

ACEC/Matters

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

August 27, 2026

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Golf Registration Sold Out – Sponsorship Opportunities Still Available

Individual golfer registration for the September 28 ACEC/MA Education Corporation Golf Tournament at Ferncroft Country Club is officially sold out! A waitlist is available for those still hoping to join us on the course.

Still want to guarantee your spot? The \$5,000 Tournament Sponsorship remains available and includes registration for four golfers, along with premier visibility throughout the tournament. It's a great opportunity for firms looking to support the Education Corporation while making sure they don't miss out on the golf.

Other sponsorship opportunities remain available, including Dinner, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, Raffle, and a limited number of Hole Sponsorships.

Tournament proceeds directly support the ACEC/MA Education Corporation's scholarships and its mission of investing in the next generation of engineering professionals.

[Join the golfer waitlist or secure one of the remaining sponsorship opportunities on the ACEC/MA website.](#)

ACEC/MA Federal Policy Alert: Major Proposals on Small Business Standards and H-1B Fees

ACEC National is closely tracking two significant federal proposals that could have substantial impacts on engineering firms: dramatic changes to federal small business size standards and a new fee for employers utilizing the H-1B visa program.

SBA Proposes Major Increase in Engineering Small Business Threshold

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has proposed sweeping changes to how small businesses are defined for federal contracting. Most notably for ACEC/MA members, the proposal would increase the size standard for Engineering Services (NAICS 541330) from \$25.5 million to \$252 million in average annual receipts over five years, a nearly tenfold increase. This also significantly exceeds the \$29 million threshold SBA proposed just last year.

Other A/E-related industries would see similarly large increases, including Surveying and Mapping from \$19 million to \$92 million and Environmental Consulting Services from \$19 million to \$295 million. If finalized, these changes could significantly reshape competition for federal small business contracts and the firms eligible to participate in small business programs.

You can read the proposed rule and related information:

[91 FR 54096, Notice for Comments: Small Business Size Standards: Revised Size Standards](#)

[91 FR 53741, Proposed Rule: Small Business Size Standards](#)

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ACEC/MA FY2027 Board of Directors

ACEC/MA Forums & Committees

Events & Briefings Calendar

Join an ACEC/MA Committee or Forum



Comments are due on September 21, 2026.

ACEC National is developing comments and assembling a working group of small, medium and large firms with federal contracting expertise. ACEC will also host a virtual discussion with SBA Associate Administrator Ryan Lambert on September 9 at 3:30 PM ET, open to all ACEC members.

[Register here.](#)

New H-1B Employer Fee Reportedly Coming

Separately, it is being [widely reported](#) that the federal government is expected to propose a \$103,265 fee on employers seeking to hire international talent through the H-1B visa program.

The proposal is separate from the \$100,000 H-1B fee established by executive order last year and subsequently invalidated by a federal judge in June. That earlier fee applied only to individuals outside the United States. It is not yet known whether the new proposed fee will have the same limitation or apply more broadly.

The new proposal is expected to have a 30-day public comment period, and ACEC National plans to submit comments. Additional details, including when and to whom the fee would apply, are expected when the proposed rule is released.

ACEC/MA will continue to work with ACEC National and keep members informed as both proposals develop.

Registration Open: Accounting & Finance Forum Banking Trends and Fraud Prevention Webinar on September 17

Thursday, September 17 at 1:00PM, Virtual

Please join the ACEC/MA Accounting & Finance Forum presentation on banking trends and fraud prevention. Eastern Bank will share its perspective on business confidence, interest rates, and the increasing prevalence of fraud. PKF O'Connor Davies' Forensic and Fraud Investigation team will then continue the discussion with additional insights on fraud-related risks and prevention strategies.

Speakers:

- James L. Murphy, Jr., Senior Vice President, Commercial Banking, Eastern Bank
- Elisabeth O. da Silva, Partner, PKF O'Connor Davies
- Darryl Wegner, Managing Director, PKF O'Connor Davies (Former FBI Special Agent)
- Brittani LeBlanc, Supervisor, PKF O'Connor Davies

[Register here.](#)

Reminder: Massachusetts State Primary – September 1

The 2026 Massachusetts State Primary will be held on Tuesday, September 1. Voters across the Commonwealth will cast ballots for candidates for federal, statewide, legislative, county, and other offices.

Polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Election Day. Voters can use the Secretary of the Commonwealth's online resources to check their



registration, find their polling location, and view the candidates who will appear on their ballot.

[Make a plan to vote and find your polling location and sample ballot through the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Elections Division.](#)

Register Today: ACEC/MA Odyssey Leadership Program

[Registration is open](#) for the **FY2027 ACEC/MA Odyssey Leadership Program**, an **in-person, nine-session** leadership development program beginning **September 24, 2026**, and hosted at **The Conference Center at Waltham Woods** in Waltham.

Designed for senior managers, middle managers, and emerging leaders with high leadership potential, Odyssey equips participants with the skills to lead teams, navigate change, communicate effectively, and develop their own leadership style.

Class size is limited to **22 participants**, with a maximum of **two registrants per firm** at this time. The program also includes an individual one-on-one executive coaching session and offers **58 PDHs**.

Over 50% of spots are currently taken. Make sure to secure your spot today!

[Register for Odyssey here.](#)

Help Grow the ACEC/MA Community

As we begin a new fiscal year at ACEC/MA, it's a great time to help grow and strengthen our membership community.

Our members work with firms across the engineering and A/E industry every day, whether as primes, subconsultants, teaming partners, or trusted business partners. Some of those firms may not yet be ACEC/MA members, and we encourage you to recommend membership to firms you think would benefit from being part of our community.

