

GREATER CLEVELAND PARTNERSHIP  
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

---

2017 ANNUAL  
REPORT

---

Greater Cleveland Partnership

**PAC**

POWER FOR NORTHEAST OHIO



Dear Friends:

The importance of government advocacy and your support – by collectively pooling our resources together in support of the Greater Cleveland Partnership Political Action Committee (GCP PAC) – is critical to providing a voice for the business community before our elected leaders on the highest priorities for the region.

The Greater Cleveland Partnership advocates on our members' behalf daily. Today, with 9,500 members, we are well-positioned to make even greater strides on policy issues at the local, state, and federal levels of government that matter most to those we represent.

We continue to serve in the important role of deepening our members' understanding of significant issues and continue to protect the interests of Northeast Ohio. Participation in the process is not a requirement, but it is crucial business leaders engage and seek progress – together – to support the kind of environment in which you and your business will thrive.

Simply stated, the GCP PAC exists to ensure the businesses that empower our organization are heard. To preserve the gains we've made, we need elected officials who understand the ramifications of existing policies or proposed initiatives and can also carefully weigh the cost of our regulatory framework.

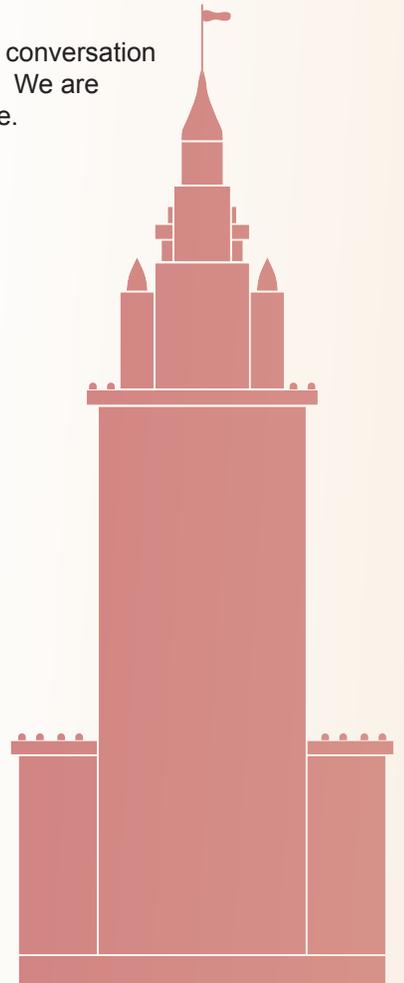
Our political action committee is a non-partisan endeavor committed to advancing the business community's interests by building and reinforcing relationships and supporting candidates and current elected officials at the state and local levels of government. And, our role is to provide our members with the means for concerted political action. The dollars contributed through the GCP PAC are used to provide support for governmental leaders campaigning for election who share your interests.

Please consider contributing to the GCP PAC, so we can continue to lead the conversation in the development of common sense economic policy and regulatory reform. We are appreciative of whatever contribution you can make towards our shared cause.

Sincerely,



**Joe Roman**  
President & CEO  
Greater Cleveland Partnership



# POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES

A political action committee, or PAC, is a combination of two or more persons, the primary or major purpose of which is to support or oppose any candidate, political party, or issue, or to influence the result of any election through express advocacy.

## GCP PAC Mission

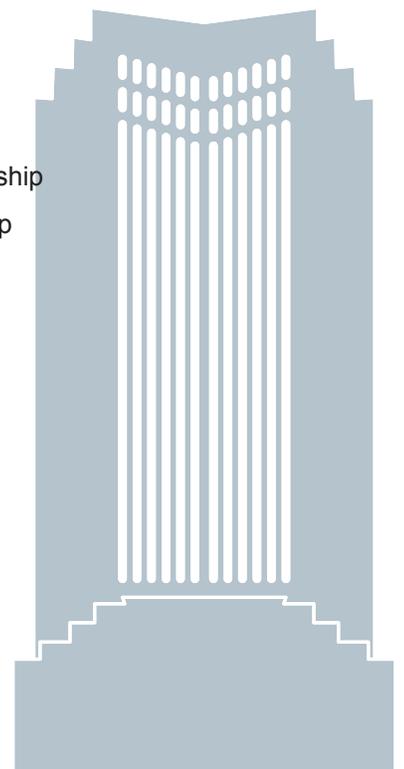
The GCP PAC is a non-partisan effort committed to advancing the business community's interests by building and reinforcing relationships and supporting candidates and current elected officials at the state and local levels of government. By contributing to the campaign efforts of those that will further advance the Greater Cleveland Partnership's public policy agenda priorities, we provide our members with a unique opportunity to advocate for an environment that encourages economic growth and prosperity. The GCP PAC represents a strong, unified voice for businesses of all sizes and industries in our region and aids businesses in educating key decision makers on the issues that are important to them.

