

# SUPPORT FLORIDA'S PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS



The **Florida Engineering Society (FES)** and the **American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida (ACEC Florida)** represent professional engineers and engineering firms across the state of Florida. Our members design, maintain, and improve the public and private facilities that support Florida's communities and economy.

## FOUNDATIONAL ISSUES FOR FLORIDA ENGINEERS



### SUSTAINED FUNDING FOR CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

**CHALLENGE:** Underfunding critical infrastructure increases costs in the long term.

*Insufficient funding for critical infrastructure threatens public safety and human health. Without sustained funding, communities could face unsafe roads, unreliable transit, poor-quality drinking water, and increased pollution, which impede economic growth and prosperity.*

**SOLUTION:** Sufficient, sustained funding will strengthen our economy.

*Robust funding to repair, maintain, and modernize critical infrastructure provides the foundation for a strong economy, which attracts investment and creates high-wage jobs. Maintaining the financial integrity of the Transportation Trust Fund is essential to preserving Florida's ability to invest in safe, reliable, and future-ready transportation infrastructure. Safeguarding the fund ensures long term stability for projects that support mobility, economic growth, and community resilience for Floridians.*



### LONG TERM COST SAVINGS FOR QUALITY ENGINEERING

**CHALLENGE:** Pressure to prioritize cost savings over quality engineering in publicly funded infrastructure projects results in higher costs down the road.

*Safety risks, project delays, and expensive cost overruns are often the result of selecting underqualified engineering firms that offer below market bids to undercut the more qualified competitors.*

**SOLUTION:** Safeguard the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA).

*Florida's CCNA requires governments to select engineering professionals based on qualifications first, with the cost of services introduced in subsequent negotiations. Prioritizing qualifications in the procurement process protects taxpayers' investment in public infrastructure by ensuring projects are designed to industry standards, which saves money in the long term.*



### QUALIFIED OVERSIGHT OF THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION

**CHALLENGE:** Spending taxpayer funds on public infrastructure designed by unqualified engineers will erode public trust.

*Weakening licensure or defunding oversight of the engineering profession creates preventable threats to public safety and public health. Unqualified individuals could enter the field, leading to unsafe designs that cost additional time and money to repair and replace.*

**SOLUTION:** Preserve the role of Florida's Professional Engineering Regulatory Board.

*Florida's Professional Engineering Regulatory Board plays a critical role in protecting public safety and public health by setting high standards and accountability for the profession, which ensures qualified engineers are designing critical infrastructure.*

# 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



## RECRUITING PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS TO PUBLIC SERVICE

**SB 800 Senator Debbie Mayfield | HB 839 Representative Lauren Melo**

This bill establishes a workforce initiative to recruit professional engineers to public service and modernizes the penalties for unlicensed engineering activity.

- The bill creates the Engineering Student Loan Assistance Program, funded by existing fees, to provide up to four years of financial assistance for student loan repayments to newly licensed engineers who work for state government or water management districts. Reducing educational debt for recent engineering graduates provides a powerful incentive to enter public service and creates an effective tool for state agencies to attract and retain qualified engineers who would earn higher salaries in the private sector.
- This bill increases penalties for unlicensed engineering activity, escalating fines with each additional violation. Ensuring engineering activity is licensed protects public safety.



## CREATING CONSISTENCY FOR PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY PROTECTION

**SB 888 Senator Jonathan Martin | HB 699 Representative Bill Conerly**

Under Florida law, the requirements for professional liability insurance for engineers are different for publicly funded infrastructure and private projects. This bill makes the requirements the same for all design projects across the state, limiting requirements for coverage to what's insurable and ensuring taxpayers and property owners are protected against errors, omissions, negligence and recklessness.

### ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN FLORIDA\*

- The engineering and design industry directly employs 1.65 million full-time and part-time people nationwide, with 122,000 in Florida alone.
- The engineering and design industry's total contribution to GDP in 2024 was \$656 billion.
- The engineering and design industry generated over \$135 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenues.
- Every \$1.00 spent on engineering and design services generated \$1.50 in GDP.

\*2024 Economic Assessment of the Engineering and Design Services Industry. ACEC Research Institute

Read more about FES and ACEC Florida's policy priorities.



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