

Hello! My name is Mike Millette and I am APWA's Government Affairs Committee Chair for 2021-23. I'd like to take a few minutes to let you know about the Committee and its work and our focus for this coming year.

Before I do, I would like to share an overarching thought with you. APWA is a creature of government. Our origins lie with the American Society of Municipal Engineers and the International Association of Public Works Officials. We work FOR, or supply services or equipment TO government agencies.

We advocate for our Department or Company every day. If you are a superintendent or city engineer, you fight for your people and projects during your agency's budget cycle. If you are selling supplies, services or equipment, you make your pitch to Public Works people.

In short, you advocate!

That is what the Government Affairs Committee does. We are part of APWA's voice along with our professional staff and other committees. Our task is, simply stated, to get our message out.

We also perform a significant amount of work in developing that message. Our committee is tasked with drafting policy recommendations for the Board of Directors to consider and approve which relate to such areas as transportation, water resiliency and emergency management.

You can view our committee's charter on APWA's website to see more about the specifics with which we are tasked. Suffice to say, we are a key element in the Association's Strategic Plan and we take that responsibility very seriously.

However, we also have developed a great camaraderie that allows us to serve the Association while having a pleasant time in the process. Through our monthly meetings, PWX and our spring fly-in, we grow as professionals, enhance our networking skills and learn nearly a coursework's worth of political science.

Should you have any questions about what we do or wish to bring an issue to our attention, please contact Andrea Eales, APWA's Director of Government and Public Affairs at [aeales@apwa.net](mailto:aeales@apwa.net) or myself at [mmillette@southelgin.com](mailto:mmillette@southelgin.com). Thanks!