

The Campaign Fund of ACEC Minnesota supports legislative priorities for the engineering industry and enables ACEC Minnesota members to build relationships with important policy makers and make sure the concerns of our industry are addressed. Some of our legislative priorities for the 2023 Session include:

- Addressing critical workforce shortages
- Supporting and expanding STEM education programs
- Passing a robust bonding bill and meeting federal match requirements for IJA funds
- Advocating for broader use of Qualifications-Based Selection in state contracting
- 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
- Statewide workforce policies that meet employee and business leadership needs



2023 Kickoff Report



The 2022 Session brought a welcome return to in-person activities and a Republican-controlled Senate and DFL-controlled House were able to pass some major legislation, including a fix for the U/I trust fund, a frontline worker pay bill, and several omnibus bills. But with a big election on the horizon, both parties showed little interest in compromise, resulting in a failure to pass a bonding bill or secure matching funding for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). There were attempts to reconvene for a Special Session to secure matching funds, but as in the regular session, partisan disagreement derailed these efforts.

The 2022 election put in place a DFL 'trifecta,' with Governor Walz re-elected, a hold in the House and a flip of the Senate from a one seat Republican majority to a one seat DFL majority. The 2023 Legislature and Governor will have a record-breaking surplus to work with, much of which is 'one-time' money that could boost the odds of a bonding bill with a major cash component. With one-party control, DFL leaders will be able to set the agenda for the session and will focus on issues like 'fully funding' education, codifying abortion rights in law, paid family medical leave and support for childcare costs, voting reforms, clean energy, and public safety. Hopes are high for a major bonding bill, and Speaker Hortman has expressed support for a bill this year and next year. With a full state budget due from this year's Legislature along with many other issues to act on, we expect to see a busy Session at the Capitol.

The Campaign Fund of ACEC/MN made more than \$30,000 in bipartisan contributions to candidates and caucuses during the 2022 Election Cycle. We continue our support for champions of major infrastructure and business issues, as well as for committee chairs and caucus leadership. We are always looking for legislators who support our goals – if you know a legislator or candidate who fits that description, please reach out to the Campaign Fund Committee, a list of committee members is below.

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
- Establishing continuing education requirements
- Removal of reverse auctions for engineering services
- 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

ACEC/MN Fund Committee Members: Robert Moore, Chair, SRF Consulting Group, Inc.; Jeff Gebhard, Braun Intertec Corporation; Chris Leverett, Kimley-Horn; Gene Sieve, Burns & McDonnell; Jeff Ostrom, Sambatek; David Krueger, SEH; Jason Meyer, Stanley Consultants, Inc.; Tim Arvidson, Stonebrooke Engineering; and Jonathan Curry (Treasurer).

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