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http://www.asce.org/issues_and_advocacy/
http://cqrcengage.com/asce/states
Overview of ASCE Government Relations
Introduction to ASCE Strategic Priorities and Priority Issues
Overview of Tools & Resources
Government Relations Basics
Terminology: Advocacy, Government Relations, Lobbying

Profession is well respected by policymakers
  - Known for *Report Card on America’s Infrastructure*

Large membership presents both challenges and opportunities

Sections/Branches lead the effort
  - Governing structure also presents challenges for government relations

ASCE works with other groups to advocate for the profession
  - NSPE, ACEC, etc.
501(c)(3) organizations are permitted to lobby
- Ok to advocate for issue or legislation or regulatory action

Prohibited from political activity
- Not ok to give money to candidates, endorse candidates

ASCE national can provide guidance
Local Engagement is Critical

- ASCE relies on volunteers to be advocates
- Very few Sections/Branches have any staff
- Very few have lobbyists
- Role of Society staff: Provide guidance, support through expertise, resources, materials, and funding
Participation with federal legislative coalitions
- Americans for Transportation Mobility (ATM)
- Transportation Construction Coalition (TCC)
- Value of Water Coalition
- STEM Education Coalition

Participation with national groups with state influence
- National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)
- National Governors Association (NGA)
- National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA)
- Council of State Governments (CSG)
ASCE Public Policy Committee

- America's Infrastructure
- Key Contact
- State & Local Government Relations
- Energy, Env, & Water PC
- Engineering Practice PC
- Infrastructure & Research PC
- Transportation PC
- ASCE has 160+ policy statements
- Approved by Board of Direction
- Provide guidance on public policy
- Give permission to act on public policy
- Reviewed on 3-year cycle
- Survey of members determines federal and state priorities
- Board approves priority issues
Policy Statements

- Give clear guidance on ASCE’s position
- Have “built-in” talking points
- Can serve as template for:
  - Letters
  - Testimony
  - Discussions with legislators
- Sections / Branches must follow ASCE policy
2017 State Priority Issues

- Licensing
- Qualifications Based Selection for Engineering Services
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) Education
- State Support for Civil Engineering Higher Education
- Sustainability
- Tort Reform & Indemnification for Pro Bono Services
- Transportation Infrastructure Financing
2016 Infrastructure Funding Legislation:
- **New Jersey** 23-cent gas tax increase
- Infrastructure Bank passed in **Nebraska**

Successful 2016 Election Day for infrastructure ballot measures
- ASCE supported 5 key ballot measures in 5 states
- ASCE position prevailed on 5 of the 5 questions

Funding proposals are again anticipated in 2017 in many states:
- Gas Tax Bills: **Alabama, Indiana, Louisiana, Tennessee**
- Funding proposals: **Minnesota, Missouri, South Carolina, Wisconsin**
Continuing education

- 8 states still with no continuing education requirement: AZ, CA, CO, CT, HI, MA, RI, VT, WA

Encouraging states to adhere to ASCE policy

Working to increase participation with state P.E. licensing boards

Several states considered bills this year to do away with all professional licenses in 2015:

- Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Nevada, Washington
- All bills defeated with opposition from ASCE and other professions
- Arkansas bill actually passed House, but never taken up by Senate

In 2016 we saw activity in: Arizona, Georgia, and Kansas
Section/Branch GR Activities

- Organize Section Government Relations
  - Designate a government relations contact
  - Form a government relations committee

- Track Legislation and Respond to Key Alerts

- Monitor State Licensing Board activity

- Release/Promote your State’s Infrastructure Report Card

- Leverage social media and PR outreach
Alabama Advocacy Efforts

  - Infrastructure investment
- Dam safety
- Protecting QBS
Infrastructure Report Card

- Released in late 2015
- Received wide media coverage
- Serves as valuable tool for:
  - Talking legislators
  - Raising awareness with the public
  - Establishing ASCE as a resource
- Proposals in Alabama Legislature
  - Gas tax increase
Dam Safety

- You’ve probably heard: Alabama is the only state with no state administered dam safety program

- ASCE and Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) partnering on the issue
  - Raise awareness
  - Educate legislators
  - Ultimate goal is legislation
Protection of QBS

- Several bills currently pending
- ASCE supports QBS
- Have coordinated with ACEC on this issue
Sustainable Infrastructure
- Report Card for America’s Infrastructure
- Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure

Grand Challenge
- Influence major policy changes and infrastructure funding levels, while challenging civil engineers to focus on innovation, rethink life cycle costs, and drive transformational change—from planning to design to delivery.

