# Strategic PAC Fundraising and Management

#### **Kelly Eaton**

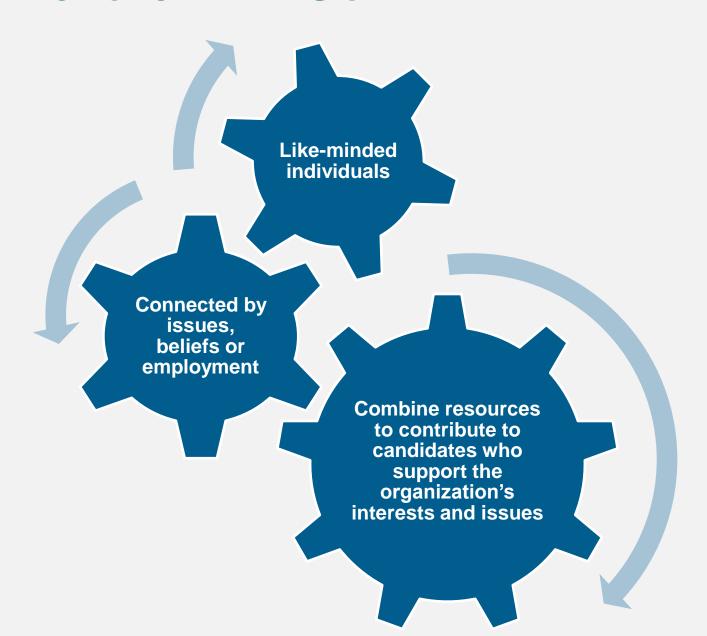
Senior Manager, PAC & Political Programs | Hewlett-Packard Company

#### Hannah Wesolowski

Senior Manager, Political Involvement Practice | Public Affairs Council



## The Role of PACs



## The Role of PACs:

Supporting candidates is the only thing a company or association <u>cannot</u> do for itself and for which it relies on its employees/members for support.

### It does this through a PAC.



#### **4,800**+ connected federal PACs

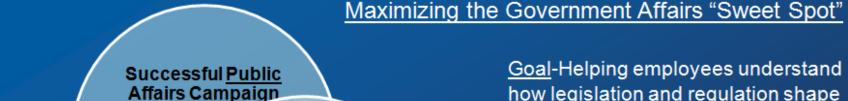
(connected to corporation or association)



PACs contributed \$453.3 million to federal candidates in 2012 election cycle

- \$433.7 million in 2010 election cycle

# Demonstrating Impact on Organizational Priorities



Increase visibility/ reputation of CVS Caremark through Grassroots Activism

Increase Visibility/ PAC=tool for Gov't Affairs

**Impact of** 

Legislative Process

Goal-Helping employees understand how legislation and regulation shape CVS Caremark as a pharmacy innovator and as an employer

Outcome-Energized employee base, increased PAC receipts and educated Grassroots advocates able to impact legislative outcomes

Impact-By the Numbers
Number of Employees 200,000
Presence in states, DC, PR 46
Federal legislators 535
State legislators 7,300+



## It Takes A Village...

- PAC boards: Members cross business functions, locations and titles
- Legal counsel: Active in compliance activities
- CEOs/leadership: Contribute to PAC, endorse PAC, attend events, sign solicitations
- IT, Finance, Board Relations



## Who Supports the PAC?

Corporate PAC Contributors	Median Participation Rate	Median Contribution Amount	Percentage of Contributions from Segment
Overall	20%	\$881	100%
Senior management	60%	\$1,933	54%
Restricted class/salaried employees	16%	\$531	41%
Corporate board	67%	\$2,639	2%

Association PAC Contributors	Median Participation Rate	Median Contribution Amount	Percentage of Contributions from Segment
Overall	23%	\$647	100%
Association staff senior mgmt.	75%	\$2,143	7%
Association staff (non-senior management)	53%	\$1,439	2%
Association board	98%	\$2,216	24%
Individual members	10%	\$367	49%
Member company senior mgmt.	66%	\$837	10%

### Common Hurdles



#### Misinformation

- Super PAC vs. connected PAC
- Buying access
- Nothing is happening in Washington...



