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**Q. What are MINEPAC and COALPAC?**

A. MINEPAC and COALPAC are legal nonprofit organizations of National Mining Association members and employees established for the purpose of soliciting, collecting, and disbursing political contributions as a means to support the election of pro-mining candidates to federal elective offices. All contributions are voluntary, and no individual will ever face reprisal or retribution for not participating in MINEPAC or COALPAC.

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**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.

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**Q. Why does the National Mining Association need MINEPAC and COALPAC?**

A. The mining industry needs MINEPAC and COALPAC 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 mining industry and laws that restrict the growth of the mining industry.

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**Q. Why doesn't the National Mining 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, the National Mining Association cannot use membership dues or other association revenues to financially support candidates.

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**Q. What kind of contributions can MINEPAC and COALPAC 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. In addition, MINEPAC and COALPAC can accept contributions from other Political Action Committees.

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**Q. Why is MINEPAC and COALPAC important to me?**

A. By opting in to learn more about MINEPAC and COALPAC, you can ensure that the National Mining Association is able to help elect candidates who support the mining industry and are committed to removing barriers to growth. Our PACs help grow the mining industry's allies and supporters on Capitol Hill by building relationships with pro-industry candidates, enhancing the visibility of the coal industry on Capitol Hill, promoting awareness of the key industry issues, and educating Congress about the critical role of mining to the U.S. economy.

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**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 mining community. As National Mining 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 in districts out of your company's footprint.

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

A. While the National Mining 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. Absolutely 100% of contributions to MINEPAC and COALPAC are used for political contributions to mining-friendly candidates.

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**Q. How much can I contribute to a PAC?**

A. Federal law permits individuals to contribute up to \$5,000 to a PAC each calendar year. Other corporate and association PACs may also contribute a maximum of \$5,000 to a PAC each calendar year. Your contribution can be split between COALPAC and MINEPAC.

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**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.

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**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.

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**Q. What kind of candidates does MINEPAC and COALPAC support?**

A. The National Mining Association and MINEPAC/COALPAC support federal candidates who embrace the mining industry as an economic generator and actively support policy to remove barriers to growth within the industry.

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**Q. Who decides which candidates to support?**

A. MINEPAC and COALPAC staff, in consultation with the PAC steering committee, collectively make the selection of candidates that the PAC supports. MINEPAC and COALPAC donors are invited to suggest candidates for consideration.

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

A. For more information, please contact MK Kirlin at [mkirlin@nma.org](mailto:mkirlin@nma.org)

For information about federal election laws, please visit the Federal Election Commission website at [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov).