

ACEC/Matters

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

September 10, 2026

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2027 ACEC/MA Engineering Excellence Awards: Entry Forms Now Available

Entry forms are now available for the [2027 ACEC/MA Engineering Excellence Awards Competition](#), recognizing engineering achievements that demonstrate the highest degree of merit and ingenuity.

Entry forms are due October 5, 2026 at 5:30 PM, with completed electronic project submissions due October 26 at noon.

Firms considering an entry should begin by identifying their project and securing permission from the client/owner to submit it. Projects involving construction must be substantially completed and ready for use between **November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2026**. Studies and Research or Surveying and Mapping projects must have been publicly disclosed by the client during that same period.

ACEC/MA will also host a [virtual EEA Submissions Assistance Session on October 9 at 10:00 AM](#) for firms interested in learning more about the electronic project submission requirements.

Key Dates:

October 5, 5:30 PM: Entry Forms Due

October 9, 10:00 AM: Virtual EEA Submissions Assistance Session

October 26, 12:00 PM: Electronic Project Submissions Due

December 10: Presentations to Judges for Finalists

January 6, 2027: Eligible entries due to ACEC National

March 25, 2027: ACEC/MA Engineering Excellence Awards Gala at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel

ACEC/MA finalists and Silver Award winners are eligible to advance to the ACEC National Engineering Excellence Awards competition.

[2027 EEA Entry Forms, Key Dates & Submission Information](#)

[Register for the October 9 Virtual Information Session](#)

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

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- LEC Environmental Consultants
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Sponsorships.

We're also looking for **raffle and live auction prizes** for the tournament, such as sports tickets, golf outings and equipment, restaurant or hotel gift certificates, bottles of wine or alcohol and other experiences. If you or your firm have an item to donate, please contact [Gerry Preble](#).

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.](#)

New Licensing Platform Coming for Massachusetts PEs and PLSSs

The Massachusetts Division of Occupational Licensure (DOL) will launch its new **eLIPSE** licensing platform for the Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors on **September 28, 2026**, replacing the current ePLACE system.

Important: If you have a pending application or renewal in ePLACE, complete it by 4:00 PM on September 23. DOL is encouraging licensees to complete any applications, renewals or updates before the system transition to avoid delays.

Beginning September 28, applications and renewals will be completed online through eLIPSE, and licenses will be issued digitally. DOL will no longer print and mail licenses or wall certificates, and paper renewals will no longer be accepted.

When first accessing eLIPSE, licensees will need to create a MyMassGov business account and link their license. Your first and last name must match exactly how your name is associated with your license in eLIPSE.

[Learn more about the September 28 transition to eLIPSE](#)

[View DOL's eLIPSE How-to Guides](#)

Federal Funding and Surface Transportation Update

ACEC National shared two important federal updates following passage of the continuing resolution (CR).

The CR **temporarily blocks the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) from finalizing or implementing proposed changes to federal financial assistance and grant regulations through December 11**. ACEC submitted comments on the proposed rule in July, raising concerns about potential impacts on infrastructure projects, including restrictions on cost-reimbursement contracts, elimination of fixed-amount awards, expanded authority to terminate discretionary awards, and new restrictions on allowable costs. ACEC supports efforts to improve accountability and expand the use of fixed-price contracting but has urged OMB to preserve flexibility and avoid creating additional administrative burdens and uncertainty for state and local agencies and engineering firms.

Separately, House leaders have revised the September legislative calendar. The **House will not be in session the weeks of September 21 or September 28**, leaving next week as its only week in session before the midterm elections. According to ACEC National, the shortened schedule



makes it all but certain that the House will **not take up the surface transportation bill before November.**

[Read ACEC's comments to OMB on the proposed federal financial assistance regulations.](#)

Odyssey, Emerging Leaders & Genesis Alumni Reception - October 1

Thursday, October 1 | 4:00 – 6:30 PM | Stantec, Burlington, MA

Graduates of ACEC/MA's **Odyssey, Emerging Leaders, and Genesis** programs are invited to reconnect with fellow alumni at this exclusive networking reception.

