

WHY AZCPOA IS ESTABLISHING A PAC (POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE)
AND BECOMING A REAL PLAYER IN ARIZONA POLITICS

Please read below, the importance of the Political Process to AZCPOA and our members

AZCPOA has endorsed political candidates in the past for state elective offices. We have been involved in the political process because politics is at the heart of everything that affects our members. Every entry on our paycheck-whether wages, overtime, additional pay benefits such as longevity or education incentives, insurance premiums, and pensions, is ultimately determined by someone who is elected to public office.

Participation in the political process is the ultimate form of political power for any corrections association. For those organizations that are engaged in the political process and who have learned how to play the game well, the prospects for better economic and working conditions are increased. For those groups that do not participate, or do so only halfheartedly, they become mere observers, sitting on the sidelines while others decide their fate.

One great example of a successful political participation is the California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA). The CCPOA established a political fund many years ago to support legislative candidates who supported the needs and concerns of California correctional officers. It became the biggest political fund in the State of California. The result? California correctional officers are now the best paid of any prison system in the country – there is no doubt that there is a connection between the money given to politicians and organizational success!

How AZCPOA is Going to Get More Politically Active

One of the key components to any political campaign is money-people running for any political office need the resources to get their campaign message out to the voters. In short, money drives the political system; and AZCPOA is at a disadvantage if it stands on the sidelines while other organizations support candidates with financial help.

AZCPOA is therefore going to take a major step beyond our typical political endorsements and member involvement in individual campaigns, and intends to establish a Political Action Committee (PAC). A PAC will give our organization the ability to finance the campaigns of candidates who support the interests and issues of Arizona state employees; and also to make independent political expenditures.

We believe that this step will allow AZCPOA to become a major player on the State of Arizona political scene. Candidates already seek our endorsement-with the addition of a PAC, the contribution of PAC money to candidates who are most supportive of AZCPOA's interests will result better legislative results from the State House in Phoenix, including improved pay, benefits and pensions.

How Does a PAC Operate?

Filing certain required documents with the Secretary of State's office creates a PAC. There are reporting requirements that AZCPOA must observe in order to comply with state laws regulating a PAC.

Once a PAC has been created, AZCPOA can begin collecting VOLUNTARY contributions from our members. Members will sign a form acknowledging that their contribution is voluntary and the money will be deducted out of their paycheck in the same manner as union dues. The AZCPOA Board of Directors recommends that each member contribute a minimum of \$2 per payday. If every member of AZCPOA participates in the PAC, our fund will collect approximately \$78,000 per year, a significant amount of money that will cause elected officials to pay attention to our concerns and interest.

The PAC will operate in conjunction with our already established endorsement process, whereby the AZCPOA Board of Directors interviews candidates and then issues endorsements based on which candidates support the labor interest of AZCPOA and our membership. In any instance where an endorsement is made, the Board will also determine an amount of money to be contributed to each candidate, based on the legal spending limits, the importance of the race to AZCPOA and the other criteria as deemed relevant by the Board.

The Board may also authorize independent expenditures, which are steps taken by AZCPOA independent of the candidates' campaign to support the candidacy. There are no limits to independent expenditures as there are on direct contributions to political candidates.

If you have any questions about the AZCPOA PAC, please contact any member of the Board for further information.

_____ TEAR HERE _____ RETURN BOTTOM PORTION _____

Arizona Correctional Peace Officers Association
Voluntary Political Action Committee (PAC) Election Form

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Rank _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

AZCPOA dues per pay period (24 pay periods annually) \$12.50
Voluntary PAC election \$ _____
Total amount to be deducted \$ _____

I hereby authorize the State of Arizona Department of Administration to deduct the total amount listed above, from my wages, for each pay period.

Signature _____ Date _____