

ARCHITECT'S POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

In 2012, the AIA Michigan Board approved the establishment of a separate Architect's Political Action Committee (APAC) to provide financial support to those Michigan lawmakers that support legislation beneficial to AIA Michigan.

APAC takes a non-partisan approach: we support Legislators who have demonstrated their support for our goals and objectives. The APAC By-Laws require that APAC focus on state elections only- not local or national elections. This is because state law affects the practice of architecture, not local laws.

A key goal of APAC is to be responsive to campaign funding requests that come in from state legislature candidates. APAC financially supported 18 legislative election campaigns in 2013 and 10 campaigns in 2014.

Kelley-Cawthorne, AIA Michigan's lobbyist in Lansing, provides recommendations to APAC. The key legislative advisor is Melissa Yutzey. She advises us on legislators we should support based on action they have taken on State issues supported by AIAMI, or who have voiced their support for AIAMI goals during their campaigns. Melissa maintains records on all legislators and the bills they have supported that affect all of us as architects. AIA members who have attended Legislative Day know the depth of knowledge of Melissa Yutzey and her ability to guide us in our support of AIA Michigan's friends at the state level.

APAC also coordinates their financial support efforts with the AIAMI Government Affairs Committee. GAC supported approval of PA 162 of 2011, which reduced the statute of limitations for architects and engineers from six years to two years. In 2012, GAC worked to support Public Act 468, which prohibits public entities from requiring design professionals to indemnify owners from the owner's own negligence. In 2013, GAC supported PA 178 that allows design professionals to submit drawings electronically, including seal and signature. GAC also supported Continuing Education rules, which were approved in 2013.

Funding of the Architect's Political Action Committee is made possible by personal (not corporate) donations made by AIA Michigan members, including Professional Affiliates and AIA Associates. We need your commitment and support to make the APAC system work. Please help APAC by making a pledge at future AIAMI meetings. If you have any questions, please contact APAC Directors Chair Paul Haselhuhn, AIA, at: phaselhuhn@wtaarch.com