

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 2024 Session include:

- Advocating for broader use of Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) in state contracting
- Addressing critical workforce shortages
- Supporting and expanding STEM education programs
- Passing a robust bonding bill
- Building an effective, efficient, environmentally responsible Energy Infrastructure
- Investment in water infrastructure and resources
- Statewide workforce policies that meet employee and business leadership needs
- Promote federal legislation to fix R&D Tax Amortization
- Promote federal legislation to address overhead cap related issues



2024 Kickoff Report



In the 2023 Session, the DFL made the most of their ‘trifecta’ control of the House, Senate and Governor’s Office and a record \$17.5b budget surplus, passing legislation on a huge range of priorities: new family & medical leave and “sick & safe time” policies, a 2040 carbon-free energy standard, free meals for all K-12 students, a \$2.6b bonding bill, one-time tax rebates, increased funding for schools and roads with inflation indexing, free tuition for lower-income students at public state colleges and universities, legalization of adult-use cannabis, and more.

The 2024 Session will include some ‘reruns’ from 2023 – more work will be required on the paid family leave bill and the Legislature is expected to consider another bonding bill. Another highlight of the upcoming session will be ACEC Minnesota advocacy for a Qualifications-Based Selection bill which will be introduced early in the Session. As part of this effort, ACEC Minnesota has received a Minute Man grant of \$120,000 from ACEC National to fund additional advocacy and messaging in support of QBS.

As 2024 will feature a Presidential Election, we expect both parties to position themselves and draw attention to their key issues during the 2024 Legislative Session. It’s worth noting that only the Minnesota House will be up for election in 2024 – the Senate and Governor won’t be up until 2026. But with a one seat majority in the Senate, any Special Election for a Senate seat could determine control of the chamber.

The Campaign Fund of ACEC/MN made nearly \$30,000 in bipartisan contributions to candidates and caucuses during 2023. We continue our support for champions of major infrastructure and business issues, as well as for committee chairs, caucus leadership and the Governor. 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 and inflation indexing in 2023
- 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: Matt Ruble, Chair, Braun Intertec Corporation; Tim Arvidson, Stonebrooke Engineering; Brandon Bourdon, Kimley-Horn; Jeff Gebhard, Braun Intertec Corporation; David Krueger, SEH; Jason Meyer, Stanley Consultants, Inc.; Robert Moore, SRF Consulting Group, Inc.; Jeff Ostrom, Sambatek; Dave Rettner, American Engineering Testing; Gene Sieve, Burns & McDonnell; and Jonathan Curry (Treasurer).