



**DATE:** August 19, 2004

**TO:** ASCE Board of Direction  
Past Presidents  
Institute Board members  
District Council members  
Section/Branch Officers

**FROM:** Patricia D. Galloway, P.E., F.ASCE, President  
William P. Henry, P.E., F.ASCE, President-elect  
Dennis R. Martenson, P.E., DEE, F.ASCE, President-elect Elect

**SUBJECT:** ASCE Governance Restructuring

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As you know, the Constitutional Amendment to restructure ASCE's governance was approved by the membership. The votes were counted and the results certified on August 17, and this proposal received more than the two-thirds majority of the total votes cast required for adoption.

A wide range of reactions will greet this news throughout the Society. This issue has generated intense interest and discussion through all sectors of ASCE, and we have all agreed and disagreed on aspects of the proposal. Now the debate has come to an end, and the question that remains is, "What do we do moving forward?"

First, we offer our thanks to all dedicated members of ASCE who participated in this careful evaluation of the operation of our great Society. The Board has studied governance intensely for over four years, and we thank the Board members, members of several strategic planning and governance committees, leaders of District Councils, Sections and Institutes, participants in Zone Leadership Conferences, and ASCE members everywhere for their interest, time, energies, feedback, scrutiny, dedication, passion, and patience throughout this process. This has been a monumental effort, and we thank all who have been part of it, on all sides of the issue, everywhere within ASCE.

Second, although we may have disagreed about many aspects of this proposal, all of us had the best interest of ASCE at heart when we engaged in these discussions. Now that our members have made their decision, we appeal to leaders at all levels of the Society to reunite in our efforts to make ASCE stronger and better focused on serving all of our members. We will never find unanimity in how we should improve ASCE, but we all agree that a dynamic, vibrant ASCE for the future is our common goal. Much work lies ahead to finalize the details of our new governance structure and to facilitate a smooth transition. Let us agree to move toward that goal in a true spirit of cooperation.

Finally, we have learned much during this process and each of us can use that knowledge for the benefit of the Society and its members. Our new governance structure will strengthen the role of our Sections and Branches, Institutes and national committees; empower new Regional leaders to bring about increased value for our members; and will increase cooperation and communication between our national-level organization and these entities. As ASCE leaders you will have both a stronger voice and increased responsibility to your members and to your profession. We urge you to draw from the knowledge and experience you have gained through this process to guide you in this new role.

Again, thank you for your interest and participation in this important endeavor. Let's move forward together as members of a profession that strives to serve the needs of people in the best way possible.