One of the primary goals of the Government Affairs team is to educate state and federal legislators and executive branch personnel about our company and the policy issues that affect our business. We achieve these goals by meeting with federal and state representatives and their staff, through our employee-driven grassroots program, and through The Hershey Company Political Action Committee (PAC).

Having a PAC allows The Hershey Company to fully engage on public policy issues to protect our interests, define our category, and create winning partnerships. A strong PAC ensures that our voice is heard.

Monies raised through the PAC, which is comprised of voluntary employee contributions, is used to support elected officials, regardless of political affiliation, who have demonstrated a willingness to consider Hershey’s perspective. All contributions are disbursed pursuant to our internal contribution guidelines and in accordance with applicable election laws.

THE HERSHEY COMPANY PAC FINANCIALS

In January of 2019, the PAC began with a balance of $71,150. During 2019, eligible Hershey employees contributed an additional $33,040. Throughout the year, the PAC disbursed $29,500 to candidates and committees on both sides of the political aisle, while $375 in product was provided to fundraising events. We began 2020 with a balance of $74,315.

As of December 2019, 40 members of the Hershey staff contributed to the PAC, compared to 37 members in the previous year.
2019 HERSHEY COMPANY PAC DISBURSEMENTS
TOTAL: $29,500

FEDERAL
Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA) $2,000
Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) $ 500
Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) $1,000
Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) $ 500
Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) $ 500
Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA) $2,500
Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) $ 500
Sen. Mark Warner  (D-VA) $1,000
Rep. Cherrie Bustos (D-IL) $ 500
Rep. G. K. Butterfield (D-NC) $ 500
Rep. Ben Cline (R-VA) $ 500
Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH) $ 750
Rep. Dan Meuser (R-PA) $ 750
Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA) $1,000
Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN) $1,000
Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA) $2,500
Rep. Glenn T. Thompson (R-PA) $1,000

STATE
Sen. John DiSanto (R-District 15) $ 500
Rep. Matt Bradford (D-District 70) $ 500
Rep. Frank Dermody (D-District 33) $1,000
Rep. Tom Mehaffie (R-District 106) $ 500
Rep. Stan Saylor (R-District 94) $ 500

PAC TO PAC
National Association of Convenience Stores $5,000
National Confectioners Association $5,000

Criteria for Support
The Hershey PAC is bipartisan. We contribute to candidates and committees on both sides of the political aisle that have demonstrated a commitment to improving the business climate for The Hershey Company and for the communities in which our employees live. Criteria used when considering financial support include:

- Understanding of, and an active involvement in, issues that are key to the company
- Service on key committees which have jurisdiction over the company’s priority issues
- Demonstrated leadership role and voting record
- Representation of a Hershey Company facility
- Financial need and election prospects

Federal Contribution Limits
The Hershey PAC, as a federal PAC, may legally contribute up to a maximum of:

- $5,000 per election to a House of Representatives or Senate candidate’s campaign committee. That means $5,000 may be given for the candidate’s primary election and $5,000 for the general election for a total of $10,000 per election cycle (two years for a member of the House of Representatives and six years for a Senator).
- $15,000 per calendar year to a national party committee, such as the Democratic and Republican national, senatorial and congressional campaign committees.
- $5,000 per year to another PAC. This includes a PAC managed by another organization (such as a trade association) and a leadership PAC sponsored by a member of Congress to support other candidates (which is a separate entity from an incumbent’s campaign committee).