



**ACRE** Co-op Owners  
for Political Action®

As a consumer-member of an electric cooperative, you are among the 40 million Americans who can claim ownership in a not-for-profit, consumer-controlled utility that provides electricity at cost. As an owner, you have the privilege of participating in the political affairs of your cooperative. That includes your unique right to make financial contributions to the campaigns of candidates for political office who support your electric cooperative.

**ACRE** Co-op Owners  
for Political Action®

4301 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, Virginia 22203-1860



Contributions to ACRE are for political purposes. All contributions to ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action are voluntary. You may refuse to contribute without reprisal. Contributions to ACRE are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes.

A copy of our monthly report is filed with the Federal Election Commission and is available to the public at [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov).

REALLY PARTICIPATE  
IN THE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
YOU OWN



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### What is ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action®?

ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action gives you, the consumer-owner, the opportunity to raise your voice on behalf of your cooperative. State and federal government officials make policy decisions that affect your local cooperative and your way of life. This program is an easy way for you to help determine who gets elected to make those decisions.

The Action Committee for Rural Electrification® (ACRE®) is the political action committee (PAC) of the nation's electric cooperatives. Founded in 1966 by the approximately 1000 cooperatives of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), it supports candidates for state and federal office—those in office now and running for office—who will speak for and protect the interests of electric cooperatives and their consumer-owners.

Your participation in the nationwide ACRE program ensures that the voice of electric cooperatives remains strong in our nation's capital and in your state legislature. Maintaining a strong grassroots presence in the political process is instrumental to the long-term success of the electric cooperative program and the communities they serve in these unpredictable times.

### What is a Political Action Committee (PAC)?

The law allows individuals with common interests to pool their resources using PACs in order to make political contributions to candidates for state and federal office. Currently over 32,000 like-minded supporters of the electric cooperative program combine their contributions through

ACRE. Candidates who receive a substantial contribution from ACRE get an important message about your interest in your local community's electric cooperative. The candidate knows that the electric cooperative consumer-owners and employees who supported them want to elect individuals to office who will make good policy decisions on their behalf.

### Are Contributions to ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action Tax-Deductible?

No. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has ruled that all political contributions, such as those to the ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action program, are not tax deductible.

### What Do I Receive for My Contribution?

The most important benefit that you receive as an ACRE member is a voice in helping elect state and federal officials that will support your cooperative and your community.

In addition, you will receive quarterly issues of the *ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action® Report*, which includes legislative alerts, profiles of cooperative leaders, and other timely features.

### Where Does My Contribution Go?

With the exception of a small federal tax payment of less than 1%, all contributions to ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action go directly to the campaigns of candidates for political office. In addition, a portion of your contribution (about half) may be refunded to your state electric cooperative PAC to support candidates for state office.

### Who Determines How These Contributions Are Made?

ACRE follows established procedures for making contributions to candidates running for political office. Factors that determine financial support include the candidate's position on issues critical to electric cooperatives, as well as their votes and public statements on these issues; the candidate's committee assignments and leadership positions and his or her relative importance to cooperatives; and a candidate's financial need and the strength of his or her opponent. The candidate's political affiliation is never taken into account.

Individual states have their own guidelines for making contributions to candidates for statewide offices. While these rules are set by the individual states, they often mirror those guidelines used by the national ACRE program.

### Do I Really Make a Difference?

Your electric cooperative's ability to serve you and your community is heavily dependent on folks like you who use ACRE to get the right people into political office. The personal dedication of consumer-owners to stand together forms the backbone of a powerful grassroots network that promotes policies to secure the future of your electric cooperative and the families they serve. This is an opportunity to make a huge difference. Please consider it!

For more information on ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action please contact your local cooperative or NRECA ACRE staff at [acre@nreca.coop](mailto:acre@nreca.coop).

**YES!** I want to help keep the voice of rural electric cooperatives heard in the political process by participating in ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action®.

I would like to make a one-time contribution in the following amount:

- \$25.00 – REGULAR ACRE MEMBER  
 \$100.00 – CENTURY CLUB ACRE MEMBER  
 \$500.00 – PRESIDENT'S CLUB ACRE MEMBER  
 OTHER \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 I would like a complimentary ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action lapel pin

I affirm that my contribution has been made with non-corporate funds:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

COOPERATIVE \_\_\_\_\_

ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

\* Federal Election Law requires the following information for contributions equal to or exceeding \$200:

EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

*Contributions to ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action® are strictly voluntary. Contributions to federal and state Political Action Committees are not deductible for tax purposes. Consumer-owners have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Contributions may be stopped at any time upon notification to the cooperative. The contribution guidelines are suggestions only. You may contribute more or less than the recommended amount.*