



## IAPD Plastics PAC and the Law

Federal election laws strictly regulate political action committees in their support of candidates for federal office. The IAPD Plastics PAC Advisory Board serves as its official representatives and is expected to have a working knowledge of federal regulations that apply to both fundraising for the PAC and making contributions to candidates.

### WHEN AND WHERE DO FEDERAL ELECTION LAWS APPLY?

- In election campaigns for federal office (i.e., U.S. President, U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives)
- To PACs, individuals and political parties that make contributions to candidates for federal office
  - To individuals and groups which may attempt to influence the outcome of elections for federal office

### INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

- Individuals may give a maximum of \$5,000 per calendar year to the IAPD Plastics PAC
- Individuals may give a maximum of \$2,700 per election to a candidate for federal office — primary, runoff and general elections are each considered separate elections
- Individuals may contribute up to \$33,400 per calendar year to a national political party committee
- Individuals may give a maximum of \$117,000 per cycle year towards federal races of all types — contributions to IAPD Plastics PAC, which supports federal candidates, count toward this individual limit. Candidate contributions count against the election year limit. PAC and party contributions count in the year they are made
- Individuals may not make contributions in the name of another person
- Married couples have separate contribution limits (shown above), even if only one spouse has income
- Federal government contractors may not make contributions to federal candidates, parties or PACs
- Foreign nationals may not make contributions to candidates, parties or PACs at the local, state or federal level

### IAPD PLASTICS PAC LIMITS

- IAPD Plastics PAC MAY NOT ACCEPT CONTRIBUTIONS, EITHER DIRECT OR INDIRECT, FROM CORPORATIONS
- IAPD Plastics PAC may contribute a

- maximum of \$2,700 per election to a candidate for federal office — primary, runoff and general elections are each considered separate elections
- IAPD Plastics PAC may contribute a maximum of \$33,400 per year to national political parties
- May not accept anonymous cash contributions over \$50
- May not accept cash contributions over \$100
- May accept contributions from partnerships and sole proprietorships, provided they are not incorporated

### HARD MONEY VS. SOFT MONEY

“Hard money” is the common term for the limited, disclosed funds raised from individuals and political committees in conformity with the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) limits. “Hard money” contributions are personal contributions that can be used in connection with federal elections. IAPD Plastics PAC accepts only “hard money” contributions.

“Soft money” is the term commonly applied to contributions given to political parties from sources or in amounts that FECA does not regulate. These funds may be spent for state election activity and non-election activity such as issue advertising, “get out the vote” campaigns and other party-building activities. Soft money may not be used in connection with federal elections; therefore IAPD Plastics PAC cannot accept “soft money” contributions.

### WHAT IS CONSIDERED A CONTRIBUTION?

Anything of value given to influence a federal election is considered a contribution, including:

- Money (subject to limits noted above)
- Donated items and services, known as ‘in-kind’ contributions. In-kind contributions are generally valued at their fair market price

### WHAT IS NOT CONSIDERED A CONTRIBUTION?

- Uncompensated personal services provided by volunteers
- Costs paid by volunteers for home events (e.g., costs for food and beverages connected with a home fundraising event) under \$1,000 per candidate per election
- Incidental use of corporate or union facilities in connection with volunteer activities (less than one hour per week or four hours per month)
- Personal travel expenses on behalf of a candidate (under \$1,000 per election); certain types of legal and accounting services to assist candidates in complying with federal election laws (strict and explicit limits apply)
- Partisan communications by trade associations to their members (not the public at large). Strict and explicit limits apply

### PROCESSING PAC CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions received by IAPD Plastics PAC, or individuals acting on IAPD Plastics PAC’s behalf, must be deposited in IAPD Plastics PAC’s bank account within 10 days of receipt.

IAPD Plastics PAC files monthly reports with the Federal Election showing receipts from members and disbursements to candidates.

- The names, addresses, occupations and employers of all individuals who contribute in aggregate of \$200 per calendar year are reported to the Federal Election Commission
- IAPD Plastics PAC and all individuals acting on behalf of the IAPD Plastics PAC must exercise their BEST EFFORTS in obtaining the prior authorization, address, occupation and employer information from each individual contributor

Any illegal contributions (e.g., corporate contributions or contributions received from foreign nationals) received by IAPD Plastics PAC will be returned to the contributors.