

## State and Local Advocacy Efforts

Educating and building relationships on the local level

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Over the past several years, ACI has made a concerted effort to reach out to its chapters and members to encourage participation in opportunities for enhancing codes, standards, and certifications at the state and local level. This effort began with a change in ACI's mission in 2017: "ACI develops, disseminates, *and advances the adoption* of its consensus-based knowledge on concrete and its uses." The effort has grown as code advocacy continues to be integrated throughout ACI programs and services.

ACI staff have been working with members to assist them in developing a better understanding of the code adoption process within their states and local jurisdictions. This has been done through educational programs (for example, Chapter Talks and Chapter Chats), various news articles, and the establishment of ACI advocacy collaboration groups. State and local advocacy efforts provide an opportunity for educating and building relationships with code officials as well as those making decisions on building codes at the local level. These efforts are also an important avenue for adoption of ACI standards and related code development activities intended to enhance model codes.

Through these efforts, it has been discovered that education needs to start at a very basic level, from explaining that ACI is not a trade association (but instead a professional society dedicated to the advancement of concrete technology) to describing how part of the purpose of ACI committee work is the maintenance and development of code requirements and related programs and services intended to better safeguard the public.

### Position Statements

ACI position statements focus on advocacy efforts related to code development and adoption, as well as provide a framework for advocacy on the state and local level. The

Institute now has 13 position statements on various topics supporting policy positions along with state, federal, and international programs, rules, and regulations. The process of developing ACI position statements was created by the ACI Board of Direction to allow ACI staff and designated members to actively engage in advocating for ACI code adoption. For more information and to view ACI position statements, visit [www.concrete.org/positions](http://www.concrete.org/positions).

### State Initiatives Collaboration Groups

ACI advocacy collaboration groups have been established as forums for those interested in advocacy efforts in specific states and jurisdictions. Whether it be ACI codes, standards, certifications, or other industry partner initiatives, these groups provide a forum for members to work on the development and dissemination of technical criteria and related programs. The collaboration groups are hosted under the ACI Committee Directory at [www.concrete.org/committees/directoryofcommittees](http://www.concrete.org/committees/directoryofcommittees).

The online setup to facilitate the collaboration groups is similar to ACI committee web pages (Fig. 1). Files are set up on the web pages, and documents such as meeting agendas, minutes, and draft code amendment language are placed for collaboration group members to review. Via email blasts from ACI, ACI members are invited to join collaboration groups in the various states where there is code development activity and where they have an interest in supporting the process. Other industry partners, including non-ACI members, are welcome to join and support the work of the collaboration groups. When working in the various states and local jurisdictions, it is critical to have local representation and engagement through ACI chapters as well as individuals who can support and influence our efforts locally. This might include attending a code commission and technical committee

meetings, by providing testimony or educational programs, or by providing a letter of support that is submitted along with a code change proposal.

Collaboration groups have been established for over a dozen states and major cities in the United States (Table 1).

The collaboration groups range in size from a few individuals to 20 or more. ACI chapters have been extremely supportive of many of the state initiatives, especially with providing local letters of support from Board members, which is a requirement in

some states to initiate a code change proposal. In several states, collaboration group members have provided testimony at code commission hearings through both web-based and in-person meetings. Members from both the national and local chapters of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA) and International Concrete Repair Institute (ICRI) have also supported many of the proposals submitted to reference ACI certifications and the ACI 562 Repair Code by participating in the code development process either through submitting letters of support or providing testimony.

## Current Education Activities

ACI members and staff have been supporting efforts to reach out to licensed design professionals, code officials, and various other professional organizations across the country. They have assisted with educating these groups on the use and benefits of ACI

