill its obligation.

All data in this document based on analysis prepared by EY. Survey results based on EY-SFAA Value of Surety Survey (September 2021). The survey contained responses from 100 owners and developers of construction projects in the public and private sectors. Costs are estimated based on the EY-SFAA survey. Dollar amounts are calculated as the anticipated hours of work saved times the average hourly wage paid to construction managers (occupation 11-9021). Public construction leaders are employees that plan, direct, or coordinate activities concerned with the construction and maintenance of structures, facilities, and systems; construction leaders participate in the conceptual development of a construction project and oversee its organization, scheduling, budgeting, and implementation. Data are from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimate. Default costs are based on data from SFAA loss severity study, provided to EY in May 2021 by SFAA. Loss is spread over the cost of the project and in present value.

KEY MESSAGING

for Policymakers

The following messages define the value surety delivers for taxpayers, local small businesses, government budgets, and the broad public interest.

Use these in your meetings with elected officials, policymakers, and their staff. Send the message that by using surety, they are doing right by their constituents: protecting small business owners, local workers, and taxpayer investments.

They are also ensuring public building projects are done efficiently and well to benefit current and future generations.

[Download Key Messaging documents here.](#)



KEY MESSAGING

for Construction Leaders

The following messages define the value surety delivers for government agencies leading public construction projects.

Help deliver these messages in your meetings with public project owners, procurement officials, construction managers, and other key government agency leaders.

Underscore that by using surety, government agencies send a clear signal they are exercising responsible project management and serving as good stewards of the public interest.

[Download Key Messaging documents here.](#)

The image shows two overlapping document thumbnails. The top one is partially obscured by the bottom one. Both documents have an orange header with the text 'Key Messaging for Construction Leaders'. The main title of the documents is 'The Value of Surety Bonds'. The top document features the SFAA logo (The Surety & Fidelity Association of America) and a photograph of three construction professionals. The bottom document contains the following text and bullet points:

Surety bonds provide the most comprehensive risk management available to address construction leaders' top concern: **getting the job done.**

- Bonded project portfolios outperform unbonded project portfolios
- Surety companies protect government and taxpayers by guaranteeing contractual obligations are met — end stop in when they're not
- Surety provides financial security to suppliers, subcontractors, and workers — ensuring they get paid even if a general contractor defaults.
- If a contractor defaults on an unbonded project, the cost of completion is 35% higher and takes nearly twice as long to complete than a bonded project.
- Should a contractor default, surety companies intervene, saving public construction leaders' cost, time, and headaches.

"Three-in-four developers surveyed by EY reported surety bonding reduces contractor pricing."

Surety companies ensure general contractors have the **capabilities, expertise, and financial strength to complete a project.**

- Surety companies make certain only qualified bidders will compete for your project. Surety companies conduct appropriate analysis of a contractor's financial, billing patterns, jobs in-progress, timeliness of completion, and more.
- Nearly all (95%) construction experts surveyed agreed that qualification is more likely to occur on bonded projects than on unbonded projects (51%).
- Greater experience delivers greater efficiency: sureties save project owners time, money, and re-qualifying general contractors.
- Unbonded public construction projects are more likely to default than bonded projects — perhaps by 10 times.

Small text at the bottom left: "All data based on analysis by EY" and "www.surety.org" at the bottom right.

PRESENTATION DECK

This slide deck is a powerful way to communicate the EY report findings and our campaign message to a real-time audience. Use it when meeting with policymakers and stakeholders.

[Click here to download the presentation deck.](#)

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Surety Protects

The Value of Surety Bonds for Public Construction Projects

SAVES TAXPAYER MONEY
Delivers **\$140,000** in taxpayer savings, even if a default never occurs

PROTECTS TAXPAYER INVESTMENT
Prevents **\$8 million** in potential taxpayer loss if a contractor defaults - and the surety company steps in to help finish the job

GETS THE JOB DONE RIGHT
Thorough Investigations & **appropriate vetting** ensures government agencies hire reliable, financially stable contractors who can complete the job

SUPPORTS LOCAL BUSINESSES
Local subcontractors, suppliers & workers **all get paid** even if the general contractor defaults

