

# APMAPAC FACTS

**WHAT IS APMAPAC?** The APMA Political Action Committee (APMAPAC – *formerly PPAC*) is a nonprofit, bipartisan fundraising committee through which podiatrists support federal candidates who champion podiatric medicine's issues before the U.S. Congress.

Because of the efforts of APMAPAC and its parent organization, the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA), the profession has gained a national presence as a political force in Washington, D.C. APMAPAC currently ranks 11th in terms of contributions to Congress out of 111 political action committees (PACs) currently registered with the Federal Election Commission to contribute to candidates.

APMAPAC neither determines the issues to be addressed on behalf of the profession, nor lobbies Congress on those issues. That is the role of the APMA's Legislative Committee, Board of Trustees, and Legislative Advocacy Department.

APMAPAC's role is to support candidates seeking Congressional office in the U.S. House and Senate. The only other legal means for such support is through contributions made directly to a candidate by an individual.

**WHO OVERSEES APMAPAC?** A Board of Directors that is independent of the APMA's Board of Trustees governs APMAPAC. The directors, with help from members of the APMAPAC National Coordinating Committee and the student APMAPAC coordinators, volunteer their time to raise funds for political action.

APMAPAC operates under the guidelines of federal election laws established in 1971, which require that all receipts and disbursements are reported to the Federal Election Commission. The legality and function of APMAPAC and other federal PACs are protected and prescribed by Federal law.

**WHO RECEIVES APMAPAC SUPPORT?** Funds collected by APMAPAC are in turn contributed to Congressional candidates who are selected without regard to political party. Only candidates seeking a seat in the U.S. House or Senate may be recipients of APMAPAC's funds. Candidate support is based on:

1. A Candidate's Congressional Committee Appointment – As an incumbent, does the candidate serve on a committee that has jurisdiction over federal health policy?
2. A Candidate's Position on Issues – Does the incumbent candidate support podiatric medicine's issues? Is he or she accessible to APMA members and lobbyists? If a candidate is a non-incumbent, was he or she supportive in the state or local governing structure?
3. APMA Member/State Component Endorsement – Does the candidate have the backing of APMA members and/or the state component? This criterion is required for support of non-incumbents.

**WHO MAY GIVE TO APMAPAC?** Members and staff of the APMA – including students – their family members, and members and staff of APMA's affiliated organizations may contribute to APMAPAC. Contributions must be from personal funds if they are to be used for contributions to candidates for federal election. Corporate contributions received are designated to the APMA Government Education Fund, which are used for political education and PAC administrative costs. Contributions to APMAPAC must be voluntary and do not qualify for an income tax deduction.

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