



Grand Canyon State Caucus

Q & A

What is the Grand Canyon State Caucus?

The Grand Canyon State Caucus (GCSC) is a bi-partisan political action committee, working in a complementary way with the larger pro-Israel political community, whose purpose is to promote and strengthen the relationship between the United States and Israel by:

- 1) Financially supporting candidates for the United State Senate and House of Representatives who have demonstrated their support of Israel, and a strong US-Israel relationship,
- 2) Promoting these candidates, and
- 3) Raising awareness about legislative issues

Why give to Pro-Israel Political Activism?

With frequent turnover in Congress, increasing cost of elections and shifting demographics toward areas with fewer constituents who care about the U.S.-Israel relationship as a defining issue, we cannot take a strong US-Israel relationship for granted.

By holding fundraisers with members of Congress where we discuss only issues related to the U.S.-Israel relationship, we ensure they are knowledgeable on the issues that are important to us, in preparation for our events. It is also a way of expressing our appreciation for those who have shown strong support of our issues, in a way that is meaningful to them.

Past efforts to work with candidates have resulted in a strong US-Israel relationship in Congress and, in particular, the shaping of important and concrete pro-Israel policies emanating from Washington D.C., but our work is not done! With continuing threats from Iran and terrorists, and increased alienation from the United Nations and Europe, our efforts are even more critical.

What is a PAC?

In the 1970's, in an effort to reform political campaign fundraising, Congress authorized the establishment of political action committees, or PACs. Today, over 4,000 PACs (for nearly every cause) raise money and educate Congress in the hopes of affecting public policy. Operating under strict campaign finance regulations, PACs are a legitimate media through which individual citizens can direct their contributions to support federal candidates who represent their views on issues of concern to them.

I give to other Israel causes. Why a PAC?

The answer is one word: **leverage**. While it is true that every dollar one gives directly to any pro-Israel organization or institution is important, no organizational fundraising effort matches the

resources and generosity of the U.S. government (organizational fundraising can be measured in hundreds of millions of dollars; U.S. aid is measured in billions).

How is GCSC different from AIPAC?

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) is not a political action committee. AIPAC is a registered lobbying organization that works with elected officials to educate them. Unlike political action committees, AIPAC does not contribute to campaigns, nor rate or endorse candidates. So, while AIPAC is critically important in fostering strong US support for Israel, GCSC helps get supportive candidates (re)elected, a separate and distinct role. Both AIPAC and pro-Israel political activism are critical.

How is GCSC different from other pro-Israel political networks?

Most pro-Israel political activists are asked to contribute significant resources in order to participate. GCSC was created in 2010 to enable both 1) people new to pro-Israel politics to learn about us before being asked to commit significant resources, and 2) people who want to give all they can to our cause but cannot afford the price point of other networks. We are each, independently, committed to the same issues and methods

Why give to candidates through GCSC?

When you give to a candidate without combining it with other specifically identified pro-Israel contributions, your donation is dissociated from the pro-Israel cause. By donating through GCSC, the candidate must be educated and prepared to discuss our issues in our event and the candidate will know one of the overriding reasons you donated is because you believe in the importance of a strong US-Israel relationship.

Isn't a single-issue PAC parochial?

Most candidates focus their campaigns on "domestic" issues and have little or no direct experience with Middle East issues. In contrast to corporate or labor PACs, GCSC is not motivated by profit or financial gain. By focusing on the single issue of Israel - its security, economic well-being, and value to the U.S. - we can utilize our time and resources in the most effective way possible.

Please become a member!

GCSC is an all-volunteer operation. All money GCSC raises is sent to candidates supporting the US-Israel relationship. It is only through our active involvement that we can ensure that the issues of importance to our community get the attention and support they deserve. Contact us at **admin@proIsraelAZ.com** for more information.