

# Q&A about the Federal ACEC/PAC

## The ACEC federal PAC supported by donations from individuals employed by ACEC New York's member firms

### **What is the ACEC/PAC?**

The ACEC/PAC is a legal entity that is able to collect individual contributions from employees of ACEC New York firms. The ACEC/PAC can also accept corporate federal PAC donations from member firms' federal PACs (a PAC to PAC contribution). The ACEC/PAC supports candidates for federal office.

### **How does ACEC New York operate the PAC and collect donations? How can my region help?**

ACEC New York staff works with the Board of Directors, the regional officers and boards, and regional PAC Champs, to host events, solicit donations, and collect PAC donations. We also sponsor statewide events such as PAC raffles sponsored by ACEC National, whiskey/wine tasting, and the Pinewood Rally. The regions also host events such as golf tournaments, cocktail parties, emerging leaders "meet and greets", and dinner and show events.

### **Why should I support the ACEC/PAC?**

The ACEC/PAC is a way to support federal elected officials, or candidates for federal office, who care about issues of importance to the engineering community and share our values.

### **Why have an ACEC/PAC?**

- To aid the campaign of candidates who support the passage or defeat 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 way for member firms to support election campaigns, and,
- To involve association members in the political process.

### **My firm gives money to the state PAC. Why do I need to contribute separately to the federal ACEC/PAC?**

In New York State, the law allows corporate or member firm contributions to PACs, but these monies cannot be used in federal campaigns. In New York State, only individuals and qualified PACs such as ours, not corporations, can contribute to the campaigns for federal offices. The one exception is if a firm itself has a federal or local, but not state, PAC that only receives personal contributions. In this case, a firm could write a check from the federal PAC to the ACEC/PAC.

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

All three PACs (ACEC/PAC, ACEC New York and ACEC New York City) are entirely separate legal 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 ACEC/PAC?**

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

**How do I know that my contribution goes to a New York State candidate for federal office?**

PACs are tightly regulated entities. Every contribution and every disbursement is reported to the Federal Board of Elections and is publicly available. A list of candidates that are supported by the ACEC/PAC in New York is maintained by ACEC New York.

**Why is this important for me?**

Public policy directly affects *your* business. If your firm does business with federal and state agencies, your projects are governed by laws, rules and regulations directly shaped by federal lawmakers. If your firm works primarily in the private sector, you benefit from elected officials who support responsible development and public policy governing building in the private sector.

**How are the contributions to political candidates made?**

The ACEC New York staff works with our colleagues at ACEC National to determine which candidates for public office support our initiatives through a detailed questionnaire.

**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/PAC?**

No, contributions cannot be reimbursed and must be voluntary.

**How does ACEC/PAC 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 ACEC/PAC is a useful complement to our long-term legislative program, which includes lobbying to influence the federal government to adopt laws, regulations or policies favorable to consulting engineers, political education, print pieces and other activities.

**Are there limits or restrictions on my giving to the ACEC/PAC?**

Yes. Individuals are limited to \$5,000 to the ACEC/PAC in each calendar year.