



2022 Kickoff Report



The 2021 Legislative Session was much like 2020, with in-person activities restricted in response to COVID-19. Legislators met from January to May but were unable to agree to and pass a State Budget during the regular Session. With the pressure of state employee layoffs and a government shutdown, Legislators and the Governor worked out the budget in a June Special Session with only hours to spare. Many House and Session priorities were included in the final funding bills, including an end to the Peacetime Emergency powers and a \$1.9b bonding bill.

The 2022 Session has only just started and bonding is back in a big way, with Gov. Walz proposing a \$2.7 billion package. Given the projected \$7.7 billion budget surplus for 2022, there's no shortage of spending priorities: tax relief/refunds, bonuses for frontline workers, matching funding for the Federal Infrastructure bill, UI Trust Fund loan repayment, paid sick leave, increased school funding and more.

The Campaign Fund of ACEC/MN made more than \$27,000 in bipartisan contributions to candidates and caucuses during the 2021 Election Cycle. We continue our support for champions of major infrastructure and business issues, as well as for committee chairs and caucus leadership.

ACEC/MN 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
- Reduction of onerous fees for exploratory wells
- Defeated requirement that engineering firms representing municipalities provide estimates of service prior to specific knowledge of the project requirements

The Campaign Fund helps to support ACEC/MN's Legislative priorities, which for the 2022 Session include:

- Addressing the STEM workforce shortage
- Passing a robust bonding bill and meeting federal match requirements for the IJJA
- Repayment of Unemployment Insurance debt to the federal government
- 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

ACEC/MN Fund Committee Members include: Gene Sieve, Chair, Burns & McDonnell, Randy Geerdes, SRF Consulting Inc., Terrance Swor, American Engineering Testing, Inc., Matt Ruble, American Engineering Testing, Inc., 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.](#)