## GCP PAC Contributions

**Contributions are made to city, county, and state candidates and elected officials.** PAC resources are used to fund candidate campaigns, but do not serve as an official endorsement.

Contributions to candidates or elected officials at the state or local level are based on:

- Officials in key leadership positions
- Officials that have key committee assignments
- Officials or candidates in competitive races
- Officials or candidates that champion issues important to our membership
- Officials or candidates willing to work with and assist GCP membership



## GCP PAC STATISTICS

The GCP PAC historically focused efforts on building capacity for the PAC in odd number years and making contributions to candidates and elected officials in even number years based on the election cycle. In recognition of the desire to build upon the GCP PAC's influence and to increase our ability to compliment GCP advocacy's daily work, building capacity and making contributions to candidates and elected officials were both a priority in 2016. In 2016 and 2017, the GCP PAC met its fundraising goals and raised more than \$20,000 in each respective year. Contributions to the GCP PAC were made by GCP staff and businesses of all sizes and various industries.

	2015	2016	2017
Total Donations to GCP PAC	\$11,410.52	\$24,885.31	\$22,049.20
Total Contributions to Candidates & Elected Officials	\$9,850.00	\$20,532.60	\$17,333.12

Average total donations to GCP PAC annually since 2010: **\$21,505.40**

Average total contributed to candidates and elected officials annually since 2010: **\$19,108.21**

2017



**20%** contributed to local candidates and elected officials



**80%** contributed to state candidates and elected officials



**67%** of dollars donated to GCP PAC by GCP staff



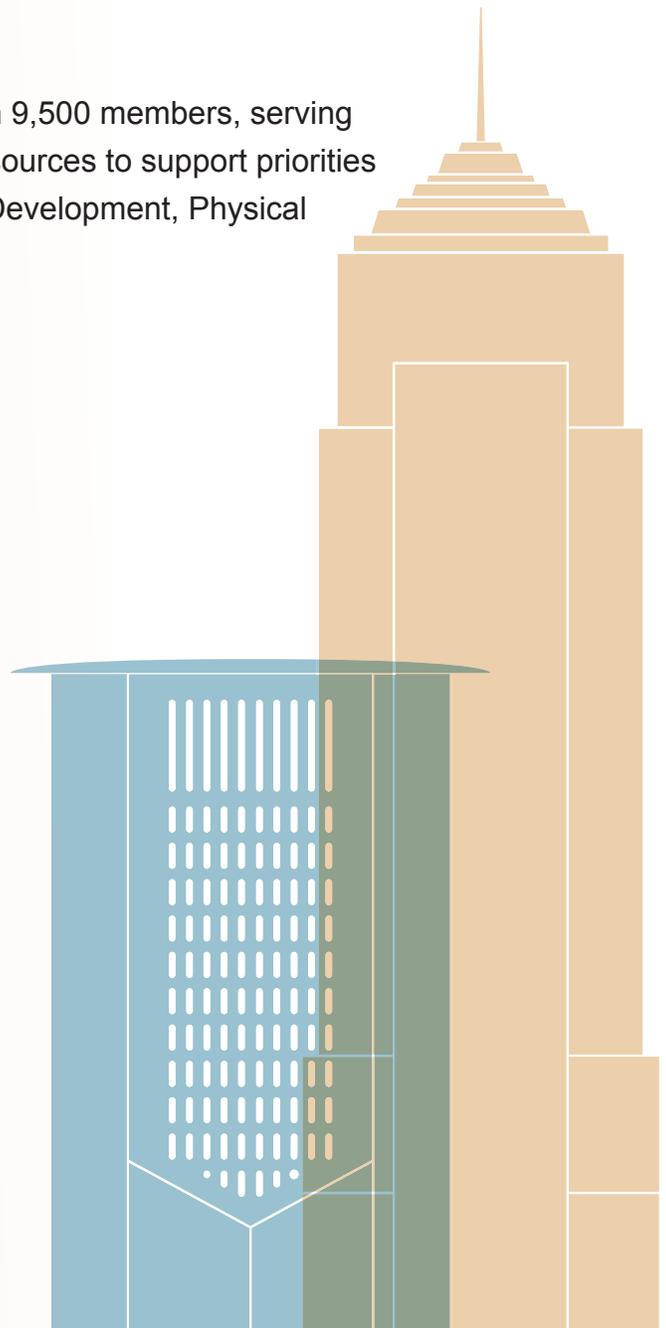
**33%** of dollars donated to GCP PAC by GCP members/other

