

## Position Statements Facilitate Advocacy

ACI's nine declarations support code development and industry cooperation

by Robert J. Frosch and Stephen S. Szoke

**D**uring the Spring and Fall 2019 ACI Concrete Conventions, the Institute's Board of Direction approved six position statements to facilitate advocacy and outreach efforts related to the development of codes and standards. Success in codes and standards development often relies on building relationships and fostering support from like-minded groups. While position statements are instrumental for these activities, the statements may also be used to communicate ACI programs and activities to a multitude of audiences. During the Spring 2020 Board of Direction meeting, three additional position statements were approved. These statements emphasize ACI's role in influencing programs, policies, rules, and regulations related to concrete and concrete technology.

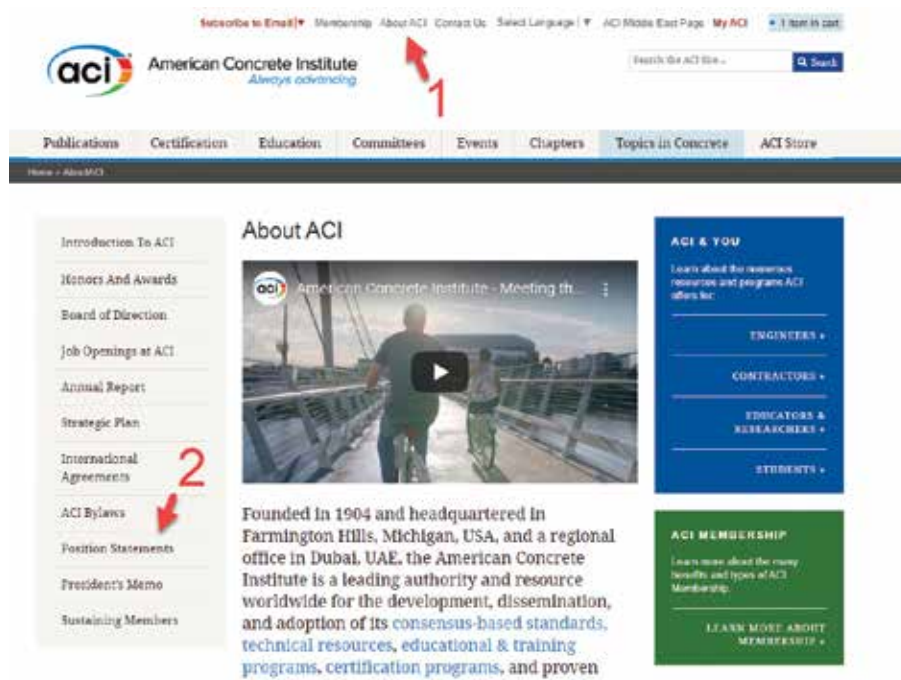
Because many other organizations communicate their positions and policies via statements, ACI's position statements can allow the Institute to more easily align its efforts with like-minded organizations. The statements are valuable in venues at all levels: local, state, national, and international—anywhere ACI may benefit from influencing programs, rules, regulations, legislation, and related endeavors. Where ACI position statements are in alignment

with those of other organizations, they may be used to enhance relationships and encourage collaboration.

### Policies and Procedures

A position statement is initiated by the ACI Committee on Codes and Standards Advocacy and Outreach

(CSAO), which identifies an issue and ballots a draft statement as a recommendation to the ACI Executive Committee. If approved by the Executive Committee, a statement is advanced to the ACI Board of Direction for approval. Successful statements are classified as either position statements (PS)



The approved position statements are posted for public viewing on the ACI website on the “About ACI” page

or standing position statements (SPS).

Statements assigned to the former class must be reviewed every 3 years to ensure continuing alignment with ACI's mission and the goals and objectives of ACI's strategic plan. These position statements may be reapproved, revised, or terminated. Statements assigned to the latter class have been determined to be fundamental to the core activities, mission, and goals of ACI. Standing position statements are reviewed for revision or termination only when a member of CSAO, the Executive Committee, or the Board requests a review.

## Benefits

Among many associations, adoption of position statements is a common technique for establishing guidelines and providing direction for representatives influencing relevant standards and regulations developed by other entities. While ACI has previously had only limited efforts toward pursuing or influencing national and international programs, policies, and standards, inaction is not compatible with the objectives

of the outreach strategic goal in the ACI strategic plan: "actively seek opportunities to advance national and global outreach" and "establish relationships with regulatory authorities to advance adoption."

Advocacy efforts involve commitments to support activities that influence local, state, national, and global policies, positions, and program initiatives that are aligned with ACI's vision, mission, and strategic plan. Effective outreach requires that sanctioned ACI representatives attend and actively participate in meetings and hearings. Because simultaneous balloting of appropriate ACI members or committees is not feasible, the adopted position statements serve as a mechanism allowing representatives to make timely responses, thus establishing ACI as an entity capable of being engaged in development of policy positions. Position statements are thus valuable instruments that provide ACI the opportunity to benefit in local, state, national, and international policy and program initiatives that are consistent with ACI's mission, vision, and strategic plan.



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# Code Advocacy

## Current Statements

ACI now has nine position statements on advocacy efforts related to code development and adoption. The three most recently approved statements encourage the development and use of ACI programs, services, and standards. The statements are listed herein, with position statements designated as SPS or PS in the title:

- **Current Code and Standard Adoption (SPS).** Encourage the adoption and/or use of current building codes and standards;
- **Adoption of ACI Documents without Modifications (SPS).** Encourage the adoption and use of ACI products including, but not limited to, codes and standards, without modification;
- **Acceptance of ACI Certification Programs (SPS).** Support the use of certifications as requirements for acceptance of sampling, testing, inspection, and installation of concrete and related products and materials; encourage the use of certification programs developed and administered by professional societies in lieu of programs developed and administered by other entities; and support mandates or other preferences on accreditation of individuals and entities engaged in providing services related to concrete and concrete products;
- **Concrete Knowledge (SPS).** Support research, technological advancements, and dissemination of concrete technology; and encourage such programs, where applicable, be channeled through, directed to, or otherwise engaged with ACI and/or the ACI Foundation;
- **Enhanced Resilience (PS).** Encourage or establish criteria related to enhancing the resilience of the built environment; and, where appropriate, engage ACI and/or the ACI Foundation to facilitate programs and activities related to the role of concrete technology in achieving enhanced resilience;
- **Sustainability (PS).** Encourage or establish criteria related to enhancing the sustainability of the built environment; and, where appropriate, engage ACI and/or the ACI Foundation to facilitate programs and activities related to the role of concrete technology in achieving enhanced sustainability;
- **Professional Societies (SPS).** Encourage and place preference on programs and services developed by professional societies and encourage the use of ACI programs and services where related to the advancement of concrete technology;
- **New Standards (SPS).** Encourage new standards related to concrete technology be developed through ACI, or otherwise involve ACI in the development process; and
- **ACI Chapters (SPS).** Encourage the dissemination of

concrete technology and acceptance and adoption of ACI codes and related materials through ACI chapters.

## Advocacy and Outreach

ACI's position statements have already been useful in better communicating ACI positions in codes and standards development and in setting public policy. The statements have facilitated ACI collaboration and activities with the Alliance for National and Community Resilience, Building Owners and Managers Association, Green Building Institute, International Code Council, National Fire Protection Association, National Institute of Building Sciences, Resilience Building Coalition (hosted by the American Institute of Architects), and U.S. Green Building Council.

Continued collaboration based on the Institute's position statements will help ACI align efforts with other organizations to better influence programs, policies, rules, and regulations related to concrete and concrete technology.

Selected for reader interest by the editors.



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