



Pennsylvania's Government Unions

Pennsylvania's government unions have a unique and unfair political privilege that is destructive to taxpayers.

In 2012, Pennsylvania's primary government unions spent nearly \$5 million from union dues on political activities and lobbying.

While dues can't be given directly to candidates, unions use dues for:

- Mailers in support or opposition of political candidates
- "Get out the vote" efforts
- Lobbying of legislators
- Radio and TV ads on policy issues or about politicians
- Event fundraising for political action committees (PACs)

In 2011-12, Pennsylvania teachers' dues helped fund the National Education Association's contributions to:

- Daily Kos
- Democracy Alliance
- Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate
- Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network
- Marylanders for Marriage Equality
- MediaMatters
- Netroots Nation
- Ohio Democratic Party
- People for the American Way
- Progressive Majority
- We are Ohio

...and more

Get to the source at
commonwealthfoundation.org/unions

The Unique and Unfair Privilege

Pennsylvania law grants government unions the ability to negotiate contracts that require using taxpayer resources to collect union dues, fees and even PAC contributions. No other private political organization has the financial privilege of having taxpayers subsidize their political activities.

Why is This **Wrong?**

- Taxpayer resources should not be used for any political purposes.
- Both union members and taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize political candidates, issues or lobbying efforts. They should be able to do so voluntarily.

➔ **SOLUTION:**

END TAXPAYER-FINANCED COLLECTION OF DUES, FEES AND PAC MONEY:

Unions—not taxpayers—should be responsible for collecting their own political money.

