

ITE Advocacy Guidelines

ITE is an international educational and scientific association of transportation professionals who are responsible for meeting mobility and safety needs. ITE facilitates the application of technology and scientific principles to research, planning, functional design, implementation, operation, policy development and management for any mode of ground transportation. Through its products and services, ITE promotes professional development of its members, advocates, supports and encourages education, stimulates research, develops public awareness programs, and serves as a conduit for the exchange of professional information.

What is Advocacy?

The act of speaking or writing on behalf of or in support of transportation issues, projects, recommendations, transportation safety, laws or policies for the benefit of the public and system users consistent with ITE and its policies. This also includes advocating for ITE and its members.

Advocacy Guidance

ITE Districts, Sections & Chapters may take a position on transportation related issues, regulation, and/or legislation if:

- ✓ It is in conformance with [ITE Policies](#)
- ✓ There is leadership consensus at local / regional ITE subunit

ITE Districts, Sections & Chapters Shall Not:

- ✓ Support or oppose any candidate for public office
- ✓ Make a statement regarding any candidate for public office that could in any way be perceived as biased or partisan
- ✓ Spend ITE funds or devote human resources in support of a candidate for public office
- ✓ Exceed IRS section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit limits by “devoting a substantial part” of its activities to influencing legislation--refer to [IRS Information](#) or violate other state or municipal laws

ITE Districts, Sections & Chapters should:

- ✓ Provide objective legislative and regulatory updates
- ✓ Become familiar with ITE Policies and share with members
- ✓ Consider taking a position on issues, regulations & legislation in conformance with [ITE Policies](#)
- ✓ Present pros & cons objectively even when there is no consensus to take a position
- ✓ Provide expert testimony when invited by a legislative or regulatory body
- ✓ Provide transportation-related questionnaires to **all** candidates running for a position and share results in an objective manner
- ✓ Offer **all** candidates an opportunity to present on transportation issues in an equal manner
- ✓ Consult the Advocacy Committee: view resources and post on ITE's Advocacy Network. Members signed into [ITE's Community](#) can join the Advocacy Network

ITE members are encouraged to be advocates and develop working relationships with elected and appointed officials. ITE members can be the liaison between decision-makers and the transportation profession. Also see [IRS Regulations](#) for not-for profit organizations and the Advocacy Network Library of resources for:

- “Advocacy Committee Mission Statement”
- “Advocacy Committee Sample Letters”
- Other advocacy presentations, webinars and resources

ITE HQ and the Advocacy Committee are available to consult regarding these guidelines and on specific advocacy committee issues or positions. For any positions taken, please copy ITE's CEO at ipaniati@ite.org. Position letters should also be posted on ITE Advocacy Network.

*International Board of Direction Originally Adopted Guidelines: March 2015.
Advocacy Committee Revision 1: October 14, 2016.*