

# AT&T Inc. Political Engagement Policy

## Introduction

Public policies set by federal and state officials significantly affect AT&T, as our businesses experience more regulation than most companies. We actively participate in public policy debates to explain the impact of various policies on our business interests, and in the political process to support candidates whose policies align with those interests.

## Policy Positions and Contribution Criteria

Every action we take is in strict compliance with applicable law. AT&T's political contribution and expenditure decisions are guided by AT&T's public policy positions and the best interests of the business and our employees while being mindful of our [Core Values](#), our [Code of Business Conduct](#), our Political Engagement Priorities below and this policy. These decisions are made without regard for the personal political preferences of AT&T's executives or other employees. We make contributions to candidates in both major political parties with varying points of view on a variety of issues, including but not limited to: fiber and 5G deployment, national spectrum policy, FirstNet partnerships and net neutrality. Information on many of AT&T's public policy positions can be found in the issue briefs located on the [Company's Public Policy main page](#) and our [Corporate Social Responsibility website](#).

Our political involvement is guided by the following **Political Engagement Priorities:**

- U.S. Economic Stability and Growth
  - AT&T provides essential communications services that power commerce and connections around the world. We support policies that enable us to hire workers, innovate for customers and deliver sustainable long-term shareholder value.
- Resilient Infrastructure, Technological Progress and Access
  - Through a mix of private investment and partnerships with communities, governments, non-governmental organizations, and other businesses, AT&T seeks to bring high-speed internet connectivity to businesses and households, including those who cannot afford it or currently do not have access to it. We support policies that help foster connectivity and help support our ability to deploy advanced networks.
- Employee Opportunity
  - AT&T is proud of providing economic opportunity and upward mobility to our employees through good-paying jobs; a safe, diverse, equitable and inclusive workplace; and robust healthcare and retirement benefits. We support policies that make it easier to hire and retain a skilled workforce with good pay and benefits.

As AT&T assesses public policies that impact business objectives, we also are mindful of diverse and complex societal issues that can affect us to varying degrees. These issues are most immediately addressed through the company's direct social programs, philanthropy, benefits, and community involvement. Although no single issue or criterion determines whether a

candidate receives a contribution, AT&T and employee PAC Disbursal Committee members also consider the impact of such issues on the Company, its shareholders and its employees. These issue areas include but are not limited to:

- Environmental Sustainability
- Human Rights
- Economic Empowerment of Women and Underrepresented Segments of Society

### **Contributions**

We contribute prudently, where permitted by law, to:

- State Candidates
- State and Local Political Parties and Other Political Groups
- Political Action Committees (PACs)
- Ballot Measures
- Trade Associations
- Tax-Exempt Organizations

We do not make corporate political contributions to federal political parties or candidates for federal office. As a general practice, we do not make independent political expenditures, corporate political contributions to independent expenditure committees or to any non-candidate or non-political-party political committee organized under Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code (e.g., Super PACs); however, if we do, we disclose them via our [public website](#), updated twice yearly.

Contributions are generally made to candidates who support a strong private sector and show a free-enterprise philosophy. Other factors include:

- Whether they sit on a committee that addresses legislation affecting our businesses;
- Whether they represent a district or state with a major AT&T business operation;
- Their committee standings and rankings;
- Their elected leadership positions; and
- Their voting records.

Elected officials hold varied and diverse views on a wide range of issues, reflecting those of our broader society. Contributions made by the Company or its employee PACs to an individual or political organization do not mean the Company or its employee PACs support or agree with every position taken by contribution recipients on every issue.

### **The Company and its employee PACs reserve the right to discontinue support of any contribution recipient.**

We also belong to various trade associations and contribute to tax-exempt advocacy organizations. These organizations are principally those that are part of the communications and broadband services industries and are operated for the purpose of advancing the common goals and interests of the member companies and their customers. We review differing policy

issues and those are taken into consideration when determining annual membership. Our participation in these various industry, trade and business groups comes with the understanding that we might not always agree with all positions of the larger organization and/or other members, and that we are committed to voicing our concerns as appropriate through the AT&T leaders who interact with these organizations, many of whom serve on the boards and committees of these organizations.

## **Lobbying**

The AT&T External Affairs (EA) team is comprised of seasoned professionals who represent the interests of all AT&T businesses in the public policy arena. Members of the EA team come from diverse political, geographic and socio-economic backgrounds and work together to create value for AT&T businesses through lobbying and serving as the “faces” of AT&T with government officials.

