Political Advocacy & Your Bottom Line:

The Importance of ACEC/PAC to Your Firm
Supporting Your Industry

The American Council of Engineering Companies Political Action Committee (ACEC/PAC) – is your national PAC, supporting your firm’s interests in Congress.

ACEC/PAC raised over $700,000 in 2011 to support pro-business House and Senate candidates, putting ACEC in the top 3% of all trade association/membership PACs nationally!
ACEC/PAC = Legislative Success

- Repeal of the 3% withholding mandate that would have impacted all federal, state contracts.
- Repealed law that would have imposed broad new IRS Form 1099 filing requirements.
- 9% tax deduction for A/E firms.
- Laws and regulatory initiatives to require FAR compliance by state DOTs that prohibit arbitrary overhead caps, require recognition of single audit, expand QBS.
- Fully funding SAFETEA LU extensions to avoid cuts to state transportation programs.
ACEC/PAC = Legislative Success

- Legislation to increase contracting out; defeated all major anti-contractor measures.
- New law protecting A/E firms that responded during 9/11.
- Removed mandatory 10% retainage on fixed price federal A/E contracts, giving federal procurement officers the option to reduce or waive withholding.
- Exempted A/E services from a federal rule mandating Project Labor Agreements on major federal construction projects.
Priorities for 2012

- Secure passage of new surface transportation program that boosts funding.
- Secure passage of major water and aviation infrastructure funding bills that expand QBS.
- Promote investment in new energy infrastructure, incentives for energy-efficient buildings, and other initiatives to create business opportunities in the energy sector.
- Pass ACEC legislation to protect the ability of engineering firms to use cash accounting.
- Secure passage of ACEC’s emergency responder legislation and other measures to protect firms from unfair and costly litigation.
- Fully fund and expand new engineering student loan program; secure more H-1B visas.
How Does It Work?

- ACEC/PAC may give up to $10,000 to federal candidates per election cycle.

- ACEC/PAC is bipartisan -- issues determine financial support, not political party.

- ACEC/PAC is governed by committee of PAC Champions.

- Employees of ACEC member firms with a current prior approval form may contribute to ACEC/PAC

- Individuals may contribute up to $5,000/year.

- No corporate checks! Personal checks or credit cards only.

- Corporate funds can be used to offset PAC fundraising costs. Ex: sponsoring events or donating items for ACEC/PAC auctions.
ACEC Strategic Plan Goal

“Grow ACEC/PAC to a $1 million-per-year PAC, while ‘capturing’ the influence of our most politically active individual members.”
ACEC/PAC
Needs Your Help Today!

- Overall target for 2012 - $940,000
- STATE’s state goal = $XXXX
- State commitment is vital to achieving our industry goal.
- Help STATE cross the finish line!

Contributions to candidates are based on:

- Their position on A/E issues;
- Committee assignments and leadership position;
- A candidate’s voting record
- The opinion of ACEC/PAC Committee members, executive directors, and PAC contributors

85% of federal candidates supported by ACEC/PAC were elected to the 112th Congress.
ACEC/PAC Works for STATE

Supporting Your State’s Congressional Delegation

- Senators
- Congressmen
## How We Compare

### 2011-2012 Election Cycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>PAC Receipts (PAC &amp; Individual Contributions)</th>
<th>PAC Disbursements (Candidates)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAHB</td>
<td>$954,300</td>
<td>$320,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABC</td>
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<td>The Associated General Contractors of America</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Society of Professional Engineers</td>
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<td>$1,250</td>
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</tbody>
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Congressional Club
How It Works

- ACEC/PAC’s $500/year donor club.
- Members receive Congressional Club ribbon at ACEC meetings and recognition at the Annual Convention and Fall Conference, as well as in ACEC publications throughout the year.
Millennium Club
How It Works

- ACEC/PAC’s $1000/year donor club.

- Members receive all Congressional Club benefits plus:
  - Additional recognition at all ACEC Meetings, complimentary invitations to events with congressional leaders, priority seating at Conference sessions, and photo opportunities with VIP speakers.
  - Subscription to ACEC/PAC Insiders, a quarterly newsletter that provides updates on key legislative accomplishments, political updates on key House and Senate races of importance to the A/E industry, PAC disbursement information, and other useful information.
The Chairman’s Club
How It Works

Each member commits a minimum of $2,500 to support ACEC/PAC and ACEC events during the year.
- $1,000 of the commitment goes directly to ACEC/PAC.
- The remaining balance of $1,500 remains “on call”, to be used to support ACEC-sponsored events in Washington and around the country.

Result – high profile engineering industry events with key policy makers, including the Speaker of the House, and House and Senate Majority Whips, greater influence in shaping national agenda.

Chairman’s Club members are invited to attend PAC Champions meeting, where key decisions involving PAC support are made, along with the benefits of Millennium Club membership.
The Capitol Club
How It Works

- Each member commits the federal legal maximum of $5,000 to support ACEC/PAC during the calendar year.

- Capitol Club members have complimentary access to all ACEC/PAC events throughout the year and special perks associated with ACEC meetings.

- Capital Club members receive all benefits available Chairman’s Club and Millennium Club members.
HELP US WIN!

For more information, contact:

Greg Knopp
Executive Director, Political Affairs

gknopp@acec.org

Or

Elizabeth Coit
ACEC/PAC Director

ecoit@acec.org

(202) 347-7474

www.acec.org/advocacy/committees/pac.cfm