

On January 6, 2021, 147 members of Congress voted to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election. The following day, AIA's Board of Directors suspended all fundraising and candidate contribution activity for AIA's political action committee (PAC), ArchiPAC, to ensure a thorough review of our federal PAC procedures. Suspending activities was a just and necessary action in the wake of the events on January 6. Since then, the ArchiPAC Steering Committee and the AIA Board of Directors have assessed ArchiPAC's giving practices and the PAC's successful adherence to the AIA's values and are prepared to resume political activity.

The nine-member ArchiPAC Steering Committee (comprised of architect members and component staff) and the AIA Board of Directors determined that the existing selection process and scrutiny the committee uses to make informed ArchiPAC donation decisions to candidates is adequate and is serving the best interests of the profession. In fact, the review found that AIA has successfully balanced candidate donations in a bi-partisan and architecture-centric manner.

AIA leaders, however, recognize a need to increase transparency for ArchiPAC activities for AIA members who invest in the program. AIA will begin to disclose additional details about PAC contributions by May 31, 2021, including who it supports (and in what financial amounts), why it supports them (general information on the candidate's work), and how the decision-making process works for candidate disbursements.

ArchiPAC will resume its fundraising activities from AIA members and restart making contributions to candidates immediately. Possible future recipients include candidates who support architects' political priorities and who also honor AIA's values of the profession. The AIA member led ArchiPAC Steering Committee will continue to closely monitor all future contributions and their ability to help the profession achieve its [Policy Platform](#) goals. Additionally, AIA is updating ArchiPAC's web pages to better explain how it operates, makes donation decisions, and to whom it contributes. AIA hopes to have all of this completed and ready for engagement by May 31, 2021.

As we move forward, there are a few points to be reinforced:

- Funding for ArchiPAC is only possible through the generosity of eligible AIA members who choose to contribute. No membership dues or AIA budgeted funds go to political contributions - only personal funds contributed by eligible AIA members.

- There will be a renewed focus on transparency. Although all ArchiPAC disbursements are reported on the ArchiPAC website, AIA continues to pursue opportunities to clarify our candidate review process and how or why decisions are made.
- Contributions made to candidates are reviewed and voted on by the AIA member led ArchiPAC Steering Committee.
- ArchiPAC is bipartisan. That means it donates to candidates of both political parties. The AIA Board of Directors and the ArchiPAC Steering Committee are committed to contributing to candidates who reflect support for the profession's policy objectives.