Raise the Bar
- Promotes change in state licensure laws to increase the education requirements necessary for P.E. licensure
President Trump
- Has pledged to spend $1 trillion on infrastructure over ten years
- Has said he wants to tap the private sector for investment

Secretary Chao met with Governors last weekend in DC
- Agreeing on how to pay for infrastructure won’t be easy
- Told Governors that P3’s aren’t the answer for everything

Administration asked Governors for list of projects several months ago
Policies relevant to sustainability
- 418 – The Role of the Civil Engineer in Sustainable Development
- 131- Growth and Development
- Sustainability as a principle is referenced in many

Committee on Sustainability

Sustainable Engineering blog:
blogs.asce.org/category/sustainable-engineering

Innovation in Sustainable Civil Engineering Award
- Since 2011, ASCE has honored a civil engineering project annually for its inspirational applications of sustainability

ASCE courses and conferences
What is the Grand Challenge?
- Reduce the life cycle cost of infrastructure by 50 percent by 2025 and foster the optimization of infrastructure investments for society.

How is ASCE addressing the Grand Challenge?
- Creating a Comprehensive Focus on Improving Infrastructure Delivery
- Performance Based Standards
  - Innovation
  - Life Cycle Cost Analysis
  - Enhanced Resilience
- Leveraging our complementary efforts on policy and infrastructure funding to help close the infrastructure gap
An initiative to increase educational requirements for entry into professional engineering

Based upon an accepted **Body of Knowledge**
- Skills and attributes needed for professional practice
- Today’s educational model not compatible with BOK

Licensure requirements If enacted:
- An accredited bachelor’s of engineering degree
- *A master’s in engineering degree or additional 30 semester credits of advanced education*
- Three to four years of experience
- Passing the FE and PE exams
**State Government Relations Resources**

- Financial support for events (SPAG – *not available in FY17*)
- Assistance hiring state lobbyists
- Weekly legislative update (state and federal): *This Week in Washington*
- Legislative tracking service
- “How to” SGR manual

**Staff support**

- Legislative alerts
- Press outreach
- Talking points, testimony, research
- Social media and blogs
Accessible Online at: http://cqrcengage.com/asce/states

Legislative and Regulatory reports

Newest features:
- Individual state pages
- State specific action center
- Latest News
Alabama

ASCE’s State Government Relations Staff works hard to ensure you have the latest infrastructure and professional practice policy information about your state. We encourage you to use our legislative and regulatory tracking service to quickly identify:

- Current legislation and regulations
- News
- ASCE’s public policy positions
- Key Alerts in your state

Engaging in the policy process doesn’t stop here! We encourage you to reach out to us with updates or information about public policy issues in your state, please e-mail Aaron Castello or Maria Matthews.

Legislative Tracking Center

Please select a link to view a report or click the ▶ to limit the report to specific states.

- All Legislation
- Civil Engineers
- Infrastructure Funding
- Licensure and Practice of Civil Engineers
- Sustainability

Regulatory Tracking Center

All Regulations
Civil Engineers

Legislature Details

| Convene Date: | 2/1/2017 |
| Adjourn Date: | 5/22/2017 (Est.) |
| Carry-over: | No |
| Governor: | Robert Bentley (R) |
| House Control: | Republican |
| Senate Control: | Republican |

Top State Issues

Alabama: Protect Qualifications Based Selection for Engineering

The Board of Licensure is considering removing QBS from its Administrative Rules. Contact your legislator and the Board today to express the importance of ensuring engineering services are selected based on qualifications.

Top Federal Issues
Alabama: Protect Qualifications Based Selection for Engineering
Posted: January 26, 2017

In response to an accusation that the existing Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) Administrative Rule is anticompetitive, the Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors (BOL) voted to repeal the QBS Administrative Rule in November 2016. The BOL submitted the QBS Rule to the Alabama Legislative Reference Service to provide an opinion. An unofficial opinion was rendered citing QBS as antitrust. This opinion was based on the outcome of the 1978 Supreme Court ruling against the National Society of Professional Engineers, regarding their QBS practices.

Following that action, a second vote was taken by the BOL at their December meeting to repeal and rewrite the QBS Administrative...
**Legislative Tracking Center**

Select a different report

- **Number**: AL [R] HB 56 - Updated (Status 02/17/2017)
  - **Sponsor**: Rep. Kyle South (REP-AL)
  - **Title**: Public Housing authorities, non-profit affiliates of, limited immunity extended to Sec. 24-1-27 am'd.
  - **Status**: Pending third reading on day 5 Favorable from State Government - 02/16/2017

- **Number**: AL [R] SB 201 - Updated (Status 02/23/2017)
  - **Sponsor**: Sen. Greg Reed (REP-AL)
  - **Title**: Motor vehicles, towing, ALEA authorized to regulate, fee dispute resolution process, civil penalties
  - **Status**: Transportation and Energy first Amendment Offered - 02/16/2017

- **Number**: AL [R] HB 108 - Updated (Status 02/23/2017)
  - **Sponsor**: Rep. Jim Patterson (REP-AL)
  - **Title**: Elevator Safety Review Board, Sunset law review, continued with modification until October 1, 2018, Secs. 25-13-2, 25-13-6, 25-13-9 am'd.
  - **Status**: Reported from Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Development as

**Top State Issues**

- Alabama: Protect Qualifications Based Selection for Engineering
  - The Board of Licensure is considering removing QBS from its Administrative Rules. Contact your legislator and the Board today to express the importance of ensuring engineering services are selected based on qualifications.

