

# TEXAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

## ISSUE BRIEF

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### 2010 Legislative Issues

#### 1. Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS)

QBS is a competitive contract procurement process whereby consulting firms (engineers) submit qualifications to a procuring entity (owner) who evaluates and selects the most qualified firm that meets the project's needs, and then negotiates the project scope of work, schedule, budget, and consultant fee. Securing the best qualified designer greatly reduces construction, long-term life-cycle operating, and/or maintenance costs which represent 98% of the cost of the total project.

- ***Use of the QBS process must be preserved because it not only ensures protection of the public health, safety & welfare, but it significantly reduces life-cycle cost and increases the quality of the overall project.***

#### 2. Protection of the Engineering Practice Act

The Texas Engineering Practice Act (first passed in 1936) is in place to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of Texas.

- ***TSPE opposes any legislation that is in conflict with the Engineering Practice Act or overlaps the jurisdiction of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers.***
- ***TSPE opposes any legislation that encroaches on the present definition of the practice of engineering.***

#### 3. Infrastructure Investment

Adequate investment in transportation and utility infrastructure improvements makes good economic sense and is needed to maintain the economic competitiveness of Texas.

- ***TSPE supports legislation to provide funding necessary for TxDOT to construct, operate and maintain transportation facilities across the State including increasing and/or indexing the motor fuels tax; local option transportation taxes; ending diversions; and using other available funding mechanisms such as CDAs, tolling, public-private partnerships, etc.***
- ***TSPE supports legislation to provide public funding necessary to support the construction of water, environmental and related utilities and infrastructure by local governmental entities to support the development and protection of our water supplies and delivery systems.***
- ***TSPE will monitor and support legislation related to continued operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure.***

#### 4. State Funding for Education Programs

Education funding is of vital interest to the future economic standing of our State. Our engineering colleges have produced graduates that have served as leaders here and across the U.S. Texas engineering colleges must be able to continue to provide a high-quality education to an increasing number of students who will be called upon to be the technological leaders of tomorrow.

- ***TSPE will monitor legislation and support bills that include continued or increased funding for programs to increase problem-solving abilities such as MATHCOUNTS.***
- ***TSPE will support legislation that provides additional funding for programs that promote problem-solving education.***
- ***TSPE will promote and support adequate funding for our State's engineering colleges so they can produce the engineering graduates that are so critical to our industry and service providers in Texas.***



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