

The Truth About Political Action Committees

What exactly is a Political Action Committee?

A political action committee or PAC is an organization that collects voluntary contributions and distributes those funds to campaigns to help elect or defeat candidates running for federal, state, or local public office.

What is PAFP-PAC?

PAFP-PAC is the official political action committee of Family Medicine in Pennsylvania. PAFP-PAC:

- Is bipartisan – contributing to both Democrats and Republicans
- A state PAC – contributing to candidates running for the Pennsylvania House and Senate
- Supports candidates who demonstrate an interest in issues impacting PAFP members
- Governed by a separate board of directors that develops and approves PAFP-PAC's annual spending plan
- Is a vital part of the political process and a necessary advocacy tool

MYTHS VS. FACTS

Myth: My membership dues help fund PAFP-PAC.

Fact: PAFP-PAC falls into the category of a corporate PAC (these include PACs administered by corporations, membership organizations, and non-profit associations) and is not funded by corporate money or membership dues. PAFP-PAC is comprised of and funded through voluntary individual donations from employees and members. Corporate PACs are required by law to operate from a separate segregated fund from the company's general funds.

Myth: PAC giving is secretive and not regulated.

Fact: Corporate PACs represent the most transparent money in the campaign finance system. PAFP-PAC is highly regulated by the Department of State and operates within strict financial and reporting requirements.

Myth: My name and personal information will be made public if I contribute to PAFP-PAC.

Fact: Only donations of more than \$50 per reporting period are subject to reporting requirements. Pennsylvania has seven reporting periods per year. Individuals contributing less than \$50 per reporting period will not be made public. For more information about campaign finance reporting periods, visit www.dos.pa.gov/campaignfinance.

Myth: PAC contributions help buy votes on legislative issues.

Fact: PACs are a vital part of the political process and a necessary advocacy tool. PAFP-PAC determines financial support to candidates who demonstrate interest, concern, responsiveness, and support of Family Medicine positions and values. PAFP-PAC contributions support the election of candidates to the Pennsylvania House and Senate, ensuring that "friends of family medicine" remain in office. By contributing to PAFP-PAC, you join your colleagues in creating a stronger voice for family physicians in Harrisburg. PAFP-PAC is the political voice of Family Medicine in Pennsylvania.