## ABOUT GCP

Leveraging private and public-sector dollars, the Greater Cleveland Partnership supports collaborative and linchpin efforts to boost the economic vitality of the Cleveland region. We are Northeast Ohio's premier economic development organization as well as the leading business advocacy organization in our community.

By mobilizing leadership, expertise and resources, we are actively involved in conversations and support legislation that generate attractive and sustainable business conditions.

We represent the collective voice of more than 9,500 members, serving as a catalyst for progress and focusing our resources to support priorities that include Advocacy, Business Growth and Development, Physical Development and Economic Inclusion.



## HOW HAS THE GCP PAC SUPPORTED THE ADVOCACY AGENDA YOU HELPED TO CREATE?

- The 2017 – 2018 GCP Public Policy Agenda was unveiled, reflecting the priorities of small, mid-market and large companies in Northeast Ohio.
- November 2017 election outcomes mirrored GCP's support of the Port of Cleveland and Tri-C ballot issues and GCP's opposition to a deceptive statewide prescription drug measure.
- Increased transparency regarding the circulators of petitions on Cleveland ballot issues was achieved.
- Legislation was introduced to incentivize data protection and provide a legal safe harbor to businesses that implement a specified cybersecurity program.
- A provision passed allowing eligible employers applying for the Job Creation Tax Credit to count qualifying work from home employees in their job creation totals.
- Language was included in Ohio's biennial budget creating a statutory definition of microbusinesses in the state.
- Proposed modifications were averted that would have shifted the state tax burden to other businesses.
- Key economic development tools – the New Market Tax Credit and Historic Tax Credit – were preserved to further advance economic development in Greater Cleveland.
- Signature advocacy event member opportunities were offered, including COSE Day at the Capitol, D.C. Fly-In, and GCP Public Officials Reception.



## HOW DO I CONTRIBUTE?

### Online

Use your non-corporate credit card to make a secure online donation today at:

[www.gcpartnership.com/GCPPACcontribute](http://www.gcpartnership.com/GCPPACcontribute)

### Mail

Mail your personal check (payable to GCP PAC) to:

**Greater Cleveland Partnership  
Advocacy Department  
1240 Huron Road E  
Cleveland, OH 44115-1722**

---

Yes, I want to contribute to the Greater Cleveland Partnership Political Action Committee (GCP PAC) to help elect state and local candidates who support the work of the business community.

I wish to pledge the following contribution: \_\_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_ Other

*Please note individuals, limited liability companies (LLCs), partnerships and sole proprietorships can legally make contributions to a PAC. Contributions must include itemized allocations by partners in partnerships or members of a LLC. Ohio law prohibits other corporate political contributions.*

*Your participation in the GCP PAC is completely voluntary. Donations are not tax-deductible and will be used for political purposes. An individual may contribute up to \$12,707.79 annually to an Ohio Political Action Committee. You may choose not to participate without fear of reprisal. You will not be favored or disadvantaged by reason of the amount of your contribution or decision not to contribute.*



Greater Cleveland Partnership  
**PAC**  
POWER FOR NORTHEAST OHIO



Greater Cleveland Partnership  
1240 Huron Rd. E  
Cleveland, OH 44115-1722