

# Campaign Fund of ACEC Minnesota

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## 2021 Kickoff Report



The 2020 Legislative Session was one of the most complicated in history, stopping in-person activities in response to a global pandemic, reacting and responding to civil unrest, and setting a record with 7 Special Sessions. ACEC/MN was active in advocating for business relief and pushing for a robust bonding bill – a \$1.87b bonding bill was eventually passed in the October Special Session. The 2021 Session will bring additional challenges as legislators work to pass a budget to resolve a \$1.27b budget deficit that must meet the approval of the DFL-controlled House and Republican-controlled Senate and be signed into law by DFL Governor Walz.

The ACEC/MN PAC, now the Campaign Fund of ACEC/MN, made more than \$10,000 in contributions to candidates and caucuses during the 2020 Election Cycle. 100% of the candidates we supported were elected last November as we continued our support for champions of major infrastructure and business issues, committee chairs and caucus leadership.

In 2019 ACEC/MN was directly responsible for:

- Passing legislation to reduce onerous fees and reform policies regarding exploratory wells
- Amending legislation that would have required engineering firms representing municipalities to provide estimates of service prior to any specific knowledge of the actual requirements or details needed to determine an estimate.

ACEC/MN previous legislative accomplishments include:

- Defeat of sales tax on professional services (4 times)
- Uninsurable indemnification clauses prohibited
- Statute of repose limited to 10 years
- Established continuing education requirements
- Removal of reverse auctions for engineering services
- Qualifications-Based Selection
- Certificate of merit for lawsuits against engineers
- Funding for Board of AELSLAGID investigator
- Removal of 10% retainage on contracts with state
- Defeat of legislation ceding ownership of documents to client
- MVST constitutional amendment
- Gas tax increase passed in 2008
- Design-build for transportation projects

The Campaign Fund helps to support ACEC/MN's Legislative priorities, which for the 2021 Session include:

- Addressing the STEM workforce shortage
- Building an effective, efficient, environmentally responsible Energy Infrastructure
- New Funding for Transportation Investments that is long term, dedicated, comprehensive, and balanced
- Investment in water infrastructure and resources
- Simplifying Workplace Mandates with statewide standards
- Support for Bonding – utilize the full capacity of Minnesota's bonding capacity

### ACEC/MN Fund Committee Members

Fund members include Gene Sieve, Chair, Burns & McDonnell, Randy Geerdes, SRF Consulting Inc., Terrance Swor, American Engineering Testing, Inc., Vincent Vandertop, Wenck, Jeff Gebhard, Braun Intertec Corporation, Robert Moore, SRF Consulting Group, Inc., Jeff Ostrom, KLJ, Jon Chiglo, WSB, Jason Meyer, Stanley Consultants, Inc., and Jonathan Curry (Treasurer).

[To learn more about the Campaign Fund of ACEC/MN, please visit our website by clicking here.](http://www.acecmn.org)