SAVES TIME
Bonded projects are **5x more likely** in potential taxpayer loss if a contractor defaults - and the surety company steps in to help finish the job

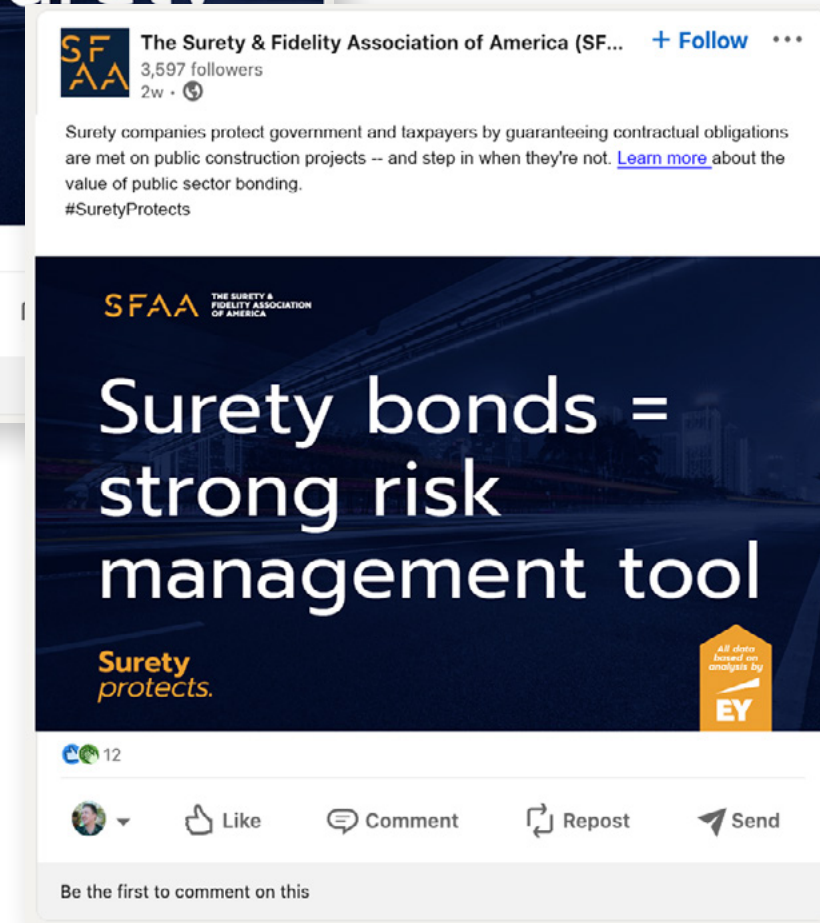
SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGING

Encourage your colleagues to post on their personal LinkedIn timelines with one of the following messages, accompanied by a link to the campaign hub.

Remember to use the [#suretyprotects](#) hashtag on social media posts to help promote the campaign.

Feel free to tweak language to your firm's unique perspective if you'd like.

[Download social media cards here.](#)



SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGING

Sample Post Content

SAMPLE POST:

What's a Surety Bond?

It's a vital risk management tool that saves taxpayer money, protects taxpayer investments and gets public construction projects done right.

Public construction projects like schools and transportation infrastructure deploy taxpayer dollars to advance the public good – so ensuring project success is a public responsibility. Surety companies ensure general contractors have the capabilities, expertise, and financial strength to complete a project, and surety provides financial security to suppliers, subcontractors, and workers – ensuring they get paid even if a general contractor defaults.

Surety is synonymous with responsible project management and good stewardship of the public interest.

#SuretyProtects

[Download more social media language here.](#)

SAMPLE POST:

You may have never heard of a surety bond, but these vital risk management tools protect much of our public infrastructure: our roads, our schools, our water systems, you name it.

Public construction projects deploy taxpayer dollars to advance the public good – so it's a public responsibility to ensure projects are cost-savvy, efficient, and high-quality. Surety bonds deliver all that and more.

Click below to find out why surety bonding is synonymous with responsible project management and good stewardship of the public interest.

#SuretyProtects

The logo for the Surety & Fidelity Association of America (SFAA) is displayed in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. The letters 'S', 'F', and 'A' are connected, with the second 'A' being slightly larger and more prominent.

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