

End Race Based Political PACs as Unconstitutional and Discriminatory

Does this organization discriminate? If you cannot beat them, join them?

A free and democratic society is founded upon the principle that every citizen deserves equal protection under the law, regardless of race, ethnicity, ancestry, or national origin. Public policy should strive to unite Americans under shared constitutional values rather than encourage political division based upon immutable characteristics.

Political action committees (PACs) exist to advocate for candidates, legislation, and public policy. However, when political organizations define themselves primarily by race or encourage political participation through racial identity rather than shared community principles, they raise important public policy and constitutional questions regarding equality, fairness, and national unity.

The United States Constitution establishes equal protection under the law through the Fourteenth Amendment and protects freedom of speech and association through the First Amendment. While political advocacy enjoys broad constitutional protection, many Americans question whether organizations that explicitly organize around race are consistent with the nation's long-term commitment to equal treatment and a society that aspires to move beyond racial discrimination.

Political participation should be open to every American without regard to race. Public institutions should encourage civic engagement based upon ideas, qualifications, constitutional principles, and the common good rather than racial identity or ancestry. Many Americans believe our political system functions best when it promotes equal opportunity and equal citizenship instead of reinforcing racial divisions.

The continued growth of race-based political organizations has also contributed to concerns about increasing polarization, identity politics, and declining national cohesion. While individuals remain free to advocate for any lawful political position, policymakers may wish to consider whether current laws appropriately encourage a political culture centered upon equal citizenship rather than racial classification.

A society committed to equal justice should reject discrimination in every form, regardless of the race of those involved. Equal standards should apply consistently to every American. The pursuit of equality requires fairness that is neutral, principled, and faithful to the Constitution.

For these reasons, Congress and state legislatures should examine whether existing campaign finance laws and anti-discrimination policies adequately reflect the constitutional ideals of equal protection, equal citizenship, and nondiscrimination. Any reforms should respect the constitutional protections afforded to political speech while promoting a political system that treats every citizen equally under the law.

America is strongest when citizens are encouraged to work together as one nation under the Constitution. Public policy should continue striving toward equal opportunity, equal protection, and equal justice for **all** rather than political organization based upon race.

Either race-based PACs must end, or equal and opposing PACs will be created in response.