



## ✓ *SOME FACTS ABOUT* PAC

**PAC IS POWER!** NJEA PAC provides us with the collective power to shape our profession, protect our benefits, and promote public education. Your PAC membership ensures that NJEA is able to advocate for public policy that strengthens our position across the state, from the halls of Trenton to your local board of education. Just like your union membership, PAC membership is strongest when we all participate.

The following are some commonly asked questions and answers about NJEA PAC. Look them over and then join your colleagues across New Jersey by becoming a PAC member today.

### **What is NJEA PAC?**

NJEA PAC is the New Jersey Education Association Political Action Committee. It is a political committee created by NJEA for the purpose of supporting candidates for public office.

### **How is NJEA PAC organized?**

A board of trustees, composed of NJEA's officers and Executive Committee oversees the operation of the NJEA PAC. The board of trustees is responsible for ensuring that NJEA PAC meets its legal obligations and administrative responsibilities.

The NJEA PAC Operating Committee, comprised of the PAC Board of Trustees, as well as county association presidents, members of the Government Relations and Congressional Contact Committees, and representatives of active support staff, Preservice, and NJREA. The Operating Committee is responsible for screening and endorsing candidates, increasing PAC membership, and developing support for endorsed candidates.

### **How are my PAC dues used?**

NJEA PAC is funded solely through the PAC dues of NJEA members. NJEA does not use union dues for contributions to candidates or political parties. Your support is used to make direct contributions to endorsed candidates or political party committees that support those candidates.

70% of your PAC dues are used to help elect supporters of public education at the state and local level. 30% of your dues are distributed to the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education, where it is used to support friends of education at the federal level.

### **Why do we need NJEA PAC?**

NJEA PAC is the political advocacy arm of our union. PAC provides us with the opportunity to bring the issues to the candidates and ensure that they understand the concerns of public school staff. Our ability to support friends of public education helps us build the relationships we need to advance our agenda.

### **How does NJEA PAC choose which candidates to support?**

Candidates, individual NJEA members, county or local associations, or political parties may submit a written request for endorsement to NJEA PAC. These requests for endorsement are processed at the county level by screening committees comprised of NJEA members. The screening committees make recommendations to the NJEA PAC Operating Committee, which considers these recommendations and chooses which candidates to endorse.

As part of this process, candidates are asked to complete questionnaires or submit information regarding their positions on issues of importance to public education. This information is reviewed by the screening committees, which then conduct interviews of the candidates to further explore their ideas about public education and to assess their electability. Candidates are selected on a nonpartisan basis, and all candidates running for the office must be invited to participate in the process.

### **How will my NJEA PAC contribution be used?**

Unless you indicate otherwise, 70% of your contribution to NJEA PAC will be used to help elect supporters of public education in New Jersey. The remaining 30% will be distributed to The NEA Fund for Children and Education to help elect friends of education at the federal level. Just as you may contribute any amount you wish, you may also change the distribution between NJEA PAC and The NEA Fund for Children and Education.