

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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ELECTION UNIT ANNOUNCES DROP IN PAC GROWTH

WASHINGTON — There has been a marked drop in political action committee registrations during the past six months from the rate for previous years, according to information released today by the Federal Election Commission.

Figures released by the FEC show, for the first 6 months of 1981, the number of PAC's in existence, while continuing to grow, increased by only 5%. The usual six-month growth rate since 1978, has been 11-14%.

Yearly increases, since 1976, have hovered around 21%, with the exception of 1979-80 when the growth actually increased by 28%. The most dramatic increase was seen between 1974 and 1976, when PAC ranks swelled by 88%. This increase could be attributed to the passage of the 1974 amendments to the 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act, which provided greater incentive for the creation of political committees by groups which previously had been prohibited from participating in federal elections.

PAC's, the abbreviated term used to refer to political action committees, are viewed by many campaign finance experts as a predominant force in politics. Their numbers, as well as the amount of money they spend in Federal campaigns, have continued to increase with each election cycle.

According to FEC data, the type of PAC's showing the greatest increase is the "non-connected" category. They include non-party political ideological committees and committees sponsored by particular issue groups.

Showing the next highest rate of increase were corporate PAC's.

Information on the amount of money raised and spent by PAC's will be released by the FEC in the near future.

"PAC" GROWTH — FROM 1974

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COMMITTEE TYPE	EXISTING 12/31/74	REGISTERING 1/1/75 - 1/24/75	TERMINATING 1/1/75 - 1/24/75	*1 EXISTING 1/25/75	REGISTERING 1/25/75 - 5/10/75	TERMINATING 1/25/75 - 5/10/75	*2 EXISTING 5/10/75	REGISTERING 5/11/75 - 12/31/75	TERMINATING 5/11/75 - 12/31/75	EXISTING 12/31/75	REGISTERING 1/1/77 - 10/14/77	TERMINATING 1/1/77 - 10/14/77	EXISTING 10/14/77	EXISTING 12/31/77	EXISTING 12/31/78	EXISTING 8/78	EXISTING 12/31/79	EXISTING 7/1/80	EXISTING 12/31/80	EXISTING 7/1/81
CORPORATE	89	50	0	139	158	3	294	153	14	433	90	15	508	550	784	884	949	1,108	1,204	1,251
LABOR	201	29	4	226	34	14	246	33	55	224	19	21	222	234	217	226	240	255	297	303
TRADE/MEMBERSHIP HEALTH	318	45	6	357	102	7	452	110	73	489	79	37	531	438	451	481	512	542	574	577
NON-CONNECTED														110	165	209	250	312	378	445
COOPERATIVE														8	12	13	17	23	42	38
CORPORATION W/O STOCK														20	24	27	32	41	56	64
TOTAL	608	124	10	722	294	24	992	296	142	1,146	188	73	1,261	1,360	1,653	1,840	2,000	2,279	2,551	2,678

*1 On November 24, 1975, the Commission issued Advisory Opinion 1975-23 "SUNPAC."

*2 On May 11, 1978, the President signed the Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1978, P.L. 94-283.