#### Myths

- PACs buy elections/votes
- Lobbyists' slush fund



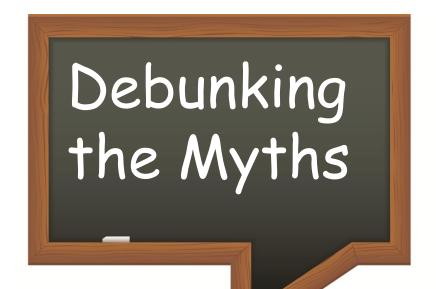
Attitudes towards politics in general

Attrition/retirements & generational differences



	Connected PAC (connected to a corporation or association)	Super PAC
Source of Funds	Restricted Class (eligible employees)	Public (PACs and individuals), including corporate and union money
Purpose and Use of Funds	Directly supports candidates for federal or state office using funds contributed by company employees	A committee that can spend funds on independent expenditures only.  Super PACs CANNOT directly support candidates for office.
Contribution Limits	In most cases, \$5,000.	No limits – can accept unlimited contributions from corporations, associations, unions and individuals.
Corporate Funds Allowed?	No. Can only be used for administrative expenses.	Yes. Corporations can contribute unlimited funds to a super PAC.
Disclosure	All receipts and expenditures are reportable to the FEC.	All receipts and expenditures are reportable to the FEC.

\*\*A traditional connected PAC remains the only vehicle a company may use to fund a candidate's campaign\*\*



#### Education and re-education plays a big role

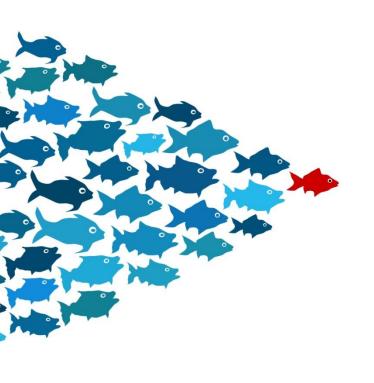
- Lunch and learns
- Small group meetings
- Newsletters
- Candidate townhalls (in-person and virtual)
- Annual reports
- Websites



Just Visit www.ComcastPAC.com



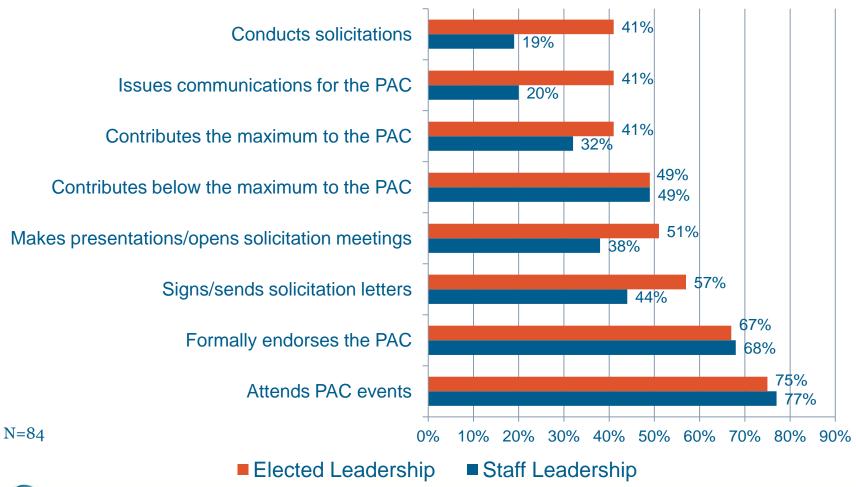
## Fundraising: Leadership Involvement



- Need buy-in
  - Helps make case for resources
  - Visible support of the PAC trickles down
- Associations: Elected leader involvement more critical than CEO involvement
- Corporations: CEO involvement corresponds strongly with size of PAC

