

ACEC New York City PAC

American Council of Engineering Companies of New York City Political Action Committee

January 4, 2021

Dear Member:

As we begin the New Year, we are approaching the end of the terms in office for New York City's Mayor, Comptroller, the City Council Speaker and two-thirds of the Council Members. In November 2021, general elections will take place to fill these numerous public offices, while most races will be decided in the primaries, which will be held in June.

There is no doubt, the 2021 NYC elections will have a major impact on issues of importance to the engineering industry for years to come. The size and allocation of the City capital budget is an obvious topic critical to the industry. Whether the City government is enacting legislation, reforming procurement processes or planning for buildings/infrastructure – in a political environment increasingly hostile to development – these decisions impact your business.

The ACEC NYC Political Action Committee (PAC) is a powerful tool enabling our Association to support candidates for office and elected officials who are aligned with the goals and values of the engineering industry.

In 2021, the NYC PAC will administer a Candidate Questionnaire to hundreds of candidates for office. The PAC will identify and support candidates who are determined to be in alignment with our industry's objectives.

In addition, this year, the NYC PAC will advocate with NYC officials for:

- **Long Term Capital Commitment.** Prioritization of infrastructure spending as a critical component for economic recovery from COVID-19 and for a sustainable future, including the implementation of congestion pricing so that it maximizes badly needed transit capital funding;
- **Building Codes.** Prompt updates to the building codes and use of innovative best practices from around the country and the world;
- **Sustainability & Resiliency.** New York should be a leader of sustainable and resilient design practices and requirements using the best available science and engineering;
- **Qualifications-Based Selection.** Protecting the use of QBS in NYC and expanding the use of QBS, which elicits the most innovative and cost-effective designs, to public authorities and public benefit corporations;
- **Contract/Change Order Registration & Payment Processing.** City agencies should use electronic processes through the PASSPort platform ASAP to accomplish contract and change order registration as well as payment processing;
- **MWBE.** Setting of project specific goals while ensuring the diversity and quality of engineering and architectural services by careful assessment of available capacity, experience and expertise;
- **Design-Build.** Supporting and improving Design-Build contracting using best practices as laid out in ACEC New York's [policy paper](#);
- **Government Reform.** Continuing to work with the Department of Buildings and other agencies to improve the processes of government through which the engineering community performs its services.

It takes persistent advocacy to keep City officials supportive of the hundreds of firms and thousands of employees our Association represents, and to keep policymakers aware of our industry's issues and priorities.

To support the NYC PAC, principals and key employees of all ACEC New York Metropolitan Region firms are asked to contribute \$100 a year and board members \$250. Of course, members can voluntarily contribute larger amounts.

Whether you and your firm's leadership team give \$100 or \$1000, it is important we receive many contributions in order for our NYC PAC to have an impact increasing and maintaining our presence in New York City's political field.

Please note that the NYC PAC can only accept personal – not firm – contributions. The one exception is if a firm itself has a Federal PAC that only receives personal contributions. In this case, a firm could write a check from the firm PAC to the ACEC New York City PAC.

There are two advantages to donating through the ACEC NYC PAC. First, this limits any concerns one might have relating to campaign contributions securing an advantage for any individual firm as the PAC acts on behalf of the industry as a whole. Additionally, principals of firms that do business with the City of New York are limited in the amounts they can contribute directly to candidates. Those limits are not applicable to contributions to or by the ACEC New York City PAC. ***Checks should be made to ACEC New York City PAC.***

If you have any questions or to contribute via credit card, please contact Bill Murray, NYC Director of Government Relations, at 212-682-6336 or bill@acecny.org.

Sincerely,



Cyrus Izzo, P.E.
Chair
ACEC New York/Metro Region



Thomas Schoettle, P.E.
Chair
ACEC NYC PAC

Enclosures: NYC PAC Q&A

Contributions are not deductible for federal income tax purposes as charitable contributions.

Additional Notes:

- A full 2020 NYC PAC Report is available in the [Members Only/Organization Documents](#) section of our website.
- ACEC New York's Agenda and Positions are available in the [Advocacy](#) section our website.
- Checks should be made payable to ACEC New York City PAC and mailed to:

ACEC New York
8 West 38 Street, Ste 1101
New York, NY 10018

(please list your firm name on check memo)