Engineering firms can join as Full Members and gain access to ACEC/MA's advocacy, education, professional development, networking, and industry resources. Affiliate Membership is also available for firms that provide products and professional services to the engineering industry.

Know a firm that should be part of ACEC/MA? Visit our Membership page to learn more about member benefits and the application process, or check our Member Directory to see which firms are already members.

[ACEC/MA Membership Information & Application can be found here.](#)

[ACEC/MA Member Directory can be found here.](#)

Have a question or a firm to recommend? Reach out to us at acecma@engineers.org. We'd be happy to follow up with prospective members and tell them more about ACEC/MA.

Support ACEC/PAC and Enter the 2026 Fall Sweepstakes

ACEC/PAC is the engineering industry's primary tool for political engagement at the national level. Strong participation from ACEC members helps ensure the engineering industry has a voice in Washington and supports ACEC's efforts to advance policies that

strengthen the business environment for engineering firms and promote investment in the nation's infrastructure.

ACEC's advocacy has helped deliver historic federal infrastructure investment, protect QBS, promote contracting out, strengthen federal procurement rules, and advance important tax policies for engineering firms. [Learn more about ACEC/PAC's accomplishments and current policy priorities.](#)

The [2026 ACEC/PAC Fall Sweepstakes](#) is underway, with **18 prizes totaling \$50,000**, including a \$10,000 grand prize. Members can participate with a **\$200 contribution to ACEC/PAC**, with the drawing taking place October 27 during the ACEC National Conference in Phoenix.

Special for ACEC/MA members: Make a **\$200 contribution by October 7** and you'll also receive an invitation to the **ACEC/MA PAC Champions Event at Jacobs on October 7.**

Please note that ACEC/PAC participation is subject to federal election law. Employees of corporate ACEC member firms may be solicited only if their firm has provided ACEC with prior approval to solicit eligible employees. **Contributions must be made with personal funds; corporate checks and corporate credit cards are prohibited. Contributions are voluntary and are not tax deductible.**

[Enter the ACEC/PAC Fall Sweepstakes here.](#)

Rising Professionals Connect at August Social



More than three dozen rising professionals from ACEC/MA member firms came together in Boston last week for the Rising Professionals Committee's August Social Gathering. The event provided an opportunity to connect with peers from across the engineering industry, build relationships, and learn more about getting involved with ACEC/MA.

If you're a rising professional at an ACEC/MA member firm, we encourage you to get involved! The Rising Professionals Committee offers opportunities to expand your network, participate in events and programming, and connect with other emerging leaders in the industry.

[Learn more about the Rising Professionals Committee and sign up to get involved.](#)

ACEC National's *The Market Edge* Podcast: What's Ahead for AEC Markets?

What markets are growing, which sectors are cooling, and what does the rapid rise of data centers and energy infrastructure mean for the AEC industry?

In the latest episode of **ACEC's *The Market Edge* podcast**, Diana O'Lare talks with **Brian Strawberry, Chief Economist at FMI**, about FMI's latest Q3 Outlook and what engineering and construction leaders should be watching over the next five years. The conversation covers trends in manufacturing, data centers, power generation and grid investment, with insights into the risks and opportunities shaping future demand.

[Watch or listen to the latest episode](#)

2026 ACEC Fall Conference Registration Open

Join engineering leaders from across the country at the **2026 ACEC Fall Conference**, October 25–28, at the JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa in Phoenix, Arizona.

The conference brings together more than 1,100 engineering industry leaders for four days of education, networking, and discussions on the issues shaping the future of the profession. Attendees will gain insights on emerging technologies, business strategy, leadership, market trends, and the opportunities and challenges facing engineering firms.

Registration is now open. Hotel information for the ACEC room block will be provided with your registration confirmation.

[Click here to register.](#)

FY2027 ACEC/MA Membership Dues Invoices Sent

FY2027 ACEC/MA membership dues invoices have been sent to member firms.

If you have questions about your invoice or would like to confirm whether your firm has completed its recertification, please contact acecma@engineers.org.

Government Affairs

Government Affairs Committee

The September GAC meeting will be held on September 24 at 10:00AM.

[Request Zoom for 09/24/26.](#)

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

[**Join ACEC/MA GAC**](#)

IN THE NEWS

[The MBTA is catching up on years of deferred maintenance with prolonged shutdowns. Riders are feeling the disruption.](#)

['Beats driving:' South Coast Rail fast becoming popular commuter service since 2025 launch](#)

[Canada announces retaliatory tariffs on the U.S. as the countries' trade fight deepens](#)

[This \\$140 million MBTA project could be a big deal for commuter rail and Amtrak riders north of Boston](#)

[Governor Healey proclaims August 2026 as Hydropower Month in Massachusetts](#)

[Odd bedfellows: Progressive critics join Democratic, Republican party bosses to oppose election reform ballot question](#)

[Healey will host regional summit on nuclear, fusion tech](#)

ACEC and Federal Updates

[A/E Industry Shows Resiliency in the Face of National Economic Volatility](#)

[Monitoring U.S. DOT Changes to the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise \(DBE\) Program](#): ACEC National's continually updated landing page on DBE-related resources, including DBE FAQs on the Interim Final Rule (IFR), an interactive State DOT DBE Policies map, and ACEC Resources

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

ACEC/MA STEM Task Force

Opps & Resources to promote **STEM careers**, particularly in Engineering & Land Surveying.

See our [STEM Task Force page](#) for opportunities to increase awareness about engineering and land surveying careers.

Upcoming Major Events to Save the Dates

September 28: ACEC/MA Education Corporation Golf Tournament - [Waitlist & Sponsorship Information](#).

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 username/password. Never use someone else's login info. ?s: Contact acecma@engineers.org or 617-227-5551.

Links live 08/27/2026; Next issue: 09/03/2026

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Kevin O'Shea

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