

ACEC/Matters

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

July 17, 2025

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ACEC/MA Odyssey Leadership Program

Only nine seats left for ACEC/MA's FY2026 Odyssey Leadership Program.

This 9 Session Course starts September 25 @ Conference Center at Waltham Woods.

Class size is limited to 24 people; only 2 people per firm.

Odyssey is a leadership skills development course for senior management, middle management, and anyone who has been identified as a high potential leader.

[More Info + Online Registration](#)

16th Annual
ACEC/MA Education Corporation Golf Tournament
Proceeds Benefit the ACEC/MA Education Corporation Presidents' Scholarship Fund

ACEC Massachusetts
Education Corporation

Monday, September 29, 2025

Ferncroft Country Club, 10 Village Rd, Middleton MA

9:30 AM Registration | 11:00 AM Shotgun Start | 5:00 PM Reception

ACEC/MA Education Corporation Golf Tournament Registration
September 29, 9:30 AM, Ferncroft Country Club

Eagle Sponsors: Dewberry, H&H, Point5

Birdie Sponsor: CHA

Additional sponsors on the registration page. More sponsors welcome!

Join us for this fun annual event supporting engineering & land surveying scholarships.

[ACEC/MA Education Corp Golf Tournament Registration](#)

Section 199A Made Permanent: What It Means for You

ACEC recorded a presentation on the new tax law: [Budget Reconciliation Bill Briefing for ACEC State Leaders](#)

Passcode: T2\$j#Ent

ACEC attained one major victory for our member firms in the One Big Beautiful Bill (OB BB) signed by President Trump on Independence Day. The tax provisions within the OB BB—specifically around **R&D deductibility and the Section 199A passthrough deduction**—were the culmination of years of strategizing, relationship-building, and hard work by the ACEC national team with support from our state Member Organizations and many member firms.

For well over a year, ACEC pushed relentlessly for a bipartisan bill that would have provided temporary relief on R&D. In January 2024, we won a

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big vote in the House on legislation that would have provided a temporary R&D fix, only to have the bill stall in the Senate. That initial advocacy effort included a paid media campaign, action alerts, recorded testimonials from our members on the impacts of R&D amortization on their firms, and dozens of Hill meetings where the ACEC team amplified those personal stories. R&D also was a key issue at ACEC's 2024 and 2025 Annual Conventions. On every front, our member firm executives made the case that when the government attaches punishing costs to innovation, innovation is guaranteed to stall.

We may have been stymied in the US Senate, but our advocacy resonated in Congress and influenced this year's tax bill. The new law does more than just restore R&D deductibility. It provides retroactive relief to smaller firms—firms represented by so many of our members who shared their stories on the Hill. ACEC was one of the very few advocacy organizations that talked about small business impacts. It made all the difference.

The common thread throughout ACEC's tax advocacy efforts has been that firms allowed to keep more of their money will use it to grow by adding new employees, technology, and physical capital. Earlier this year, the ACEC Research Institute [released a study](#) showing the tremendous impact the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act had on our industry and, in turn, the U.S. economy.

There are other provisions in the OBBB that are concerning for ACEC Member Firms. The advocacy work continues on those issues.

MBTA Training on New Professional Services Invoice Template Beginning on July 1, 2025, the MBTA is requiring consultants to use this new invoice template for all new contracts.

Existing contracts will be given a waiver until January 1, 2026 to allow consultants time to transition data from the existing invoice template to the new format.

MBTA, in conjunction with ACEC/MA, will provide **two more 1-hour training sessions with Q&A on Zoom**. There is no charge for these sessions and they are open to any design professional firm working for the MBTA, but advance registration is required through ACEC/MA.

Sign up for one of the training sessions:

August 13, 11 AM: [Information and Sign up](#)

November 12, 11 AM: [Information and Sign up](#)

MassDOT's Chapter 85 Design and Submittal Requirements for New Municipal Bridge and Bridge Replacement Projects

MGL Chapter 85 Section 35 Review Process: MassDOT has updated their Design Requirements and Submittals for New Municipal Bridge and Full Bridge Replacement Projects. [More Info](#)

Board of Building Regulations & Standards Approves Resilience Technical Subcommittee, Seeks A/E Reps

BBRS has approved a resilience technical subcommittee to support the discussions on the 11th edition of the MSBC. The MA Executive Office of



Energy & Environmental Affairs is seeking subject matter experts to be part of this subcommittee; **they asked ACEC/MA for recommendations for the roles listed below.** This technical subcommittee will meet several times over 6 months, starting in fall 2025:

- Registered Architect with expertise in resilient design
- Civil Engineer (PE) with expertise in resilient design
- Professional Engineer with expertise in resilient design / Mechanical Systems

Candidates should be MA residents and licensed in MA.

