

Q. What is Travel PAC?

A. The U.S. Travel Political Action Committee (Travel PAC) is a nonprofit organization of U.S. Travel members and employees established for the purpose of soliciting, collecting and disbursing political contributions as a means to support the election of pro-travel candidates to federal elective office. All contributions are voluntary, and no individual will ever face reprisal or retribution for not participating in Travel PAC.

Q. What is a political action committee?

A. A political action committee is essentially a bank account that gives businesses, trade and professional associations and labor organizations a way to pool the resources of their members and employees to support candidates for federal elective office. Political action committees were authorized by federal law in the 1970s and virtually all trade, professional and labor organizations have now created political action committees.

Q. Why does the U.S. Travel Association need Travel PAC?

A. U.S. Travel needs Travel PAC to compete with powerful interest groups and other organizations that contribute millions of dollars annually to help elect candidates who support harmful regulation of the travel industry and laws that restrict the flow of travel to and within the United States.

Q. Why doesn't the U.S. Travel Association just use its own money to make political contributions?

A. **Federal election law prohibits corporate contributions to candidates** for the U.S. Senate and House. In addition, U.S. Travel cannot use membership dues or other association revenues to financially support candidates.

Q. What kind of contributions can Travel PAC accept?

A. By law, **PACs can accept only personal contributions** by eligible individuals to provide financial support to candidates for U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives.

Q. Why is Travel PAC important to me?

A. By opting in to learn more about [Travel PAC](#), you can ensure that the U.S. Travel Association is able to help elect candidates who support the travel industry and are committed to removing barriers to travel. Our PAC helps grow U.S. Travel's allies and supporters on Capitol Hill by building relationships with pro-travel candidates, enhancing the visibility of U.S. Travel on Capitol Hill, promoting awareness of the new U.S. Travel brand and the uniqueness of our membership and educating Congress about the critical role of travel to the U.S. economy.

Q. Why should I contribute to a PAC instead of giving to the candidate(s) of my choice?

A. Engaging in political activities is vital to the entire travel and tourism community. As the U.S. Travel Association grows, so does our commitment to ensuring we have a strong and unified voice in Washington. Contributing to a PAC helps leverage the collective resources of hundreds of your colleagues to support our industry's top champions.

Q. How much of the contributions are used on overhead?

A. While the U.S. Travel Association cannot legally contribute to candidates, it is allowed to provide the administrative support required to establish and operate a political action committee of its own. Nearly 100% of contributions to Travel PAC are used for political contributions to travel-friendly candidates.

Q. How much can I contribute to a PAC?

A. Federal law permits individuals to contribute up to \$5,000 to Travel PAC each calendar year. Other corporate and association PACs may also contribute a maximum of \$5,000 to Travel PAC each calendar year.

Q. What is the difference between a traditional PAC and a Super PAC?

A. While a traditional PAC, such as Travel PAC, may only receive a maximum contribution of \$5,000 from each individual contributor per calendar year, Super PACs may accept unlimited contributions (including those from corporations and unions) to support candidates for federal office. However, Super PACs cannot contribute directly to federal candidates' campaigns or political parties, while traditional PACs are allowed to do so. Super PACs instead spend their funds on electioneering activities such as advertising in support or opposition of particular issues or candidates. U.S. Travel only operates a traditional PAC and does not engage in electioneering activities.

Q. Is a PAC contribution deductible on my personal income tax return?

A. No, PAC contributions are not tax deductible as they are considered political contributions.

Q. How often can I make contributions?

A. You may contribute as often as you wish, as long as the sum of your contributions does not exceed the \$5,000 limit during any calendar year.

Q. Will my contribution to Travel PAC be disclosed publicly?

A. All Travel PAC receipts and disbursements, in accordance with federal law, will be disclosed to the Federal Election Commission. Contributions from individuals totaling \$200 or more annually will become public information.

Q. What kind of candidates does Travel PAC support?

A. The U.S. Travel Association and Travel PAC support federal candidates who embrace travel as an economic generator and conduit for public diplomacy, actively support legislation to remove barriers to travel and value the promotion of travel as a U.S. export.

Q. Will the contributions be spent evenly among candidates from all parties?

A. Candidates supported through Travel PAC contributions will be chosen on the basis of their qualifications, political trends and leadership changes and overall travel community concerns. Travel is a strong bipartisan industry and, because of that, our bylaws require Travel PAC to balance giving between Democrats and Republicans.

Q. Who decides which candidates to support?

A. U.S. Travel staff, in consultation with the Travel PAC Board of Directors, collectively make the selection of candidates that Travel PAC supports. Travel PAC donors are invited to suggest candidates for consideration.

Q. How do I learn more?

A. Before you can make a contribution or get more information on Travel PAC, the Federal Election Commission requires that we receive your permission in writing. It's easy and only takes a minute to fill out the [prior approval form](#).

Q. I still have questions, who can I contact?

A. For more information, please contact Michael Jacobson at 202.408.2181 or pac@ustravel.org.

For information about federal election laws, please go to the Federal Election Commission Web site at www.fec.gov.