

Report on DentPAC Board of Directors
To: House of Delegates
September 2024

DentPAC is organized dentistry's state-level political action committee. One of DentPAC's primary roles is to support candidates for Washington legislative and statewide office who support the dental profession. Contributions are determined by DentPAC's Board of Directors on a non-partisan basis upon the recommendation of WSDA lobbyists, staff, and grassroots dentists familiar with both the candidates and local political landscapes. DentPAC also supports WSDA's grassroots lobbying efforts.

DentPAC Board. The DentPAC Board of Directors (Board) consists of up to nine members who are recommended by a simple majority of the Board and appointed by the WSDA Board of Directors. The Chair and Vice Chair of DentPAC are also appointed by the WSDA Board of Directors. Board members serve two-year terms and are responsible for the supervision and control of the affairs and funds of DentPAC as well as establishing and carrying out all of DentPAC's policies and activities. In addition, Board members are responsible for the following duties:

1. Making recommendations for contributions to state legislative candidates;
2. Working with local grassroots dentists to obtain information on legislation and candidates for elected office; and
3. Soliciting contributions to DentPAC.

2023-2024 DentPAC Board of Directors

Dr. Cynthia R. Pauley, Chair	Seattle-King County Dental Society
Dr. Christopher E. Dorow, Vice Chair	Grant County Dental Society
Dr. Christine L. Kirchner	Seattle-King County Dental Society
Dr. John C. Lo	Pierce County Dental Society
Dr. Amy M. Winston	Seattle-King County Dental Society
Dr. Dino Cacchiotti	Grant County Dental Society
Dr. Guillermo Chacon	Pierce County Dental Society

DentPAC Finances. As of August 4, 2024, fiscal year-to-date DentPAC received \$239,704.31 in monetary contributions and the month-end cash on hand has decreased to \$297,832.47. In April of this year, the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) made inflationary adjustments to campaign finance reporting thresholds and contribution limits. Campaign finance laws in Washington state are \$1,200 for primary elections and \$1,200 for general elections. Statewide candidate contribution limits are \$2,400 for primary and general elections.

DentPAC Management and Reporting. DentPAC receives over 4,100 individual contributions from WSDA members on an ongoing basis throughout the year. Each contribution is transferred from WSDA to DentPAC and reported to the PDC. Political action committees in the State of Washington are required to report all incoming and outgoing contributions to the PDC.

The C3 report, which records all contributions made to a political action committee, must be submitted within five business days of receipt of the contribution. The C4

report, which records all contributions made by a political action committee to a legislative or statewide candidate, committee, initiative or other political action committee, must be submitted on a monthly basis.

In certain instances, such as months preceding an election, the PDC may require multiple C4 submissions in a month. DentPAC is also required to submit C6 reports for candidates who receive independent expenditures (direct mailers, radio spots, television advertisements, etc.) with PAC funds. C6 reports must be submitted within 24 hours of the date they are disseminated to the public.

Contribution Methodology. DentPAC funds are dispersed on a non-partisan basis to both legislative and statewide candidates as well as other political action committees. DentPAC generally makes contributions on several criteria including a candidate's position on dental issues; matters related to the management of a dental practice; relationship with WSDA dentists and lobbyists; committee assignment; and likelihood of the candidate winning their election. Each contribution requires a majority vote from the DentPAC Board of Directors.

Following the 2015 legislative session, the DentPAC Board of Directors instituted a candidate questionnaire designed to educate legislators and gain an understanding of their positions on dental related issues. This is an additional tool for the Board to utilize when determining candidate contributions. The questionnaire was updated by the Board in May of 2024 and is included in Appendix A.

2024 State Election Campaign Contributions. The 2024 election cycle is for every statewide officeholder, as well as all 98 members of the state house of representative and half of the members of the state senate.

- Candidate contributions - \$156,200
- Committee contributions - \$61,500
- Independent Expenditures - \$139,565.26
- **Total - \$357,265.26**

Appendix A

CANDIDATE NAME: _____

Best contact information: _____

Office running for: _____

Campaign fundraising goal: _____

Funding raised to date: _____

Political consultant: _____

Endorsements: _____

What is your campaign's plan to win this race?

Are you aware that dental industry supplies 60,000 jobs and contributes \$15 billion to the economy on top of providing necessary health care?

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

1. Insurance Practices

WSDA believes that dentists should not be subject to punitive actions by insurance carriers that threaten the viability of independent practices when they decide to leave a network. Would you support efforts to prevent carriers from taking measures that result in an anticompetitive dental benefits market, as described in 2024 [SB 6218](#) and [SB 6307](#)?

For over a decade, health care costs have risen while reimbursement rates for providing that care have shrunk. Since 2011, Delta Dental of Washington, Cigna,

and Premera - **three of Washington's largest dental insurance carriers** - have all enacted dental reimbursement rate reductions of between 15-25% across their networks. Over that same period, the expenses of operating a dental practice have increased 35% according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Would you support cost of living (inflationary) adjustments to contracts between carriers and providers, including dentists, as described in 2023 [HB 1655](#)?

2. Workforce Shortage

Washington state is facing a severe shortage of dental hygienists and patients are waiting months to receive preventive care. Would you support efforts to create a new oral health workforce provider level focused on providing preventive dental care to patients, as demonstrated in 2024 [HB 2176](#)?

3. Dental Medicaid

Would you support the expansion of adult and or pediatric dental Medicaid reimbursement?

4. Legislative Reception & Dental Action Day

Dentists from all over the state take time away from their patients to attend Dental Action Day (DAD) each year because they believe in the importance of talking with their legislators about the issues that matter to their profession. The DAD reception and day on the hill will be held on January 29 and 30, respectively, in 2025. Please plan to meet with your constituent dentists on one of these days.

5. Background

What is your view of dentistry and its interaction with the wider health care policy landscape?

With which dentist(s) do you currently have a relationship?

What other issues do you view as intersecting with dentistry?