

11. Who else has a PAC?

GCSAA works with many membership and trade associations that have PACs, including many with membership and budget totals similar to GCSAA. The following have PACs: National Club Association, Irrigation Association, PGA Tour, American Nursery and Landscape Association, National Alliance for Landscape Professionals among others.

12. Would a GCSAA PAC's fundraising compete with fundraising through the Environmental Institute for Golf?

No. A GCSAA PAC would not compete with the EIFG's fundraising efforts. By law, a GCSAA PAC could not solicit contributions from most of those who contribute to EIFG, including chapters, companies and corporations. Only individuals who are American citizens can contribute to a federal PAC. Also – to further separate the two - GCSAA's PAC would structure solicitations to occur independent of EIFG fundraising efforts.

13. Are we buying influence?

No, a PAC contribution of \$500 or \$1,000 is not going to buy us a vote. Donations from a PAC promote access and build strong relationships with key decision makers. This will allow the GCSAA to find champions to introduce favorable legislation and intervene on regulatory issues. There is no quid pro quo.

14. Are there any concerns of starting up a GCSAA PAC?

There is always a risk that the GCSAA will be seen as favoring a political party or agenda. We would greatly lessen this risk by following procedures, including establishing a PAC Committee and bylaws.

15. When would a GCSAA PAC become active?

The GCSAA Board of Directors recommended that Government Affairs staff move forward with intelligence gathering to gauge member interest and identify fundraising targets. A vote on PAC formation is expected at the Spring 2017 Board meeting. If GCSAA moves forward with a PAC, the launch of the PAC would occur in the fall of 2017, with solicitations to follow after that. The goal would be to time the launch to maximize GCSAA's involvement with the 2018 Congressional midterm elections.

**For more information regarding a Political Action Committee (PAC)
contact the GCSAA Gov. Affairs Dept. - (800) 472-7878
www.gcsaa.org/pac**



POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE FAQ



GCSAA PAC FAQ



1. Why does the GCSAA want to start a Political Action Committee?

GCSAA operates a strong legislative, regulatory, and compliance advocacy effort which combines direct lobbying with its Grassroots Ambassador Program. We are providing a high level of service to golf course superintendents and that will continue. But we are not able to attend Congressional fundraisers that provide greater access to lawmakers because we don't have a PAC. These are valuable, more intimate, settings to discuss golf's priority issues agenda and help build strong relationships with key decision-makers. Without a PAC, we can't be there. We want to continue to amplify our voice and remain the leader of advocacy in the golf industry.

2. What is a PAC?

Groups of individuals with common interests – may be ideological – who want to advance a specific policy agenda by contributing to candidates who share their views.

3. Who can a GCSAA PAC solicit funds from? How is a PAC funded?

GCSAA can solicit funds from any U.S. citizen who is a member of the GCSAA, whether they be rank and file members or are affiliated with a corporate member (such as their executive personnel and shareholders). Funds could be distributed to any candidate for Congress or the Presidency. GCSAA could also solicit funds from our own personnel, both executive and administrative. However, federal regulation limits solicitations to GCSAA administrative staff to twice a year.

4. Can anyone else donate funds to a GCSAA PAC?

Any citizen – outside of those allowed to be solicited under federal regulation – can donate funds to a GCSAA PAC. However, a GCSAA PAC could not ask for those donations.

5. Can a golf facility or chapter donate funds?

No. Donations to a GCSAA PAC can only come voluntarily from individuals. Any donation coming from a facility or chapter would have to be returned.

6. Do I have to contribute?

No. Federal regulations require that contributions to a GCSAA PAC must be voluntary. No one would be forced to contribute.

7. Can the GCSAA take the funds out of my member dues?

No portion of GCSAA membership dues can be used as a contribution to a GCSAA PAC. Contributions must be voluntary.

8. How do I know my contribution will be going to advance golf course management?

The GCSAA PAC would be about promoting policy, not personality or politics. So donations would only go to those federal officials who play a direct role in support of the GCSAA Priority Issues Agenda. Once a GCSAA PAC is up and running, any donations would be proposed by staff and then reviewed by a PAC Committee made up of golf course superintendents. The committee would have to approve any donations.

9. What can the GCSAA do to support a PAC?

GCSAA may provide support, including financial support, for the administrative efforts of running a PAC. Unlike contributions, none of these funds could be used to support any candidate for Congress or the Presidency.

10. How much money do we need?

The GCSAA PAC would have a three-year budget ramp up. In year one, we would want to raise \$15,000, in year two we would want to raise \$25,000, and in year three and beyond, we would want to raise \$30,000. \$30,000 translates to a less than \$2 contribution per golf course superintendent and access from anywhere to 30 – 60 fundraisers (\$500-1,000 typical for House/Senate fundraiser; goes up based on seniority). Contributions of any amount will be gladly accepted.