

## The AIA Ohio PAC

Each year, as part of our Legislative and Advocacy efforts, AIA Ohio, and the Institute, encourages members to contribute to our PACs. But while most members know of their existence, not as many understand how they operate and most importantly, how they are used. The following is summary of the who, what, where and when of PAC at AIA Ohio.

## What is the difference between ArchiPAC and AIA Ohio PAC?

The AIA Ohio PAC is the official PAC (Political Action Committee) established and properly registered to support the legislative activities of AIA Ohio. The funds collected for use by the AIA Ohio PAC are used within the state to support candidates who support us. The ArchiPAC is the official PAC of the Institute and is administered by the ArchiPAC steering committee at the AIA to voice the positions of architects and the AIA at the federal level.

## Why don't we use part of our dues for the PAC?

Each PAC is regulated according to either the election laws of individual states or federal election law. In Ohio, contributions can only come from individuals and partnerships. Checks cannot come from associations (like the AIA) or from corporations. When contributions are made by partnerships, the contribution must be assigned by percentage to individual partners. PAC is looked upon as truly a grassroots effort. Federal Election law limits individual contributions to a PAC to \$5,000 per calendar year.

## What is the Triple Play and how do I take advantage of it?

Political Action money is critical to the political process, especially in important election years, but it isn't the only consideration. Successful lobbying also is *about increasing the number of Ohio architects who know their legislators*. To encourage architects to get involved in the political process, AIA Ohio PAC sponsors its successful "Triple Play" program.

The program leverages Ohio's campaign finance law that allows individuals to take up to a \$50 tax credit (\$100 on joint returns) for contributions made to the campaigns of state office holders.

To create the triple play, we ask our membership to donate to the PAC. These donations are the backbone of this effort that creates the fund from which our matching donations are drawn. With these funds, we are able to offer our membership participation in the Triple Play:

- The *first step* of the Triple Play is the contribution to the campaign of a candidate for the Ohio Senate, House, or statewide office.
- The *second step* is letting AIA Ohio know that you made a contribution to the candidates campaign

- And finally, the *third step*, is to take advantage of your donation and claim a “tax credit” on your Ohio return.

The program is really simple. All you have to do to play is to send a copy of your cancelled campaign contribution check to AIA Ohio PAC and AIA Ohio PAC will make a matching campaign contribution to the candidate for state office, suggesting that the recipient *use you as a sounding board on important design & construction industry legislation.*

Since you would otherwise be paying the \$50 or \$100 in state taxes, your contribution costs you nothing! The Triple play allows you to become a participant in the legislative arena and a part of AIA Ohio’s Advocacy efforts, while at the same time, helping those who support us.

### **Doesn’t the PAC sound like pay to play?**

In some ways that is a valid description, but you have to look deeper to what the legislative process is all about. One of the most important aspects of being involved in the political process is to be recognized. Without an ability to voice your opinion and have your voice heard, it will be an uphill struggle to promote issues. By using the PAC, *the AIA can support those who support us* through their understanding of issues affecting the built-environment. PAC allows us, as one collective voice, to improve legislative policy and to have an impact at the state level.

### **Why does it seem like we are always being asked for PAC contributions?**

This is something that we do hear on a regular basis and something that AIA Ohio hopes to address moving forward. PAC is important, and it is something that we constantly need to keep in mind. But we need to do this through better communication and an improved education process. In cooperation with ArchiPAC, the federal PAC of the AIA, the AIA Ohio PAC has ongoing plans to coordinate events and opportunities that benefit both the Ohio PAC and the national PAC. While we will still take contributions any time, it is important to realize that contributions received early in the year help us better plan our contributions and advocacy efforts. Our advocacy efforts, and therefore our PAC efforts, must be continuous year after year.

It is important that we do point out to our members that through <https://archipac.org/contribute>, the AIA encourages year round participation in advocacy through contributions to the PAC and by participating in advocacy efforts. Members can become better informed of the issues by reviewing the information on the AIA or the AIA Ohio advocacy websites. Advocacy 365 is part of the AIAs efforts to better educate AIA membership on legislative and advocacy issues. At AIA Ohio, we have made it easier to contribute by placing a “Contribute” box on the front page of the AIA Ohio website at [www.aiaohio.org](http://www.aiaohio.org). By clicking the box, you can fill out a form for AIA Ohio and we will be able to process your contribution AIA Ohio PAC contribution online.

### **AIA Ohio**

We hope you will participate in the PAC, and we look forward to providing you with more information on how you can become involved in Ohio’s advocacy efforts. Please remember that we are the AIA and we are our best advocates. Thank you for all you do for the profession.

The officers, board and staff of AIA Ohio look forward to working with you and other members to create a better-built environment for Ohio through advocacy.