ASCE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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ASCE | ISSUES & ADVOCACY
Government Relations at ASCE

- Your voice on Capitol Hill and in state capitals
- Profession is well respected by policymakers
  - Known for Report Card for America’s Infrastructure
- Large membership presents both challenges and opportunities
- Members are the key to success
  - Society provides support and resources to Sections and Branches
Are We For It or Against It?

- ASCE has 160+ policy statements
- Approved by Board of Direction
- Provide guidance on public policy
- Give permission to act on public policy
- Reviewed on 3-year cycle
- Survey of members determines federal and state priorities
- Board approves priority issues
501(c)(3) organizations are permitted to lobby
- Ok to advocate for issue or legislation or regulatory action

Prohibited from political activity
- Not ok to give money to candidates, endorse candidates

ASCE national can provide guidance
Licensing and “Raise the Bar”

Qualifications Based Selection for Engineering Services (QBS)

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) Education

Sustainability

Transportation / Infrastructure
State Issues

- **Infrastructure Investment**
  - 16 states in the last four years with gas tax increases
  - Currently monitoring infrastructure ballot measures in 7 states

- **Threats to Licensure**
  - In 2015 six states considered proposals do away with all professional licenses: Arkansas, Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota, Nevada, Washington
  - **Arizona**: HB 2613 made licensure optional for professional geologists
  - **Missouri**: considered lifting some occupational licenses

- **Threats to Qualifications Based Selection (QBS)**
  - Current proposals in Kansas and Rhode Island to eliminate QBS laws
  - **Michigan** bill pending that strengthens QBS
Clean water, drinking water and wastewater issues

Natural hazards mitigation & infrastructure security

Qualifications Based Selection for Engineering Services

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education

Sustainable Development & Sustainable Energy Use

Transportation Infrastructure

Water resources Infrastructure
FAA Reauthorization
- ASCE urges Congress to reauthorize federal aviation programs, which have been operating under extension since September 2015.
- Current extension is through September 2017.

Water Infrastructure Funding and FY ‘17 Appropriations
- ASCE encourages Congress to act swiftly to address well-documented water infrastructure problems across the nation.

Water Resources Development Act of 2016
Coalition Building

- Participation with federal legislative coalitions
  - Americans for Transportation Mobility (ATM)
  - Transportation Construction Coalition (TCC)
  - Value of Water Coalition
  - STEM Education Coalition

- Participation with national groups with state influence
  - National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)
  - National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA)
  - Council of State Governments (CSG)
Local Engagement is Critical

- ASCE relies on volunteers to be advocates
- Very few Sections/Branches have any staff
- Very few have lobbyists
- Role of Society staff:
  - Provide guidance, support through expertise, resources, materials, and funding
Resources for Sections & Branches

- This Week In Washington (weekly e-mail)
- Legislative tracking service: www.asce.org/multistate
- State Public Affairs Grant Program (SPAG)
- State Government Relations Manual
- Infrastructure reports and materials
  - Report Card for America’s Infrastructure, Failure to Act economic studies, Infrastructure Game Changers
- Staff support
  - Legislative alerts, press outreach, talking points, testimony, presentations
✓ Organize Section Government Relations
  ◦ Designate a government relations contact
  ◦ Form a government relations committee

✓ Track Legislation and Respond to Key Alerts

✓ Participate in state capitol “legislative day”
  ■ Monitor State Licensing Board activity
    ◦ Review agendas and/or attend meetings
    ◦ Identify members to serve on the licensing board

✓ Release/Promote your State’s Infrastructure Report Card
  ■ Leverage social media and PR outreach
Government Relations University (NEW)
- In-depth advocacy training
- Enhance your Section/Branch presence at the State and Local level

Public Relations University
- In-depth media workshop
- Learn the importance of messaging, how to conduct an interview, and basic principles of communication
State Infrastructure Report Cards

Report Cards Reach an Audience Outside Engineers

Use Your Report Card to:

- Tell the public about your state’s infrastructure
- Meet with your State Legislators
- Convince Business Leaders to support policy or funding changes
- Train members to talk to the media
- Get your Section engaged as advocacy leaders

Report Cards Are Highly Effective and Open Doors
Mobilize ASCE members in support of ASCE’s Vision, Mission, and Goals

- Influence public policy
  - Establish and grow relationships with elected officials
  - Build coalitions with likeminded organizations

- Provide professional development skills in business development, government relations, and public affairs
Key Contact Program

- One-click, **pre-drafted emails** to communicate with federal and state elected officials.

- **FREE** Key Contact-only **webinars & issue briefings**.

- **Advocacy training** for Key Contacts that helps hone elevator pitches, maximizes influence, and gets results.

- **Back Home Meetings materials** to further relationships with elected officials in their district.

- Leadership opportunities as **Federal** and **State Advocacy Captains**.

- Brings civil engineering issues to Congress at the annual **Legislative Fly-In** in DC. *(Upcoming Fly-in: March 14-16, 2017)*

- Celebrates Outstanding Civil Engineer **Advocate of the Year Awards**
Become a Key Contact!

1. Will receive action alerts
2. Will be asked to act on those alerts
3. Read *This Week In Washington*

Sign up here: [www.asce.org/keycontacts](http://www.asce.org/keycontacts)
Use social media to keep your Section informed, engage elected officials, and educate the public.

facebook.com/ASCEGovRel

facebook.com/SaveUSAInfrastructure

@ASCEGovRel

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
Thank You!

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