



**Your PAC.
Your Voice.
Our Impact.**



Although nonprofit hospitals cannot engage in political activities, as an individual hospital leader you can contribute and solicit contributions to the Maryland Hospital Association and American Hospital Association Political Action Committees to support health care policy objectives. As members of MHA and AHA, you are encouraged to solicit your executive leaders, senior managers, medical staff, and hospital or system trustees.

Starting Your Campaign: MHA Makes It Easy

Lead by Example

The most successful campaigns are led by CEOs who make a personal commitment to explain why contributions are important to the field. If others recognize your passion for the cause, they will be inspired to join you in contributing.

Sign the Prior Authorization Form

The Federal Election Commission requires each member of a trade association to sign and return to MHA a prior authorization form. The prior authorization form confirms that your hospital or health system permits solicitation among executives and trustees. By signing this form, your hospital or health system is committing to exclusively be associated with the federal AHA PAC.

Individualize Your Solicitation

All PAC solicitations must be done as an individual, without the support of your nonprofit organization. As a result, please use only personal stationery or personal email, cover the costs of postage, and do not solicit during business hours.

Assemble Solicitation Lists

Develop a list of eligible staff and Board members who you intend to solicit. Eligible staff members are defined as individuals employed by the hospital who are paid on salary rather than hourly basis and who have policymaking, managerial, professional, or supervisory responsibilities. Eligible staff include

executives, senior management, and medical staff. Set target amounts for each individual. The following is a list of the various suggested targeted giving levels:

MHAPAC Platinum Club \$1,500

MHAPAC Gold Club & AHA Ben Franklin Club \$1,000

MHAPAC Silver Club & AHA Chairman's Circle \$500

MHAPAC Bronze Club & AHA Capitol Club \$350

Friend of MHAPAC \$250

Solicit Target Individuals

MHA has sample solicitation letters posted on **www.pacmha.org** with language for you to use if you choose. As noted in the solicitation letters, please make it known that contributions to the PAC are strictly voluntary and that the individual can make his or her own decision without concern of reprisal.

Collecting Contributions

Ask donors to return checks using the donor card and envelope provided or make an online contribution at **www.pacmha.org**

Follow-Up

To ensure the success of your campaign, MHA will:

- Update you on contributions received throughout the campaign
- Solicit target individuals directly as requested
- Provide you with thank you cards for donors joining you in support of the PAC
- Be available to attend senior management and/or board meetings to discuss the importance of the PAC

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can 501(C)(3) Corporations participate in a PAC?

No, your 501(c)(3) corporation is prohibited from engaging in political activity. MHAPAC is not seeking contributions from your 501(c)(3) but is asking health care leaders to contribute with personal funds.

Are PAC contributions tax deductible as business expenses?

No, PAC contributions are not tax deductible for state or federal income tax purposes.

Can for-profit subsidiary companies contribute to the MHAPAC?

A taxable for-profit company, partnership, or limited liability company may contribute to MHAPAC. Such a contribution is attributed only to MHAPAC and not to AHAPAC. State law permits corporate contributions and federal law prohibits such contributions. However, corporate contributions from for-profit companies will help MHA meet its goals and are welcome.

Do the funds support state or federal candidates?

The MHA and AHA PACs are permitted to solicit joint members together. About 30% of personal contributions collected by MHAPAC will be forwarded to AHAPAC to support federal candidates. Any corporate funds donated to MHAPAC will remain solely with MHAPAC and will be used exclusively to support state candidates. An individual can elect for their contribution to only go to MHAPAC by indicating it on the donor card and making the check payable to MHAPAC.

Can I use my organizational title when soliciting?

An executive's title may be used for identification purposes in any personal or campaign communication supporting the PAC if it is clear and unambiguous that the executive is acting in an individual capacity and not on behalf of the hospital or system.

How was the goal for my hospital or health system established?

The MHAPAC Board developed the goals for each hospital and health system based on hospitals' operating expenses.

Does contributing to the PAC count against my personal state or federal contribution limits to political candidates?

No, your contribution to MHAPAC does not count against your personal contribution limits to state or federal candidates.

Can registered lobbyists participate in the PAC?

Registered lobbyists can donate to the PAC. Registered Maryland state lobbyists cannot solicit or deliver contributions on behalf of the PAC. As a result, please do not ask your in-house state lobbyists to solicit contributions. Registered federal lobbyists are permitted to donate and solicit. For questions, please contact 410-379-6200 or pacmha@pacmha.org.

Contributions to the MHA and AHA PACs support state and federal candidates who support the hospital industry and its allied medical professionals.

By authority of MHAPAC, Kristy Daphnis, Treasurer