If you are interested, send your credentials, including full home and work contact info. to [Abbie Goodman](#) by August 1.

Board of Building Regulations & Standards Seeks Mechanical Engineer

MA PE license & MA residency.

[More Info](#)

Government Affairs

FEDERAL NEWS

See above for recorded briefing on the new federal tax law and what it means for firms.

[ACEC Statement on Passage of “One Big Beautiful Bill”](#)

[ACEC Commentary on Climate Change and the Engineer’s Standard of Care](#)

Monitoring the Trump White House’s Impact on Engineering: [Bookmark this ACEC page](#) - announcements, executive actions, & decisions **including tariffs** from White House that directly impact America's engineering & design services industry

STATE and LOCAL NEWS

Joint Committee on Transportation advances local transportation bill, including Chapter 90 funding: On July 9, the Joint Committee on Transportation Committee advanced a redrafted version of Governor Healey's proposal to soup up the program supporting local road and bridge repairs and to supplement it with even more funding for other infrastructure programs. The updated bill ([H 4257](#)) calls for a one-year, \$300M bond authorization for the Chapter 90 program, including a change to how some dollars are allocated designed to support more rural communities, and \$885M in borrowing to support other maintenance programs, culverts and small bridges, and congestion relief efforts. While legislators retained the Governor's proposed changes to the Chapter 90 funding distribution and her push to increase the annual allotment, they opted to stick with a single year of funding instead of embracing her idea to approve \$1.5B for the next five years. The Chapter 90 program reimburses cities and towns for maintenance of local roads and bridges.

Under the bill on the move, \$200M would be distributed according to the traditional program formula, which considers factors such as road mileage, population, and employment. Another \$100 million would be distributed based solely on road mileage, which lawmakers and Healey administration officials believe will aid western and central Massachusetts municipalities with long stretches of roadways and smaller tax bases.

The legislation would also authorize \$500M in bonding to support the Department of Transportation's lifecycle asset management program, which focuses on roadways that do not receive federal aid, as well as \$200M for culvert replacement and \$185M to tackle "congestion hotspots."

The bill is now with the [Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets](#) which will hold a hearing on 7/21/2025.

For more than a decade, Beacon Hill has typically replenished the Chapter 90 program once per year with \$200M, sometimes adding extra money partway through the cycle or simultaneously funding related grants. In June 2025, the Legislature and Governor Healey agreed to allocate an extra \$80M to Chapter 90 using extra revenue collected through the voter-approved surtax.

[UMass Lowell, National Grid Partner to Advance Climate Education in Elementary, Middle Schools](#)

New DCR Commissioner: The mayor of Easthampton will be the new head of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, effective July 21. DCR announced on July 9 that **Nicole LaChapelle**, who has been mayor of Easthampton since 2018, will replace outgoing Commissioner **Brian Arrigo**, who is starting as vice chancellor of finance and operations at UMass Lowell this summer.

ACEC/MA's Government Affairs Comm (GAC) acts on bills impacting our Eng/PLS/A/E Community. GAC meets next on August 14, 10 AM on Zoom. [Request Zoom Info for August 14](#)

Join us as we review bills impacting the engineering, land surveying, and design professional community.

[Join ACEC/MA GAC](#)

ACEC/MA STEM Task Force

Opportunities & Resources to promote **STEM careers**, particularly in Engineering & Land Surveying. **New: Geek is GLAM on October 11 in Worcester.**

[STEM Task Force Info](#)

ACEC Last Word Blog: News & insights on the Council & the industry

Engineering Influence Podcasts

Subscribe to ACEC's Engineering Influence podcasts on [Podbean](#) and [YouTube](#) so you don't miss an episode.

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If you receive a call or email from something called the 'Massachusetts Transportation Annual' neither MassDOT nor ACEC/MA are supporting this alleged publication in any way.

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Program Registration

***If Your Firm is an ACEC/MA Member, You're an ACEC/MA member.**

Get the ACEC/MA Member Rate for Programs: Register with your INDIVIDUAL assigned username/password. Never use someone else's login info.

?s: Contact acecma@engineers.org or 617-227-5551.

Links live 7/17/2025; Next issue: 7/24/2025

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Abbie Goodman

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