The program will feature a panel discussion on "**Workforce of the Future: Bridging the Gap Between Today's Firms and Tomorrow's Talent**," led by **Margo Armstrong (Tighe & Bond)**, **Maureen Wiklund (VHB)**, and **Steve Ventresca (Nitsch Engineering)**, three local authors of the ACEC Research Institute's *Workforce of the Future* article. Enjoy food, drinks, and conversation while exploring strategies for developing future leaders and retaining top talent. Thank you to **Stantec** for hosting the reception.

[Register today.](#)

This reception is only for graduates of ACEC/MA Emerging Leaders, Genesis, or Odyssey. Please do not register for this reception if you have not graduated from any of these courses.

EPA and Army Corps Issue New WOTUS Proposal

The **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** and **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** have released a Supplemental Proposed Rule addressing the definition of "**Waters of the United States**" (**WOTUS**). The proposal seeks public comment on revised definitions of key terms including "perennial," "relatively permanent," and "continuous surface connection."

The proposal is expected to be published in the Federal Register shortly, after which there will be a **30-day public comment period**. ACEC National is seeking feedback and analysis from member firms to help inform potential comments. Members interested in providing input can contact [Jordan Baugh](#).

For additional information, members can review the EPA's proposed rule, fact sheet, and WOTUS webpage:

[Supplemental Proposed Rule](#)

[EPA Fact Sheet](#)

[EPA WOTUS Page](#)

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

Thursday, September 17 | 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](#).

Massport Designer Selection Panel Seeking Candidates

The **Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport)** is seeking candidates to fill **two openings on its Designer Selection Panel (DSP)**. The volunteer opportunity is open to **Professional Engineers, Registered Architects, and individuals from academia who are licensed in and reside in Massachusetts**. Diverse candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Candidates must be free of conflicts of interest. In particular, individuals employed by firms that may submit proposals to the DSP should review the eligibility requirements before applying.

Interested candidates should submit a resume by **September 30, 2026**, to [Luciana Burdi](#) and [Alexandra Scarfo](#).

[For more information on the role, qualifications, time commitment, and conflict-of-interest requirements, please see the job description.](#)

MassDOT Innovation Webinar Series: Advancing Low-Carbon Concrete for MassDOT Infrastructure - September 23

Wednesday, September 23 | 1:00PM | Virtual

MassDOT will present findings from recent research evaluating recycled ground-glass pozzolan and other low-carbon alternatives for use in concrete infrastructure. The webinar will explore how these materials could reduce reliance on traditional hydraulic cement and lower the carbon footprint of concrete while maintaining the performance, quality and long-term durability required for MassDOT projects.

Presenters Richard Mulcahy of MassDOT, Jianqiang Wei of the University of Maryland and Sergio Brena of UMass Amherst will discuss the research findings and the potential application of these emerging materials in transportation infrastructure.

This webinar is free to attend. [Register today.](#)

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.](#)

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.](#)

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

[For Healey, a delicate dance with the utilities emerges during election season](#)

[SJC says Nahant can take Northeastern University land](#)

[Proposed data centers subjected to local approvals under Healey order](#)

[Electric meters in Mass. are getting a 'smart' upgrade](#)

[The T put high-tech fare gates at South Station. Some can't be used when it rains](#)

[Boston shares updated design for Blue Hill Ave bus project](#)

[Recounts taking shape in two Democratic legislative primaries](#)

[Mass. voters get 8 weeks to read up on 9 ballot questions](#)

[Massachusetts August tax revenues hit \\$3.15 billion, up 13% over last year](#)

[Guv to try again for stalled priorities in closeout budget](#)

['Ambitious but possible': Wu plans on new tax breaks, reworked zoning to tackle Boston housing crisis](#)

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 09/10/2026; Next issue: 09/17/2026

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