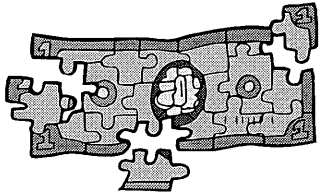


Voluntary Contributions To the Political Action Fund

Political activities have costs involved. PAC members ask members for direct donations to continue the important work that must be done.

Elected officials and candidates recognize the PFT's sincerity and commitment to work on behalf of the entire membership and the children whom we serve. This recognition has opened doors. In order to keep the doors open, funds are needed to further support the PFT's PAC activities.

Contributions are placed in PFT's COPE account. The funds are used to strengthen our political clout by promoting candidates who best advocate the interests of working men and women, the children whom we serve, their families, and our community.



The Political Action Committee's involvement assures that a voice for education is maintained. The work is done on behalf of the entire PFT membership, the Pittsburgh Public Schools, and public education as a whole.

Contact the PFT if you wish further information on making contributions via payroll deduction. Call or go to www.pft400.org to download a copy of the form to contribute or to volunteer.

Issues & Concerns

Some of the issues that the PFT Political Action Committee advocates for members are:

- Class Size
- Safe Schools
- School Discipline & Learning Environment
- Fair and Adequate Funding for Regular and Special Education
- Early Childhood Education
- Health Care
- Reading Instruction
- Professional Development
- Retirement Issues

Some concerns regard Charter Schools, Distance Learning, Privatization, and Vouchers.

Some Gains/Accomplishments

- Residency requirement eliminated
- Pension multiplier increase for all active school employees as of 7/1/01
- CHIP Program (*health insurance coverage for children*)
- Class-size-reduction teachers

Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers

10 S. 19th Street at the River
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-1842

www.pft400.org

412-431-5900; 412-431-6882 (fax)

John Tarka, *President*

Sylvia C. Wilson, *Assistant to President*

Political Action Committee

Chair:

Mary Ann Cupples Wisniowski

Treasurer:

George J. Gensure

Chair, Voluntary PAC Contributions Campaign:

Jeremiah Dugan



Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers



Political Action Committee

A Collective Voice of Educators

***PFT-supported
candidates
best represent
the
collective inter-
ests
of educators,
their families, and
public education
in general.***

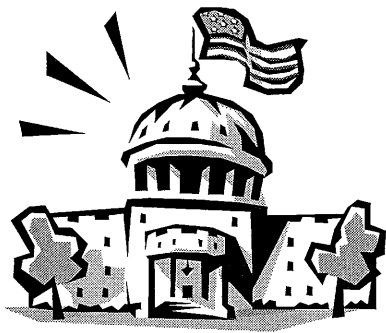
The Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers Political Action Committee

The PFT Political Action Committee consists of volunteer PFT members who spend a considerable amount of time in researching, meeting, and discussing issues with candidates and elected leaders.

Education is a key area of concern for the PFT, as is legislation that impacts our members and their families, our students, and taxpayers.

When a slate of candidates for election is prepared for the consideration of our members and their families, you can be sure that a great deal of research was done on each individual who is recommended.

Candidates are recommended who are believed to best support the interests of PFT members and their families, the Pittsburgh school district, and the City of Pittsburgh.



Candidate Recommendation Process

- Questionnaires are prepared for specific elections. Questions are updated and thoroughly reviewed for relevance.
- Candidate completes a questionnaire with very specific items.
- Political Action Committee (PAC) members interview candidates. (*PAC consists of PFT volunteers and Executive Board members.*)
- During interviews, candidates expand on their written responses and are asked other questions.
- After interviews are completed, PAC members candidly discuss candidates and their responses. Any other pertinent background information is shared.
- PAC members vote on the candidates and recommendations are referred to the PFT Executive Board.
- PAC recommendations are reviewed and discussed thoroughly with the Executive Board. Executive Board members may have other additional information to share; discussion continues.

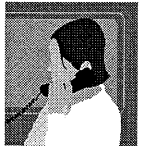


- The PFT Executive Board votes on every PAC recommendation.
- Recommendations are presented to PFT members in slate form to be used as a guide for the election.

PAC Activities

During Election Campaigns:

- Donations to campaigns
- Preparing mailings
- Working at the polls
- Participating in phone banks
- Distributing candidate yard signs to members who wish to display them
- Attending events in the community to meet and discuss issues and concerns with elected officials and other related personnel
- Informing members of the issues and candidate views regarding them



Between Election Activities:

- Remaining in contact with elected officials and their staffs regarding issues of concern to our membership during off campaign times
- Lobbying at the local, state, and federal levels
- Contacting elected officials for more information on issues
- Contacting other PFT members to communicate with their elected representatives with regards to specific issues
- Attending political/community events
- Seeking voluntary contributions
- Networking to further advocate the issues of our membership
- Keeping members informed of topical issues
- Hosting opportunities for elected officials to meet with PAC members and PFT leadership