**Top Federal Issues**

- Thank Congress for Passing the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act!
  - Please take a moment to send an email of thanks to your members of Congress who voted in favor of this critical water infrastructure bill.

**Latest News**

- BRIEF: ALDOT plans bridge repair work on I-20 eastbound over Coosa River on Wednesday
  - The Anniston Star
  - The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) will perform bridge repairs Wednesday, Feb. 22, starting at 9:30 a.m. ALDOT officials say the bridge repairs will be on the Interstate 20 eastbound bridge over the Coosa River at milepost 164.64 as follows: O Repair work will require the
### Regulatory Tracking Center

#### Alabama

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<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Citation</th>
<th>Register</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alabama - Department of Environmental Management</td>
<td>Conditions Applicable to Storm Water Discharges by Operators of Municipal Storm Sewers</td>
<td>335-6-6-11</td>
<td>Volume XXIV, Issue No. 12 - 09/30/2015</td>
<td>Proposed amended rules - Register Entry</td>
<td>Proposed Amended Rules - Full Text</td>
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<td>Alabama - Department of Conservation and Natural Resources</td>
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<td>220-2.158</td>
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The Anniston Star

...the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) will perform bridge repairs Wednesday, Feb. 22, starting at 9:30 a.m. ALDOT officials say the bridge repairs will be on the Interstate 20 eastbound bridge over the Coosa River at milepost 164.46 as follows: O Repair work will require the outside (right) lane and shoulder of I-20 eastbound to be closed in the area of the work; and 0 All travel lanes will be reopened to traffic no later than 3 p.m. Motorists are...

**Cleburne County to get $1.5 million from state fund for spill cleanup**

The Anniston Star

Some $8 million of that money could go to Cleburne County. On Twitter @ZTyler_Star Staff writer Zach Tyler: 256-235-3564.

**BRIEF: Bridge replacement scheduled, no endangered species found**
Use social media to keep your Section informed, engage elected officials, and educate the public.

- [Facebook](facebook.com/ASCEGovRel)
- [Facebook](facebook.com/SaveUSIAInfrastructure)
- [@ASCEGovRel](@ASCEGovRel)
- [LinkedIn](American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE))
How to Get Involved

**Engage**
- Familiarize yourself with the issues
- Why are these issues important to engineers?
- How do they affect public health, safety and welfare?
- What is ASCE’s position?

**Advocate**
- Take action
- Makes your voice heard
- Educate the public

**Lead**
- Represents the profession
- Inspire others to act
- Serve in ASCE leadership

Get involved. Civil engineers are problem solvers and the key contact program is a way to know where the problems are in our policies and legislation.

Bob Cagle, P.E., F.ASCE
Identify your Federal, state and local elected officials
- Learn a little about them and their positions

Write, call or email your legislators
- Could be as simple as to inform them about an issue or the Report Card
- Let them know you are for or against something currently pending

Meet with your legislators
- Attend a town hall or other meeting
- Set up a time to meet with them to share concerns – your story has impact

Attend a PE Board meeting

Testify before the legislature, PE Board, city council or state/local agency

Write an article/op-ed/letter to the editor on an important issue
Writing an op-ed or letter to editor is easy!

ASCE staff will assist
Become a Key Contact!

1. Receive timely Key Alerts
2. Act on Key Alert alerts
3. Read *This Week in Washington*

More info: [www.asce.org/keycontacts](http://www.asce.org/keycontacts)
Key Contact Program

- Quarterly Webinars
- Advocacy Training
- Federal Advocacy Captains
- Legislative Fly-In: March 14-15, 2017
- Back Home Meetings, Town Halls, & Coffees
- Outstanding Civil Engineer Advocate of the Year: Individual & Team
State Advocacy Captains

- Program to supplement Section and Branch efforts
- Serve as a liaison between the Section/Branch and ASCE GR staff
- Promote ASCE’s priority issues to elected officials, policymakers and state licensing boards
- Coordinate advocacy efforts with Section/Branch Committee activities
- Promote government relations activities and Key Contact Program to ASCE members
- Serve as a “State Lead” at Fly-In
You Can Make a Difference!
Importance of State Involvement

115th Congress members with prior experience as state legislators or Governors


December 30, 2016 | Yanni Chen
Local Engagement is Critical

- ASCE relies on volunteers to be advocates
- Very few Sections/Branches have any staff
- Very few have lobbyists
- Role of Society staff: Provide guidance, support through expertise, resources, materials, and funding
Thank You!

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