

# ASCO Association PAC

## Political Action Committee (PAC) Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a PAC?

A PAC, or a “political action committee,” allows groups of people with common interests to come together with a unified voice and to be a reliable source of information on issues being debated and decided by Congress. PACs allow a greater number of people to be more actively engaged in the political process. More than 10,000 PACs operate in the United States and represent a variety of trade groups, institutions, organizations, and individuals. Federal PACs are required to register with, and are governed by the rules of, the Federal Election Commission (FEC).

### What is ASCO Association PAC?

ASCO Association PAC (or the PAC) is the federal political action committee established by the Association for Clinical Oncology (Association), the nation’s leading advocate for high-quality cancer care and robust cancer research. In January 2020, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (Society) launched the Association for Clinical Oncology (Association), a 501(c)(6) professional association that expands the reach of advocacy activities and increases the impact of efforts directed towards policymakers in support of high-quality patient care. At that time, all members of the Society also became members of the Association – this type of dual membership is known as reciprocal membership. For more information about the Association, its activities, and dual membership, please read the [Association FAQs](#).

### Why is ASCO Association PAC important?

ASCO Association PAC provides us with a collective voice in the political arena by allowing us to support the campaigns of candidates who understand the importance of cancer care and research as well as the needs of individuals with cancer. With so many voices attempting to influence healthcare policy daily, it is important to access all available advocacy tools to educate and support lawmakers who share our vision.

### Can Association members make contributions to the PAC?

Association members who are (1) United States citizens or legal residents of the United States possessing a green card; and (2) are eligible to vote in Association elections and/or pay dues may contribute to the PAC. Contributions to the PAC will be screened, and the PAC will return any contributions from persons who are not members of the Association or within its restricted class of contributors. All contributions are strictly voluntary (they are not required of members and members may refuse to contribute without fear of reprisal) and must come from members’ personal financial accounts. Contributions to the PAC are used in connection with federal elections. Federal law requires the PAC to use its best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and employer of persons who contribute in excess of \$200 per calendar year. Contributions are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.

### What is ASCO Association PAC’s relationship with the Association’s advocacy efforts?

The PAC supports the [advocacy priorities](#) set by the Association’s Government Relations Committee by

# ASCO Association PAC

allowing for expanded opportunities to educate legislators on the current realities of the U.S. cancer research enterprise and the cancer care delivery system. The Association's advocacy priorities aim to shape legislation that impacts our members' ability to provide high-quality, equitable and affordable cancer care to the approximately 1.8 million people in the United States who will be diagnosed with cancer this year.

## **Are there limits to contributions made to the ASCO Association PAC?**

Eligible individuals and their spouses may each voluntarily contribute up to \$5,000 per calendar year to the PAC.

## **How is the ASCO Association PAC governed?**

The PAC is led by the PAC Advisory Council. Members of the PAC Advisory Council are appointed by the Board of Directors of the Association for Clinical Oncology.

## **How much can ASCO Association PAC give to federal candidates?**

The PAC must abide by the limits set by the Federal Election Commission. When the PAC has reached multi-candidate status (which means it has given to more than five candidates and accepted more than 51 contributions), it can give up to \$5,000 per election.

## **Who do I contact for more information?**

You may contact the ASCO Association PAC Manager at [ASCOAssociationPAC@asco.org](mailto:ASCOAssociationPAC@asco.org)