



Frank C. Worrell, PhD  
2022 President  
American Psychological Association Services, Inc.

July 2022

Dear Frank,

We understand that some members of APA's Council of Representatives have questions about the contribution criteria and operations of Psychology Political Action Committee (PAC) so we ask that you share this communication with them.

The mission of the Psychology PAC is to support candidates for federal office who support the field, discipline, and practice of psychology, as well as lead efforts to address the broad spectrum of challenges facing society. To accomplish that mission, Psychology PAC supports Democratic, independent, and Republican candidates who support the diverse set of issues of importance to psychology and society.

As members of the Psychology PAC Advisory Committee, which is the governing body of the PAC, we want to take this opportunity to update you on our operations.

Following the events of January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Psychology PAC paused operations to perform an analysis of how the PAC could best respond to changes in the political landscape. As a result, the Advisory Committee:

- Revised PAC contribution criteria to look at the totality of Senate and House member votes in support of the practice and profession of psychology.
- Instituted a ban on giving to the 147 Members of Congress who voted against certifying the 2020 presidential election.
- Established quarterly meetings to review and ensure PAC giving priorities are aligned with advocacy priorities and PAC fundraising goals and metrics.
- Increased our educational efforts about the Psychology PAC across all subgroups of APA Services, Inc. membership, including by publishing an educational video, which can be viewed [here](#).

In June 2021, the Psychology PAC resumed operations under the new guidance listed above, APA/APA Services, Inc.'s strategic plan, as well as the [advocacy priorities](#) solicited across APASI membership and recommended by the Advocacy Coordinating Committee. The PAC's recalibration has contributed to the active engagement of APASI members and Congressional members with the Psychology PAC.

**The Psychology PAC is funded by voluntary donations from the membership and not by Association member dues.** Any individual who is a member of APA Services, Inc., which includes all members of APA, is eligible to contribute to the Psychology PAC. Under law, no funds from APA/APA Services, Inc. membership dues may be given to the Psychology PAC or candidates for federal office.

Most important, the Psychology PAC is transparent: All disbursements and receipts are reported publicly to the Federal Election Commission (FEC), the federal agency that oversees all political activity by both PACs and candidates. The publicly available FEC Report for the Psychology PAC can be found [here](#).

Thanks to the voluntary contributions from members to the Psychology PAC, APA Services has played a key role in increasing access to psychological services through telehealth and audio-only services and advancing gun violence prevention, along with investments in school- and community-based mental health programs.

We are living in uncertain and tumultuous times. That said, we must recognize that 24 states in the U.S. are now controlled by the Republican Party and 13 states are controlled by the Democratic Party. And with narrow margins in both the House and Senate for the foreseeable future, we must build champions for psychological issues on both sides of the aisle. It is also critical for us to have a voice to advance psychology in all 50 states, no matter the political party that controls that state's government. APA members know all too well the challenges in their own states in protecting and defending important societal issues. The reality is that there are candidates who will take positions on legislation that are antithetical to APA's priorities and policy positions, while at the same time, those candidates may also be some of the staunchest supporters and defenders of the profession, science, and practice of psychology. Therefore, we examine the totality of a candidate's record as we make strategic decisions regarding the PAC's activities.

We look forward to continuing to work together to advance the interests of the field, discipline, and practice of psychology, as well as the communities we serve.

Best,

**Psychology PAC Advisory Committee**

Sharon Berry, PhD, ABPP  
Lindsey Buckman, PsyD  
Jo Linder-Crow, PhD

Derek Phillips, PsyD, MSCP  
Antonio E. Puente, PhD  
Peter Sheras, PhD