



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (GAC) CHARTER

MISSION STATEMENT

The Government Affairs Committee (GAC) identifies, drafts, and advocates for APWA's public policy/legislative priorities to the U.S. Congress and Federal Agencies and promotes the importance of advocacy to APWA's membership.

OBJECTIVES: The principal objectives of the committee, of equal importance and in no particular order, supporting APWA's Strategic Goals and Activities are:

Value: Promote the value of public works and enhance its visibility and awareness:

- Identify APWA's top public policy priorities for each U.S. Congressional cycle in APWA's primary issue areas (*Transportation, Water Resiliency, and Emergency Management*), and draft public policy statements representing APWA's broad membership to present to the APWA Board of Directors for approval every two years.
- In drafting the public policy statements, ensure they are consistent with the state and local government principles of:
 - Respect for local authority.
 - Reasonable regulations and protection from unfunded mandates.
 - Support for streamlining government oversight.
 - Support for sustainability and environmental stewardship.
- In addition to the three primary public policy areas, work with the U.S. Congress and federal agencies to support efforts, both legislative and regulatory, to strengthen and grow awareness of public works as a premier career choice.
- Related to APWA's *Emergency Management* public policy, advocate to and educate the U.S. Congress and federal agencies on public works professionals as First Responders.

Voice: Be the voice of public works to government leaders, the public, and media:

- Lead the APWA member effort to increase APWA's name recognition before the U.S. Congress and federal agencies and become a relied upon resource for all branches of the U.S. government.
- Serve as spokespersons promoting APWA's public policy priorities to the organization as well as to all branches of the U.S. government and the general public.

Education & Credentialing: Provide excellence in education and credentialing:

- Participate in advocacy related education sessions, both virtual and in-person to engage with members about the importance of advocating for public works.



- Share personal advocacy experiences with members to provide insight, and increase knowledge and skills needed to advocate for public works successfully at the federal, state, and local levels of government.
- Be familiar with APWA's U.S. Advocacy Tools and Resources in-order-to promote their usage to members.

Membership & Chapters: Deliver an outstanding and valuable membership experience in collaboration with chapters.

- Lead and seek to increase APWA's organization-wide member participation in advocacy activities—with special attention toward engaging APWA Chapters.
- Promote the importance of advocacy within their respective chapters.
- Encourage members to provide feedback and input through legislative, regulatory, and judicial processes.
- Work within chapters to assist members in developing advocacy skills to influence positive infrastructure policy outcomes at the federal, state, and local levels of government.

ORGANIZATION

To be comprised of 12 members, including the Chair, with a diversity of backgrounds and experience in APWA's primary public policy areas, geographic diversity, and be representative of APWA's broad membership. Members will serve two-year terms to best align with Congressional cycles and may serve a maximum of three two-year terms.

COMMITTEE MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

GAC members are expected to actively contribute to public policy drafting, review, and the advocacy of the policies. Will consistently participate in monthly conference calls, attend the GAC Spring meeting in Washington, D.C. each year, and attend the GAC meeting at PWX each year. Expenses incurred when attending the Spring meeting will be reimbursable for committee members in accordance with the APWA Volunteer Travel Policy. In addition to policy drafting, and the actions outlined in this charter, GAC members will rotate drafting the monthly "GAC Insight" column for the *APWA Reporter*.

Chair: The Committee Chair shall be appointed by the APWA President-Elect. The Chair is responsible for the overall direction to and management of the Committee. The term of office for the Chair shall be two years. The Chair may serve for no more than four years of their potential six-years of serving on the GAC.

Members: The President-Elect shall appoint (in addition to the Chair) up to eleven members to serve on the Committee for a term of two years and up to three consecutive terms.

Corresponding Member: Subject matter experts may be added to the GAC as *Knowledge Team* members at the discretion of the Chair. *Knowledge Team* members would provide input to policy discussions and drafts of policy statements. These experts would primarily be pulled from APWA technical committee membership, kept apprised of activities and be invited to submit



comments/suggestions for GAC consideration. *Knowledge Team* members would not have voting privileges and would not be reimbursed by APWA for travel to attend committee meetings.

COORDINATION OF APWA REVIEWS

The APWA Board of Directors or Executive Committee may request specific reviews of policy and activities in which GAC is involved. An ad hoc review committee may be appointed and following guidelines established for conduct of reviews, a report assessing the effectiveness of the GAC and/or drafted policies may be reviewed and recommendations made towards improving the effectiveness of the GAC and the identified public policies.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

The primary staff support to the GAC is the Director of Government and Public Affairs, with support from the Government Affairs staff. Within the parameters of APWA's finance structure, the Director of Government and Public Affairs will be responsible for proposing, implementing, and managing the financial support and budget needed for the GAC to be successful.

REPORTS

The GAC Chair and the Director of Government and Public Affairs shall provide an annual report at PWX to the APWA Board of Directors about the activities of the GAC, the identified public policy priorities, and the progress made towards achieving the goals of the GAC.

Date of Board Approval: February 17, 2017. Amended Charter Approved February 23, 2021.