

## What is V-CAP?

V-CAP is the UAW's political action program, which includes the Union's PAC (Political Action Committee). The PAC fund is made up of voluntary contributions from UAW members, both active and retired. The money is used to support pro-worker political candidates who have earned the endorsement of the UAW Community Action Program (UAW CAP).

## Why Should I Give to V-CAP?

Whether it is taxes, trade policy, retirement security, healthcare, education or infrastructure, politics affects our daily lives. That's why it is essential for working families to make our voices heard in local, state and national politics by supporting candidates who support us. One of the most effective ways to do that is by contributing to V-CAP.

## Are Union Dues Used for Campaign Contributions?

**No.** That's a common misunderstanding. The fact is federal and many state election laws prohibit unions from contributing members' dues money to political candidates. The only money that can be used for contributions to candidates is money members voluntarily contribute to V-CAP.

## How does the UAW select a Candidate?

First, a candidate must ask for an endorsement from the UAW. Second, in most UAW Regions, candidates are interviewed by a screening committee of UAW members and retirees.

They make recommendations based on their evaluation of the candidate's voting record and/or positions on trade, education, Medicare, retirement security, right-to-work laws, workers' compensation, unemployment insurance and other issues that directly affect UAW members and our families.

## Does the UAW Endorse Only Democrats?

**No.** Endorsements are based on the candidate's record and position on issues, not on party. Over the years, UAW has endorsed pro-working family Independents, Republicans, and Democrats

## How Much Can V-CAP Give to a Candidate?

The maximum amount any PAC can contribute to a candidate for federal office is \$5,000 for the primary election and \$5,000 for the general election. Amounts to state candidates vary by state laws.

## I Can't Match the Millionaires and Their Deep Pockets. Should I Even Bother Giving?

That's exactly why you should contribute to V-CAP. Not many of us are able to write big checks to the candidates we support; but when we pool our contributions, we can make a significant difference in elections. In fact, UAW V-CAP is recognized by elected officials and candidates as one of the largest and most effective PACs in American politics.

## How Much Should I Give to V-CAP?

That's entirely up to you. The UAW International Executive Board has set the goal of having at least 20% of our active membership giving \$10 a month.

## How Do I Contribute To V-CAP?

Your collective bargaining agreement may contain a "UAW V-CAP checkoff" clause that will allow you to contribute right from your paycheck. If so, just sign a UAW V-CAP checkoff authorization card which authorizes your employer to deduct the amount you specify from your paycheck. If you do not have checkoff, then you can write a check directly to UAW V-CAP.

### RETIRED V-CAP CHECKOFF CARD

As a retiree/surviving spouse, I want to continue to protect my benefits and secure my family's future through the UAW V-CAP political action program!

**AUTHORIZATION FOR ASSIGNMENT & CHECKOFF OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO UAW V-CAP**

To: \_\_\_\_\_ (Company name) I hereby assign to UAW V-CAP, from any pension payments made or to be made to me as your retired employee or surviving spouse, the sum of (check one) ☐ \$10.00 ☐ \$15.00 ☐ \$25.00 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_ each and every month. I hereby authorize and direct you to deduct such amounts from my pay and to remit same to UAW V-CAP at such times and in such manner as may be agreed upon between you and the Union at any time while this authorization is in effect.


This authorization is voluntarily made. I understand that the signing of this authorization and the making of payments to UAW V-CAP are not conditions of membership in the Union or of employment with the Company, that I have the right to refuse to sign this authorization and contribute to UAW V-CAP without any reprisal, and that UAW V-CAP will use the money it receives to make political contributions and expenditures in connection with federal, state and local elections, that all UAW members may be eligible for V-CAP raffle drawings, regardless of whether they make a contribution to UAW V-CAP, and that monies contributed to UAW V-CAP constitute a voluntary contribution to a joint fund-raising effort by the UAW and AFL-CIO.

I also understand that the guidelines for contributions to UAW V-CAP set forth above are merely suggestions, that I can contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest, and that the Union will not favor or disadvantage me based on the amount of my contribution or my decision not to contribute.

Contributions or gifts to UAW V-CAP are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal tax purposes. All UAW members and spouses may be eligible for related raffle drawings, regardless of whether they make a contribution to UAW V-CAP.

UAW V-CAP is an independent political committee created by the UAW. This committee does not ask for or accept authorization from any candidate and no candidate is responsible for its activities.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### ACTIVE V-CAP CHECKOFF CARD

**AUTHORIZATION FOR ASSIGNMENT & CHECKOFF OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO UAW V-CAP**

To: \_\_\_\_\_ (Company name) I hereby assign to UAW V-CAP, from any wages earned or to be earned by me as your employee, the sum of (check one) ☐ \$10.00 ☐ \$15.00 ☐ \$25.00 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_ each and every month. I hereby authorize and direct you to deduct such amounts from my pay or from payments made pursuant to the UAW and Supplemental Unemployment Benefit Plan, and to remit same to UAW V-CAP at such times and in such manner as may be agreed upon between you and the Union at any time while this authorization is in effect.


This authorization is voluntarily made. I understand that the signing of this authorization and the making of payments to UAW V-CAP are not conditions of membership in the Union or of employment with the Company, that I have the right to refuse to sign this authorization and contribute to UAW V-CAP without any reprisal, and that UAW V-CAP will use the money it receives to make political contributions and expenditures in connection with federal, state and local elections, and that monies contributed to UAW V-CAP constitute a voluntary contribution to a joint fund-raising effort by the UAW and AFL-CIO.

I also understand that the guidelines for contributions to UAW V-CAP set forth above are merely suggestions, that I can contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest, and that the Union will not favor or disadvantage me based on the amount of my contribution or my decision not to contribute.

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## ***V Means Voluntary***

Always remember that both signing up for V-CAP and the amount you contribute are purely voluntary. You can cancel your contribution by written request at any time. The key to increasing participation in V-CAP and our other political action efforts is education and communication, not high pressure tactics.

UAW V-CAP is an independent political action committee created by the UAW. UAW V-CAP uses the money it receives to make political contributions and expenditures for federal, state, and local elections. Contributions to UAW V-CAP are purely voluntary and are without fear of reprisal.

## ***Money and Politics***

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, during the 2016 election cycle, business PACs donated about \$396 million to federal candidates, while labor PACs contributed \$58 million less than one-sixth the amount business PACs spent. Total election spending by business outpaced labor spending by a ratio of 17 to 1.

### **ELECTION SPENDING**

Business	Labor
2016 \$3.3 billion	\$195 million
2014 \$3.3 billion	\$141 million
2012 \$2.7 billion	\$141 million
2010 \$1.4 billion	\$86 million
2008 \$2 billion	\$74 million
2006 \$1.2 billion	\$67 million



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# WHAT IS V-CAP

## UAW NATIONAL CAP