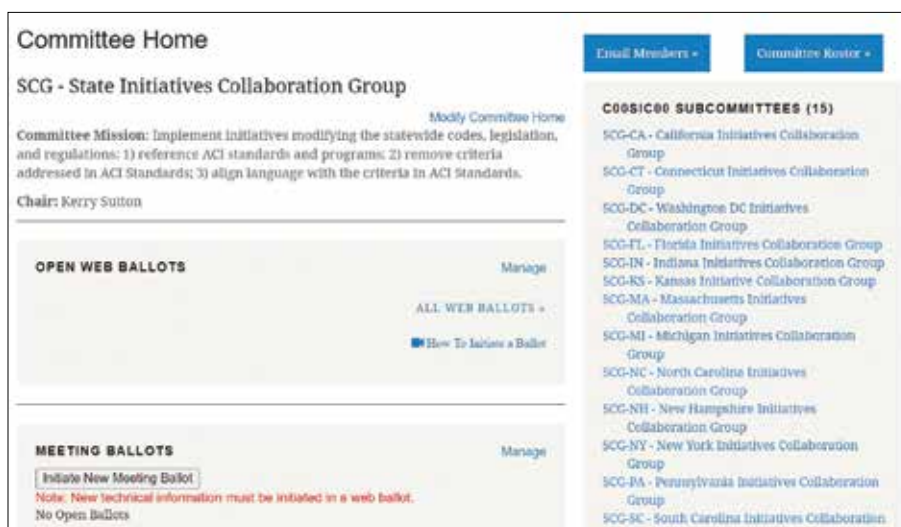


Fig. 1: ACI advocacy collaboration group page

**Table 1:**  
Collaboration groups actively pursuing standards adoption in state or local jurisdictions

State/City	Activity	Status
Arizona	Exploratory	TBD
California	Reference ACI 562; Certifications	Ongoing
Connecticut	Reference ACI 562; Certifications	Ongoing
Florida	Exploratory—Certifications	TBD
Indiana	Exploratory	TBD
Kansas City, KS, USA	Exploratory	TBD
Massachusetts	Reference ACI 562; Certifications	Ongoing
Michigan	Exploratory—ACI 562	TBD
North Carolina	Reference ACI 562; Certifications	Ongoing
New Hampshire	Exploratory	TBD
New York	Exploratory	TBD
Pennsylvania	Reference ACI 562; Certifications	Ongoing
South Carolina	Reference ACI 562; Certifications	Ongoing
Virginia	Reference ACI 562; Certifications	TBD
Washington, DC, USA	Reference ACI 562; Certifications	Ongoing
Washington State	Reference ACI 562; Certifications	TBD

# Code Advocacy

codes, standards, and certifications. Providing educational opportunities to code officials has been a key focus, as they represent a group that in many cases has limited access to ACI

resources but is actively involved in voting to approve or disapprove of a code change proposal. In several states, ACI chapters have volunteered to assist with education efforts by providing a local individual to make a presentation or sponsoring an exhibit at a local code official conference (Table 2). By doing so, they are sharing the benefits of ACI resources and helping to foster relationships at the local level. ACI participation has been warmly welcomed by many of these organizations. ACI chapters are encouraged to seek opportunities to participate in these events in their respective states, and ACI staff members are available to assist.

As ACI continues to promote and seek opportunities for advocating for the adoption of its building codes, standards, and certifications on the state and local levels, participation by its members on the local level will continue to grow. If you are interested in participating in the code development process on the state or local level, contact one of the ACI Code Advocacy Engineers: Kerry Sutton at [kerry.sutton@concrete.org](mailto:kerry.sutton@concrete.org) or Steve Szoke at [steve.szoke@concrete.org](mailto:steve.szoke@concrete.org). The success of these efforts relies primarily on the grassroots engagement of ACI members.



ACI chapter members supporting code change proposals in North Carolina

**Table 2:**  
Recent code official and professional society conference presentation/exhibit opportunities for ACI collaboration group members

Partnering organization	Event/Topic	Location
Building Code Officials/ICC	Presentation—Code Requirements for Sampling, Testing, and Inspecting Structural Cast-in-Place Concrete	Webinar
Building Code Officials/ICC	Presentation—Structural Concrete Repair Webinar for Building Officials	Webinar
American Institute of Architects (AIA) Detroit Chapter	Presentation—ACI 562: What you need to know about the Concrete Repair Code	Webinar
Commonwealth Building Officials (Pennsylvania)	Presentation—ACI 562; Special Inspector and Technician Qualifications	Webinar
New England Building Officials Conference	Presentation—ACI 562	Amherst, MA, USA
North Carolina Qualification Board	Presentation—ACI 562	Webinar
North Texas Building Professionals Institute (BPI)	Presentation—ACI 318 and ACI 562	Irving, TX, USA
Pennsylvania Building Officials Conference (PENBOC)	Presentation—ACI 562	Webinar
Structural Engineers Association of Michigan (SEAMi)	Presentation—ACI 562; Exhibit	East Lansing, MI, USA
South Carolina Building Officials Association	Exhibit	Myrtle Beach, SC, USA
Southeastern Massachusetts Building Officials Association (SEMBOA)	Presentation—ACI 562	Webinar
Washington Association of Building Officials (WABO)	Presentations—ACI 318, ACI 562, Special Inspector, and Technician Qualifications	Lynnwood, WA, USA