



NJEA PAC

SOME FACTS ABOUT PAC

PAC is power! NJEA PAC provides us with the power to shape our profession, protect our benefits, and promote public education. All NJEA PAC funds are raised from the voluntary contributions of our members. Therefore, it is up to you to turn on the power!

The following are some commonly asked questions and answers about NJEA PAC. Look them over and then join your colleagues across New Jersey in supporting NJEA PAC.

What is NJEA PAC?

NJEA PAC is the New Jersey Education Association Political Action Committee. It is a legal mechanism through which our Association provides financial support to political candidates for elective office.

How is NJEA PAC organized?

A board of trustees, composed of NJEA's officers and NJEA's Executive Committee oversees the total operation of the NJEA PAC program. The board of trustees is responsible for ensuring that NJEA PAC meets its legal obligations and administrative responsibilities.

There is also an NJEA PAC Operating Committee. Members of the Operating Committee include NJEA's officers, Executive, Government Relations and Congressional Contact Committees, county association presidents, and representatives of active support staff, Student NJEA, and the NJREA. The purpose of the Operating Committee is to screen and endorse candidates, raise funds, and develop support for endorsed candidates.

How does NJEA PAC choose which candidates it will support?

Candidates, individual NJEA or NJREA members, county or local associations, or political parties may submit a written request for endorsement to NJEA PAC. These requests for endorsement are processed at the county level by screening committees comprised of NJEA and NJREA members. The screening committees make recommendations to the NJEA PAC Operating Committee. The NJEA PAC Operating Committee considers these recommendations and chooses which candidates to support.

What type of information does NJEA PAC consider when reviewing candidates for endorsement?

Candidates are selected on a strictly nonpartisan basis. Candidates are asked to complete questionnaires or submit information regarding their positions on issues of importance to public education. This information is forwarded to county screening committees which conduct interviews of interested candidates to further explore their ideas about public education and to assess their electability.

Do I have a voice in selecting candidates?

You have direct input through your local and county leaders, NJEA PAC Board of Trustees, and your representatives serving on the NJEA PAC Operating Committee. In fact, they count on you for information about local issues, the political climate in your area, and your assessment of local attitudes.

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What does an NJEA PAC endorsement mean to a candidate?

NJEA PAC will often provide endorsed candidates with a financial contribution that is within the limits set by law. NJEA PAC-endorsed candidates also receive publicity in NJEA publications. Most importantly, candidates covet an NJEA PAC endorsement because they know our members spend countless hours of their spare time volunteering on the campaigns of NJEA PAC-endorsed candidates.

What does an NJEA PAC endorsement mean to our Association?

An NJEA PAC endorsement indicates that our Association has determined that a candidate has an interest in public education and is open to considering the views and concerns of NJEA members. An NJEA PAC endorsement does not mean that a candidate does or will support all of NJEA's positions.

Why does our Association need NJEA PAC?

Our Association needs NJEA PAC to elect supporters of public education. NJEA PAC also provides us with an opportunity to bring the issues to the candidates and help them understand the concerns of public school staff. Our ability to support proven or potential friends of public education has helped us to build the relationships we need to advance our agenda. These relationships make our Association a major player in the legislature.

Where do NJEA PAC funds come from?

NJEA PAC funds come solely from the voluntary contributions of our members. NJEA does not use dues money for political contributions to candidates. NJEA PAC is successful, therefore, because of your commitment to public education advocacy. NJEA PAC is your voluntary voice!

How will my NJEA PAC contribution be used?

Unless you indicate otherwise, 70% of your contribution to NJEA PAC will be used to help elect supporters of public education in New Jersey. The remaining 30% will be distributed to The NEA Fund for Children and Education to help elect friends of education at the federal level. Just as you may contribute any amount you wish, you may also change the distribution between NJEA PAC and The NEA Fund for Children and Education.