Political Continuing Education- Part 2 of 5

What is ADPAC?

Last week, we told you about political action committees and why associations, like the American Dental Association, have PACs. We’ve also provided a brief history of political action committees and the reforms that have made PACs what they are now. Today, we want to narrow the focus by giving you some background on what the American Dental Association Political Action Committee (ADPAC) is and why having our PAC benefits 159,000 ADA member dentists, their patients and their practices.

ADPAC is a vital part of the ADA’s government and political affairs program. Its function is to build relationships that support the interests of the ADA and the dental profession, while keeping ADA members informed about critical issues and the impact of related legislation.

As you know, we are currently faced with an uncertain future for health care in America. The ADA’s presence in legislative decisions and regulations that affect our members is more important than ever. ADPAC helps give dentists a voice on issues important to their practice and their patients.

ADPAC:
- Financially supports elected officials and candidates for public office who support the interests of the dental profession and business in general;
- Serves as a resource for the ADA – providing members and officeholders with political updates and opportunities for grassroots activism and political engagement;
- Allows the ADA to have a voice in political and legislative debates; and
- Educates elected officials and candidates on our issues and the important work we do, allowing them to make more informed decisions.

Our support of elected officials and candidates for public office is strictly non-partisan. We base all financial decisions to support a candidate on their positions on issues of importance, rather than political affiliation. When deciding candidates who will receive our financial support, the ADPAC Board, along with state constituent societies and local dentists, bases its decisions on criteria such as a candidate’s voting records, need for funding and positions of influence on key federal legislative committees.

It is important to keep in mind that laws affect all of us every day, and ADPAC plays a critical role in advocating for our issues at the federal level, working toward positive results for our interests.