

GUIDELINES FOR CANDIDATE CONTRIBUTIONS



The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Political Action Committee (OMSPAC) is the political voice of the specialty and utilizes financial contributions from AAOMS members around the country to contribute to the election campaigns of Federal candidates who understand and support issues important to oral and maxillofacial surgeons. The OMSPAC Board considers contribution requests from AAOMS members for any federal candidate using the specified criteria outlined below. The OMSPAC Board reserves the right to deny a contribution request for any candidate that it believes does not represent the interests of AAOMS based on all of the specified criteria.

Requests for contributions will only be considered by current contributors to or members in good standing with OMSPAC. If a retired member or member who has not contributed to OMSPAC makes a request, he/she will be directed to resubmit that request through an OMSPAC contributor. The OMSPAC Board also strongly encourages OMSPAC contributors to personally deliver contributions to federal candidates. It makes a much stronger impact on the candidate when he or she can put the face of an oral and maxillofacial surgeon with a contribution. Examples of delivering a contribution include a personal meeting with a candidate or attending or hosting a fundraiser. Please note that it is against Federal Election Commission rules to deliver or discuss a contribution to a federal candidate in his or her congressional office or in any federal building. If you would like ideas or suggestions on personally delivering a contribution to a candidate, please contact OMSPAC staff at 800/822-6637 or via email at omspac@aaoms.org.

Factors for considering contributions to federal candidates include: 1. committee or subcommittee assignments with jurisdiction over AAOMS's issues 2. leadership posts 3. are friends of the specialty based on past support of key issues 4. have close personal ties with an AAOMS member. The evaluation process is outlined later in this document and based on issues identified as part of AAOMS's federal legislative agenda.

OMSPAC members requesting candidate contributions must submit a completed Candidate Contribution Request Form at least two weeks prior to the time they need the contribution check.

OMSPAC BOARD'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR CONSIDERING OMSPAC CONTRIBUTIONS

The Board follows the OMSPAC Mission Statement, Constitution and Bylaws, and Guidelines for Candidate Contributions when reviewing a contribution request. The Board further realizes that:

1. Few candidates will support every legislative priority. These issues can change from year to year, and as such current legislative co-sponsorship should not be the sole determining factor when considering a request;
2. Bipartisanship is necessary to foster a broad base of support;
3. In order to remain a political force, the OMSPAC Board must remain flexible to take full advantage of last-minute opportunities;
4. OMSPAC must be supportive of other organization's efforts in order to build alliances to support future OMSPAC efforts; and
5. OMSPAC must maintain the trust and credibility of its membership if it hopes to encourage future contributors and future political involvement.

STATE CANDIDATES

OMSPAC typically does not contribute to state candidates due to varying and arduous state campaign finance reporting requirements that OMSPAC does not have the resources to accommodate. Currently, 41 states have some form of extra contribution filing requirement. There are rare exceptions to this rule which the OMSPAC Board will evaluate on a case-by-case basis. Without exception, there must be no campaign filing requirements within the state for OMSPAC to consider a state level contribution.

FEDERAL CANDIDATES

At the federal level, congressional candidates serving on the following committees, holding leadership positions or having a special connection to the specialty are given first priority for contributions. In addition, contribution ranges have been assigned to each of these groups below. The OMSPAC Board may raise or lower outside of these levels for any candidate at their discretion. Any contribution request received above this range must be approved by the OMSPAC Board.

Tier 1 Committees & Subcommittees

\$3,000-\$5,000 per primary or general election race

- House Energy and Commerce Committee chair and ranking minority member
- House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee member
- House Ways and Means Committee chair and ranking minority member
- House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee member
- House Small Business Committee chair and ranking minority member
- Senate Small Business Committee chair and ranking minority member
- Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee member
- Senate Finance Committee member

Tier 2 Committees

\$1,000-\$2,500 per primary or general election race

- House Energy and Commerce Committee member (not chair, ranking member, or health subcommittee member)
- House Ways and Means Committee member (not chair, ranking member, or health subcommittee member)
- House or Senate Appropriations Committee member
- House or Senate Budget Committee member
- House or Senate Rules Committee member

Leadership

- House Speaker – up to \$5,000 per primary or general election race
- House or Senate Majority/Minority Leaders – up to \$5,000 per race
- House or Senate Majority/Minority Whips - \$2,000-\$3,000 per race

Special Authorization List

Up to \$5,000 per primary or general election race

- Health care professionals (i.e., DDSs, MDs) running for office – to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- House or Senate sponsors of key legislation

Leadership PACs

Contributions are made on a case-by-case basis with priority given to candidates' personal campaigns and then to leadership PACs of those in leadership positions.

Joint Fundraising Committees

Contributions to candidates' personal campaigns are given priority and are the preferred method of OMSPAC contributing. Contributions to joint fundraising committees are made on a case-by-case basis. However, if a contribution to a joint fundraising committee is to be considered by the OMSPAC Board, all candidates who have access to the funds in that particular joint fundraising committee must be vetted and approved by the OMSPAC Board.

National Parties

OMSPAC contributions to national parties are rarely done. Federal law limits PAC contributions to national parties at \$15,000 annually. Although contributing to these groups may possibly give OMSPAC a higher profile with leaders in Washington, priority will be given to requests made specifically to OMSPAC for individual federal candidates. OMSPAC may give consideration to party contributions that allow some form of designation to an individual candidate.

National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) – House Republican candidates
Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) – Democratic House candidates
National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC) – Republican Senate candidates
Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC) – Democratic Senate candidates
National Republican Committee (NRC) – Republican Party
Democratic National Committee (DNC) – Democratic Party

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

OMSPAC does not contribute to presidential candidates since its efforts are geared toward congressional federal candidates. There are rare exceptions to this rule, which the OMSPAC Board will evaluate on a case-by-case basis.

FIRST-TIME CANDIDATES

Requirements of First-Time Candidates:

Prior to OMSPAC considering a contribution request for a candidate who does not currently hold a seat in Congress, the OMSPAC Board requires the following:

- A copy of the candidate's FEC registration, including the committee and candidate identification numbers if not readily available;
- Documentation of support from the health care community;
- Literature on the candidate's health care positions; and
- A curriculum vitae for the candidate.

Contribution Match for First-Time Candidates (open seat and challenging incumbents)

OMSPAC realizes that building relationships with candidates early in their career can be beneficial. However, contributing to first time candidates, particularly those who are challenging incumbents, can be risky. To ensure the member requesting the contribution makes a personal investment in the candidate, OMSPAC encourages the member who requests the contribution to also match the OMSPAC contribution through their own contribution to the candidate or by raising that amount from others. For OMS candidates requesting support for his or her own campaign, the OMSPAC Board will consider the candidate's contribution history to OMSPAC in its decision-making process.

ATTENDING OR HOSTING LOCAL EVENTS

OMSPAC has instituted a program to encourage members to become involved at the local level with federal candidates who are their own elected officials. Any OMSPAC contributor who attends or hosts a political fundraiser for an election or re-election may request OMSPAC to provide financial support towards the event. Requests may be made to an OMSPAC Board member or staff, must be made two weeks prior to the event and have the support of the state OMSPAC chair.

SUPER PACS

Super PACs inherently avoid any relationship between the contributor and the candidate. As OMSPAC's intent is to establish and maintain relationships with elected members of Congress so our voice may be heard on issues of priority to AAOMS, contributions will be provided to the candidate's election campaign and only in exceptional occasions will OMSPAC consider contributions to Super PACs.

The OMSPAC Board serves as the custodian for the contributions of its membership. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Board to ensure that OMSPAC funds are spent wisely and develop our relationships with federal legislators.