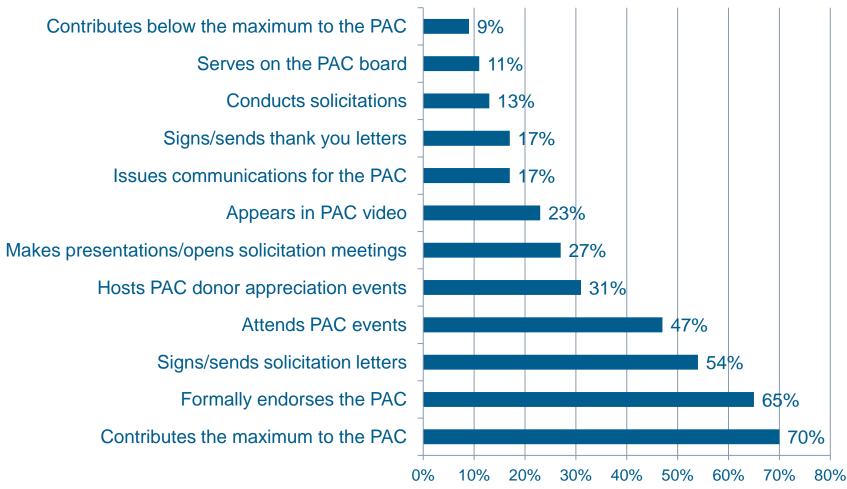


# How are your association's staff and elected leader involved in the PAC?



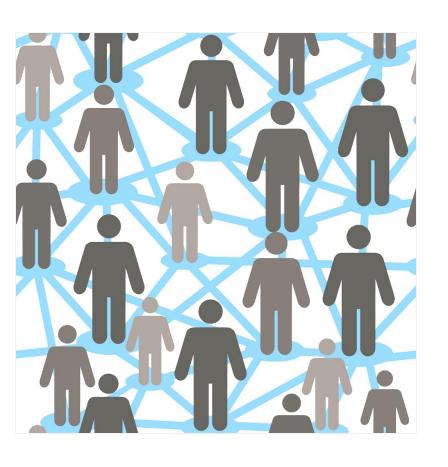


# How is your company's chief executive officer involved in the federal PAC?





# Fundraising: The Rise of Peers



#### Peer solicitations:

- Build trust
- Give the feeling of "everyone else is doing it"
- Provide opportunity to dispel myths
- Give a face to the PAC



## Fundraising: Focus on Culture

#### Tactics should match organization's culture

 Acknowledge what is going on in the organization – can't be tone deaf

Find out what eligibles want

Access to management?
 Cool speakers? Gifts?

→ Applies to solicitation tactics, incentives & recognition and transparency



# Fundraising: Incorporating Technology

- Mobile apps
- Texting contributions
- Mobile-optimized sites
- Purls (personalized URLs)
- Infographics
- Websites

## Fundraising: Data is Your Friend

#### Outside your organization:

- Fundraising \$ and practices of peers
- Candidates supported by peers

#### Inside your organization:

- Who is giving to your PAC?
- How are they giving?
- Are they active in other ways?
- Have they given before but stopped giving?
- How new to the organization are they?
- Where do they live/work?

Have you increased conversation around PAC?

Did your PAC donors engage with candidates?

Is PAC source of election/political information?

External impact:
How many
candidates have
you supported?

Scope of Influence

What is the connection to organizational priorities?

## Reporting Back

- Status updates to stakeholders
- Annual reports
- Transparency

→ Consistency in internal reporting mechanisms is important





## Questions?

# Hannah Wesolowski Senior Manager, Political Involvement Practice <a href="mailto:hwesolowski@pac.org">hwesolowski@pac.org</a> | 202.787.5969

