

ACEC/PAC Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is it important to support ACEC/PAC?

A: It is critical that the engineering industry be involved in the *business* of politics, and ACEC/PAC is the industry's preeminent vehicle for political engagement. Governmental decisions on the issues that affect the engineering industry can have a decided impact on your business and the future success of our industry. It is critical we help to elect policy-makers who understand our concerns and who will be open-minded to our views.

Q: Why can't ACEC or member firms contribute directly to candidates for Federal office?

A: The Federal Election Campaign Act prohibits corporations or trade associations from using general treasury funds to make federal election contributions. Individuals may contribute to federal candidates, and organizations may set up political action committees to facilitate and harness the collective giving of an entire industry or group. Only personal or "hard" dollars are allowed to be contributed toward elections at the federal level.

Q: How is ACEC/PAC money spent?

A: ACEC/PAC is bipartisan. We support those candidates whose positions and decisions have the greatest impact on ACEC members. Contributions to candidates are based on the following criteria:

- The candidate's position on specific issues affecting the engineering industry;
- A candidate's current or potential committee assignments and leadership positions;
- A candidate's voting record;
- The opinions of ACEC/PAC contributors, executive directors, and champions within the state or district.

Q: How will I know what happens to my contribution?

A: ACEC/PAC operates in the open and believes in full disclosure. Contributions received by and disbursements made by ACEC/PAC are regulated by federal law and open to the public. ACEC files monthly reports with the Federal Elections Commission. You may access these reports at www.fec.gov. ACEC/PAC also publishes an Annual Report detailing receipts and disbursements for the calendar year and distributes it to ACEC/PAC contributors.

Q: What are the solicitation goals of ACEC/PAC?

A: ACEC members have set an aggressive goal to raise \$1 million per year for ACEC/PAC by 2010, which can be done if each state meets their annual State PAC Goal. Achieving this goal will enable ACEC to be an even stronger voice for engineering interests in national political arena.

Q: Are contributions to ACEC/PAC tax deductible?

A: No, contributions to PACs are not tax deductible under the Tax Reform Act of 1986.

Q: Whom should I contact if I want to learn more about ACEC/PAC?

A: For more information, please contact Greg Knopp, Executive Director, Political Affairs (gknopp@acec.org) or Elizabeth Coit, Director, ACEC/PAC (ecoit@acec.org) at (202) 347-7474.