

# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND ADVOCACY

*AN MSPE AND NSPE UPDATE  
MAY 2023*

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# Why Should Engineers Care About Advocacy?

## Legislation/Policy Impacts the Profession in Several Ways:

- ❖ Personal Professional Licensure
  - Granted through Article 20 of PA 299 of 1980 (as amended)
  - Rules are promulgated by the State Licensing Board
  - Ensures standard education, experience and testing as well as standard for continued competence
  - Department oversight of 20,274 licensed professional engineers in Michigan
- ❖ Business Compliance
  - Michigan 2/3 rule (Section 339.2010 of PA 299)
  - Services Requiring the Use of Licensed Design Professionals
- ❖ Practice Standards
  - Environmental Regulations (Federal/State/Local)
  - Building Codes
  - Energy Standards
  - Land Division/Zoning Ordinances

# Public Policy

Formed through a course of government action or inaction in response to a public issue – generally address the health, safety and welfare of the public.

## Health

- Environmental Regulations
- 10 States Standards
- ADA

## Safety

- Traffic Laws
- OSHA
- Building Codes

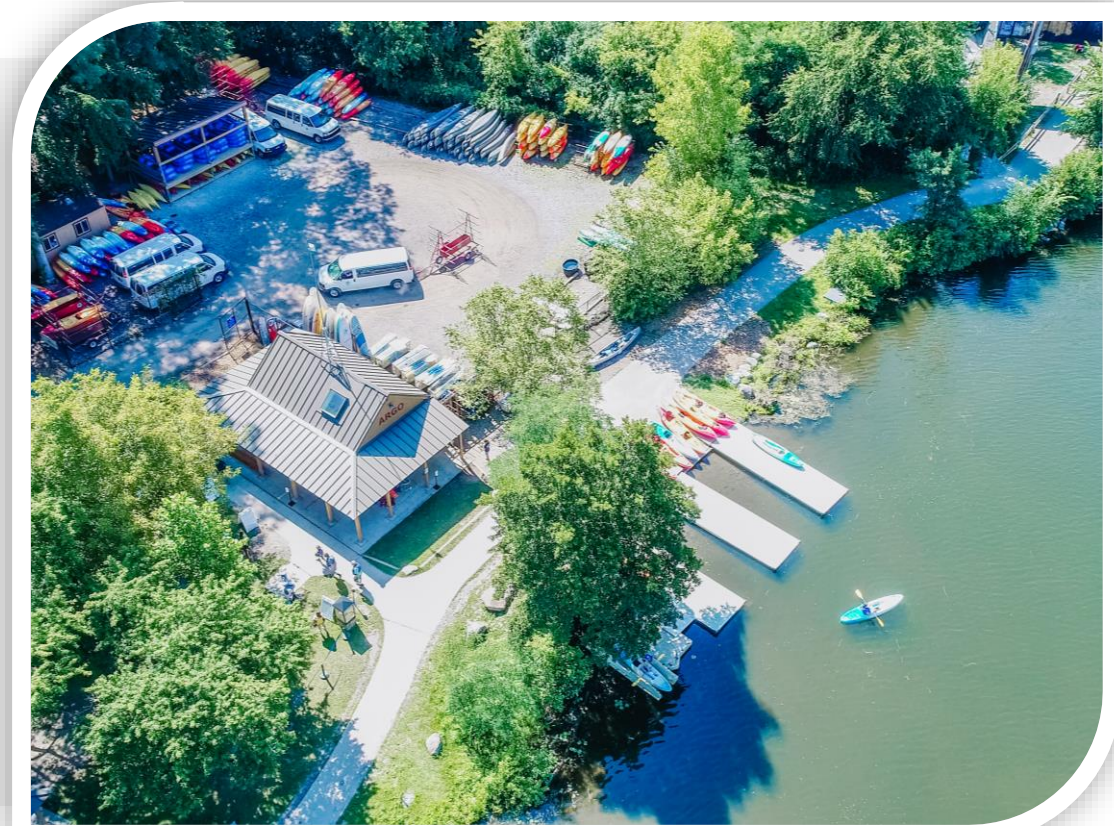
## Welfare

- Social Security
- Tax Incentives for Businesses and Individuals
- Local Zoning

# Other Legislative Impacts

## ❖ Funding

- Federal, State and Local budgets
- Grant/Loan Programs
- Bonding Rules/Regulations
- Appropriations
- Tax Initiatives
- Tax Credits



