

Role of RADPAC in an Election Year



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Chair of RADPAC

The elections in November 2006 brought about a drastic shift in political power as Democrats gained control of both the House and the Senate. This shift in power brought about many changes on Capitol Hill – particularly regarding the current and future direction of healthcare policy in the United States. As we head into the 2008 elections it is more important than ever for ACR members to take an active role and interest in the political process in order to continue to protect the radiology profession.

In addition to the Presidential race this year, the 2008 elections will see all of the House of Representatives and one-third of the Senate campaigning for re-election. As I am sure you have noticed over recent weeks in the news media, all of these campaigns are already in full-swing. On the RADPAC website (www.radpac.org) under the category titled “2008 Election Guide”, RADPAC has a state-by-state list of the House and Senate elections as a resource for you to learn more about the candidates and their campaigns. RADPAC staff closely follows and carefully reviews every House and Senate race to keep a pulse on the political climate and to best decide which campaigns need – and warrant – RADPAC support. As you would suspect, RADPAC’s focus on supporting a campaign is based solely on the merits of a candidate’s position and background regarding healthcare and radiology-specific policies.

RADPAC and ACR leadership will attend both the Republican and Democratic conventions later this year to further increase the visibility of RADPAC and the radiology profession with Members of Congress. At both conventions, RADPAC will join with other physician specialty organizations to host health fairs for Members of Congress to learn more about the role of various physician specialty groups in the delivery of quality healthcare to patients.

So far in this 2007-2008 election cycle, RADPAC has been represented at more than 435 fundraising events and contributed more than \$775,000 to federal candidates, political parties and leadership committees. Additionally, RADPAC has served as the primary host of more than 25 fundraising events for Members of Congress in both Washington, D.C. and throughout the country.

RADPAC has had the opportunity to play such an active role in this election cycle due to the record-breaking support it has received in 2007. RADPAC raised more hard money \$724,209.69 and hard and soft money combined \$856,974.00 than in any other previous year from over 1,865 contributors. This support has put RADPAC's visibility and presence on Capitol Hill at an all-time high at a time when it is needed the most given our fight to stop additional cuts to reimbursement.

In an effort to recognize and further thank those who have supported RADPAC, the RADPAC website has the 2007 RADPAC Annual Report which lists all of the contributors for 2007, as well as a state-by-state list of contributions and a list of candidates who RADPAC has supported this election cycle.

Thank you for your support of RADPAC at this critical time in the radiology profession as it makes a real impact in giving the radiology profession a strong political voice on Capitol Hill.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to working with you in the future. If you have any questions, please contact Ted Burnes, director of RADPAC, at 888-295-8843 or via e-mail at tburnes@acr.org, or you may contact Heather Kaiser via e-mail at heatherk@acr.org.