AT&T complies with all federal and state laws and regulations for lobbying registrations and reporting. AT&T companies, employees, and external lobbyists and firms register as lobbyists as required by applicable law.

## **Disclosure**

Twice yearly, in accordance with applicable law, campaign finance and disclosure rules, and our own internal policies, we publicly disclose via our [public website](#): our U.S. corporate political contributions and lobbying expenditures, contributions from our employee PACs, the lobbying expenditure portion of contributions of \$50,000 or more to trade associations, and the lobbying expenditure portion of contributions to other tax-exempt advocacy organizations. We make a reasonable effort to obtain from these organizations, or through other means, the portion of the Company’s contribution the organization allocates to lobbying and we disclose that amount.

In addition, in all state and federal jurisdictions, recipient candidate campaigns and political committees are required to report contributions they receive. The AT&T Federal PAC publicly discloses its contributions with the Federal Election Commission. Many states also require AT&T to publicly report corporate contributions and PAC contributions made in those states.

## **Compliance**

AT&T has established strict internal policies, processes and compliance measures to ensure adherence to legal and regulatory requirements.

## **Oversight**

### *Board of Directors*

The AT&T Board of Directors’ Governance and Policy Committee (GPC), comprised entirely of outside directors, is responsible for oversight of AT&T’s public policy activities and corporate political fund disbursements. As part of the GPC’s oversight of AT&T’s public policy activities, the GPC annually reviews the Company’s policies, practices and expenditures related to political

contributions, as well as contributions to trade associations and other tax-exempt and similar organizations that may engage in public policy initiatives.

Annually, both the GPC and full Board are provided with a complete list of all contributions for their review and guidance.

Additional information can be found at our [AT&T Political Engagement Report webpage](#), which also houses past reports.

#### *Executive Leadership*

AT&T's Senior Executive Vice President – External and Legislative Affairs, who reports directly to AT&T Inc.'s Chief Executive Officer, is responsible for overall management of and participation in the political process.

#### **Process**

AT&T applies a robust authorization process to political contributions and expenditures.

#### *Corporate Political Contributions*

Each year, the AT&T Inc. Board of Directors authorizes a maximum aggregate limit for contributions that can be made by AT&T for the purpose of supporting or opposing any party, candidate, political committee, ballot measure or any political purpose connected to a candidate. Contributions must be permitted by, and in strict compliance with, applicable law.

AT&T personnel consult with the AT&T Legal Department to ensure that contributions are lawful and consistent with applicable statutes, regulations, limits and guidelines. All political contributions are reviewed and approved as to their lawfulness by the AT&T Legal organization prior to authorization.

All corporate political contributions must be approved by the Company's Senior Executive Vice President – External and Legislative Affairs, or by a delegate if the amount is \$2,500 or less. A report of all political contributions, regardless of amount, is reviewed quarterly by AT&T Inc.'s Chief Executive Officer and annually by the Board.

#### *Trade Associations and Other Tax-Exempt Organizations*

AT&T has a rigorous approval process for contributions to trade associations and other tax-exempt advocacy organizations. All proposed contributions to trade associations and other tax-exempt advocacy organizations must be in the best interests of the Company and our shareholders and are restricted to non-election related purposes.

The contributions must be approved by the Senior Executive Vice President – External and Legislative Affairs or other senior leaders. These contributions are shared with the GPC on an annual basis. Both the GPC and full Board are provided with the complete list of contributions for their review and guidance.

### *Employee PACs*

AT&T employee PACs are voluntary and non-partisan and provide AT&T management employees an opportunity to collectively support public policy positions that are important to AT&T. In all, there are 30 separate state employee PACs and a federal employee PAC. Each employee PAC has a chairperson, officers, a committee of employees who are engaged in PAC operations and Articles of Operation outlining its operating procedures.

Employee PAC contribution and expenditure decisions are made by committees comprised of employees across the business based on recommendations from the External and Legislative Affairs organization. The recommendations and the employee PAC committees' decisions are based on AT&T's public policy positions and the best interests of the business and our employees. At the same time, our committees and those who make recommendations to our committees are mindful of our [Core Values](#), our [Code of Business Conduct](#) and this Political Engagement Policy. All recommendations and decisions are made without regard to political party affiliation. To see the list of candidates who have received employee PAC or corporate contributions, visit our [Political Engagement Report](#).