# Public Policy Formation



**Public policy is formed at all levels of government.**

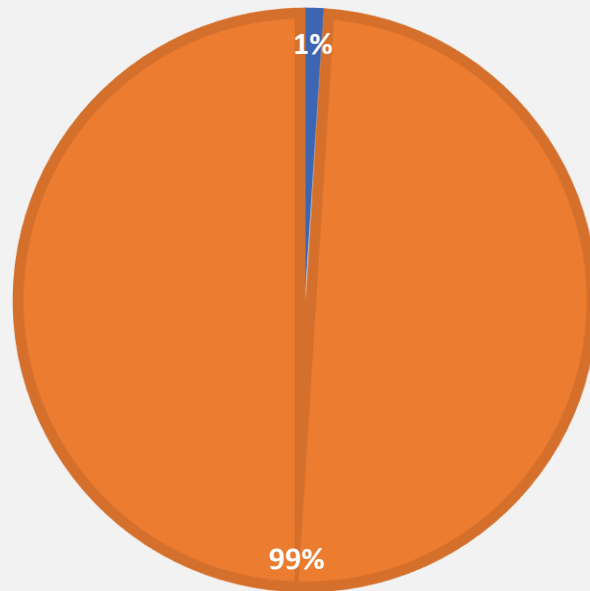
**It is important to be engaged at all levels in different manners.**

**Many times, legislators move between levels.**

# Who Makes the Rules?

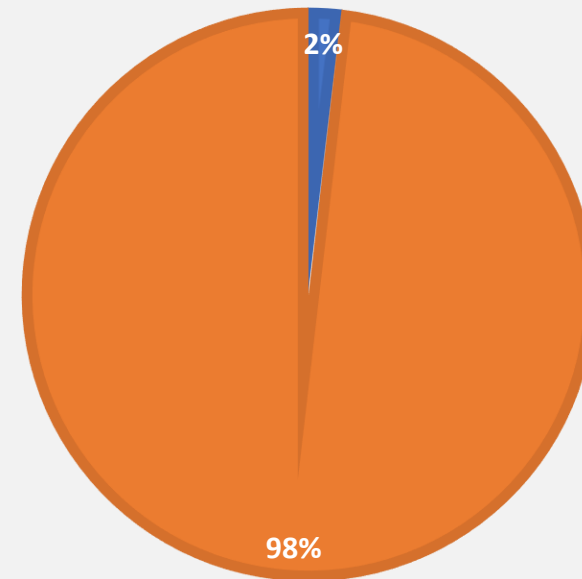
## Federal

### SENATE



■ Engineers ■ Non-Engineers

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



■ Engineers ■ Non-Engineers

# Who Makes the Rules?

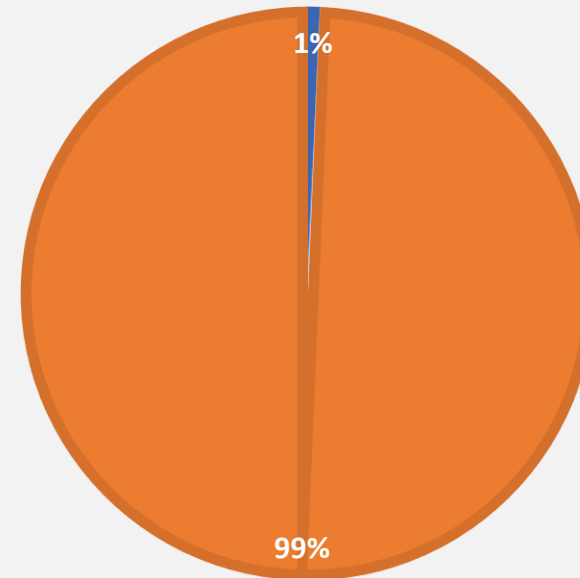
Michigan

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# Who Makes the Rules?



