

In 2008, more than 4,000 new bills were introduced in the Tennessee General Assembly. If passed, many may harm TAUD members.

Previous bills have required each public water system to employ a full time operator, changed the availability of utility records to the public, and taken away a utility's right to eminent domain. These types of bills change the way utilities operate, and they can harm your ability to earn a living.

In recent years, TAUD has been an effective promoter of legislation. Through the Tennessee Utility Political Action Committee (TUPAC), TAUD can continue to influence proposed legislation. But to be successful, adequate funding is necessary to protect member interests.

By law, TAUD and its member utilities cannot contribute funds directly to a legislator – individuals must make donations. To ensure that pro-TAUD legislators return to office, we need to lend these people our support in their re-election races. If you're a member of a utility governing board, please contribute to this critical cause.

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Help us help you...

The future of Tennessee. We don't need any new laws that will make your tasks harder to carry out.

TAUD will be happy to meet with your utility employees and governing board to discuss your participation in TUPAC.

For more information:

Please email John Hall, TAUD's staff legislative liaison, at johnhall@taud.org.

We will make arrangements to attend your meeting.

ENSURING THE FUTURE OF TENNESSEE UTILITIES



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Who is TUPAC?

TUPAC is a multi-candidate political action committee organized to promote TAUD's views on selected legislative issues. Funds donated to TUPAC would serve as campaign contributions to the campaign funds of the candidates who support TAUD's views.

Who administers TUPAC?

Members of the committee consist of TAUD's legislative committee, the president of TAUD, the executive director of TAUD, the TAUD legal counsel and TAUD's legislative liaison. The chairperson of TUPAC is the chairman of the legislative committee.

What happens to money donated to TUPAC?

TUPAC, with advice from the association's lobbyists, donates all funds to selected legislators who are or will be running for election. A small balance is left in the TUPAC account each year to accommodate late donations. The amount is maintained by the TUPAC treasurer and only this individual has access to the committee's account.

Who is eligible to donate to TUPAC?

All utility commissioners, managers, employees and associate members of TAUD are eligible to donate. All funds donated to TUPAC must be from personal funds. No utility or corporate donations are allowed. TUPAC is required to report donations from individuals that exceed \$100 within a reporting period. There are six reporting periods per year in an election year and two reporting periods per year in non-election years. For the purpose of reporting, all donations during a reporting period are cumulative. Therefore, donations exceeding \$100 during a reporting period require a disclosure form that can be obtained by contacting TAUD or by visiting the TAUD website at www.taud.org.

Why should you donate to TUPAC?

Each legislative session, more than 3,000 bills are introduced. Many of these bills can affect not only the utility but also the commissioners and employees of the utility. TAUD closely follows each bill of interest and works side-by-side with legislators in the best interest of the utilities. Without support of key legislators, much of our efforts would be in vain.

How and when should I donate?

Donations should be made annually. Donations may be made at any time, but donations in the early fall of each year are strongly encouraged. Donations should be mailed to TUPAC at the TAUD address or be made by payroll deduction at your utility which will forward these funds to TUPAC. TAUD will assist you in setting up this program.

Suggested Amount of Donations

Utility Employees:
\$2.00 - \$5.00 per month

Utility Managers and Commissioners:
\$5.00 - \$210.00 per month

How much money is typically raised annually?

Between \$8,000-12,000 has been raised annually, with the best fundraising year occurring in 2008.

How much money needs to be raised yearly to have an effective PAC?

According to TAUD lobbyists, the TUPAC goal should be a minimum of \$25,000 per year.

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