

Q&A about the ACEC New York City PAC

What is the ACEC New York City PAC?

The ACEC New York City Political Action Committee (PAC) is a legal entity that is able to collect contributions and make contributions to candidates for political offices. This PAC supports candidates for New York City public office, such as Mayor, Comptroller, Public Advocate, Borough President and City Council Member.

Why should I support the ACEC New York City PAC?

The ACEC New York City PAC offers increased visibility for the association and its member firms and is a way to support government decision makers who care about issues of importance to the engineering community.

What were the reasons for forming an ACEC New York City PAC?

Some of the reasons are:

- To aid the campaign of candidates who support the passage of legislation important to our industry
- To counterbalance the influence of campaign funding and lobbying groups taking positions contrary to our interests
- To provide a convenient and direct way for association members to support election campaigns
- To involve association members in the political process

My firm gives money to the state ACEC PAC. Why do I need to contribute separately to an ACEC New York City PAC?

In New York State, the law allows corporate or member firm contributions to PACS, but these monies cannot be used in New York City election campaigns. In New York City, only individuals, not corporations, can contribute to the campaigns for city offices. The one exception is if a firm itself has a PAC that only receives personal contributions (such as a Federal PAC). In this case, a firm could write a check from the firm PAC to the ACEC New York City PAC.

What is the relationship, if any, of the various PACs (national, state and city)?

All three PACs (ACEC, ACEC New York and ACEC New York City) are entirely separate entities with their own governance and reporting mechanisms to comply with federal, state and city laws. However, they share a common goal: to promote the election of responsible and qualified candidates to public office -- regardless of party affiliations - - who understand and appreciate the goals, objectives and values of the engineering community.

What is the impact of my contribution to the New York City PAC?

The nature of associations like ACEC New York is such that they allow individuals to pool smaller contributions in order to make a bigger statement. ACEC New York City PAC is a way for you to participate collectively and more effectively in government relations activities in New York City.

How do I know that my contribution goes to a New York City political candidate?

PACs are tightly regulated entities. Every contribution and every disbursement is reported to the New York State Board of Elections. Any contributor to the ACEC New York City PAC is welcome to a copy of our reports, upon request.

Why is this important for me?

Public policy directly affects *your* business. If your firm does business with the City you are affected by procurement rules and the City's commitment to capital spending. If your firm works primarily in the private sector, you benefit from elected officials who support development, as well as responsible tax policies. All of our firms and their employees are affected by issues such as education, transit and crime.

How are the contributions to NYC political candidates made?

The ACEC New York City PAC may purchase tickets to a fundraising event, make a direct contribution to a candidate or take out an ad in a journal.

Are contributions tax deductible as charitable contributions?

No, contributions are not tax deductible as charitable contributions.

Can my company reimburse me for my contribution to the ACEC New York City PAC?

No, contributions cannot be reimbursed and are strictly voluntary.

How do the state and city PACs support the mission of ACEC New York?

ACEC New York's mission is to be the leading advocate in New York State for consulting engineers. The state and city PACs are useful complements to our long-term legislative program, which includes lobbying to influence government at the state or city level to adopt laws, regulations or policies favorable to consulting engineers, political education, print pieces and other activities.

My firm does business with the City of New York. Does this affect my contribution to the ACEC New York City PAC?

No. Principals of firms doing business with the City of New York are limited in making direct contributions to candidate committees (for example, there is a \$400 limit on contributions to a candidate for Mayor). However, these limits do not apply to contributions to the PAC or the PAC's contribution to candidates.

Are my contributions "matchable" under the City's campaign finance program?

No. While direct candidate committee contributions may be matchable, neither contributions to or from the PAC are matchable.