## LOCAL

- ❖ County Board of Commissioners
- ❖ County Agencies
- ❖ City/Village/Township Elected Officials
- ❖ Planning Commission/Zoning Boards
- ❖ Utility Authority Boards



# How Do We Work On Advocacy at MSPE



- ❖ L&GA Committee
- ❖ Architects, Engineers, and Surveyors Legislative Coalition (AESLC)
  - Shared Lobbyist Firm, Kelley Cawthorne
- ❖ MSPE-PAC
- ❖ Annual Legislative Day

## 2021-2022 Legislative Actions

- ❖ SB 5286 – Flashing Lights on Speed Signs in Construction Zone – PA 52 of 2022
- ❖ SB 627/628 – Remonumentation Bills – PA 81 and PA 82 of 2022
- ❖ SB 642 - Qualifications Based Selection – passed House and Senate; pocket veto
- ❖ HB 5538 – Design/Build for School Construction - Stopped at 11<sup>th</sup> hour from moving out of committee
- ❖ Appropriations/Funding bills for infrastructure
- ❖ PE Administrative Rules Change to Include Ethics CPD requirement

# 2023-2024 Legislative Concerns

- ❖ Infrastructure Appropriations
- ❖ SB 43 – Traffic Control Devices – passed Senate in House Committee
- ❖ SB 88/89 – Clean Water in Schools/Child Care Centers
- ❖ Working on introduction of bill to amend PA 132 of 1970
- ❖ Working on education and reintroduction of QBS bill
- ❖ Preparing for potential reintroduction of the School Design/Build bill



# 2023 Legislative Day

- ❖ March 3, 2023 – Virtual Meeting
- ❖ March 1, 2023 – Reception at Kelley Cawthorne Office
  - 73 Attendees/81 Legislator Meetings
  - Information packets provided to all 148 Legislators
  - Discussion Topics:
    - ❑ Greater Investment in Michigan’s Infrastructure
    - ❑ QBS for Design Professionals
    - ❑ PA 132 of 1970 amendments



# We Need Your Help!



- ❖ **Input on Pending Legislation**
- ❖ **Contacts with Legislators**
  - **Committee**
  - **House**
  - **Senate**
  - **Governor**
- ❖ **Engineering Resource for Legislators**

# How Do We Work On Advocacy at NSPE



- ❖ **Full-time Advocacy Staff**
- ❖ **Committee on Policy and Advocacy**
- ❖ **Coalitions/Partners**
  - **ARPL – Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing**
  - **BRAC – Building Resilient Action Committee**
  - **PCC – Professional Certification Coalition**
- ❖ **Emerging Issue Task Force Creation**
  - **Software Professional Certification TF**

# 2021-2022 Federal Advocacy Initiatives

- ❖ Supported S. 722 which would allow changes in 529 account spending (did not pass)
- ❖ Provided updates from United Nations Climate Change Conference
- ❖ Developed resource document regarding PE Stamp and Signature Process (published in early 2023)
- ❖ Actively reviewed NSPE Position Statements for relevancy and established timelines for review
- ❖ Attended various events regarding topics of importance to NSPE members



# 2023-2024 Federal Advocacy Initiatives

- ❖ Supporting S. 722 and H.R. 1477 which allows changes in 529 account spending
- ❖ Advocating for continued funding at \$200 M for FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program
- ❖ Advocating for continued funding at \$100M for FEMA capitalization grants
- ❖ Actively reviewing NSPE Position Statements for relevancy
- ❖ Developing position paper on Artificial Intelligence and it's potential impact on public health, safety and welfare
- ❖ State Advocacy Subcommittee continuing work to better align resources and identify advocacy gaps





# GET INVOLVED!!

- ❖ Contact your elected officials to establish a working relationship – fundraisers and coffee hours are great ways to chat.
- ❖ Contact your representatives about a specific policy that impacts engineers or other design professionals
- ❖ Attend a city council meeting and offer your perspective as an engineer on new projects or pending rules
- ❖ Serve on local or state boards
- ❖ Run for office!



# QUESTIONS