

Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is the purpose of PathPAC?

As the only pathology-specific federal PAC, PathPAC seeks to represent, and support, the interests of pathologists on Capitol Hill through political and financial means. PathPAC also seeks to increase the political awareness of CAP members through political analysis and relationship building with their members of Congress.

2) Why does CAP need PathPAC?

PathPAC was started in 1992 in response to the need for CAP to add a political component to the advocacy department since federal law prohibits CAP from directly contributing to federal candidates or other campaigns. CAP may not use membership dues or other CAP revenue to help support any candidates either. Therefore, PathPAC is the only opportunity for CAP members to help elect lawmakers to Congress that will make policies in line with our goals.

3) How is PathPAC funded?

PathPAC is funded solely through voluntary contributions from individuals that are members of CAP.

4) Why should I give to PathPAC?

CAP members can come together as one and amplify the voice of all pathologists; that is what PathPAC represents, and there is strength in numbers. Contributing to PathPAC also shows your support for your profession, your colleagues, your patients, and the advocacy efforts of CAP.

5) Who receives contributions from PathPAC?

PathPAC contributes to congressional candidates who support the work that pathologists do. The PAC supports incumbents, challengers, leadership PACs, and those running in open-seat races.

6) How does PathPAC decide which candidates to support?

Each year, CAP's Federal Advocacy team determines an appropriate budget based on legislative priorities and seats that are up for reelection. The PathPAC Board of Directors approves or alters that budget which directs overall PAC spending to candidates for Congress, Party Committees, and other PACs. As per the Board of Directors by-laws. All candidates must meet the standards that are in place and, generally, serve on key committees or in leadership positions. PathPAC also welcomes member input regarding specific candidates who would like PathPAC's support.

7) Will PathPAC endorse one of the presidential candidates?

No. PathPAC is a bi-partisan organization and does not endorse any presidential candidate. PathPAC's focus is to support candidates who are supportive of the needs of pathologists.

8) What is the difference between PathPAC and the political action fund (PEF)? Which one should I contribute to?

PathPAC can only contribute directly to candidates or their committees using "hard money" (non-corporate funds). However, the PEF, which is used for educational programs, can accept "soft money" (corporate funds). CAP members can contribute up to \$5,000 of their personal funds to PathPAC and can contribute as much as they would like from their corporate accounts to the PEF. Unless otherwise specified, all personal contributions go to PathPAC.

If you are interested in learning more, serving on the PathPAC Board, or have any questions, contact Jennica Sims, PathPAC Manager.