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## Political Action Committees (PACs)

In Oregon a PAC is called a “Political Committee.”  
For our purposes a political committee<sup>1</sup> is a:

*“Combination of two or more individuals, or a person other than an individual, that receives a contribution or makes an expenditure for the purpose of supporting or opposing a candidate, measure, or political party...”*

A PAC or political committee is an organization formed to raise money for political activity. It consists of a group of people with similar interests and concerns that pool their resources to elect candidates to public office, or to pass measures. PACs can play a positive role in strengthening representative government by getting more people involved in the political process. PACs provide the public, including many individuals who have never been politically active beyond voting, with a convenient and meaningful way to exercise their citizen rights.

For more information on political committees and campaign finance, you can contact the Oregon Elections Division.

<http://www.sos.state.or.us/elections/elechp.htm>

PACs can help ensure neighbors' voices  
are heard in the political process.

Another information source is the Josephine County Clerk's Office.

Art Harvey, Chief Deputy Clerk  
Josephine County Clerk's Office, Courthouse  
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526  
541-474-5243

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1. Page 23 2002 Campaign Finance Manual. Oregon Elections Division - OAR No. 165-012-0005

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## Oregon Tax Credits

Donations to Oregon PACs can be used for full dollar-for-dollar credits against Oregon income taxes up to \$100 per couple or \$50 per single taxpayer.

Donations that are tax credits are painless, ultimately not costing you a penny. Here's how.

This type of contribution is not a deduction, it is a tax credit — almost free money. For example, if your 2002 year state income tax liability is \$350 filing jointly, and if you contribute \$100 to a PAC, your tax liability after the credit would be only \$250. In this example, if you had already paid the state \$350 through payroll deductions, you actually get a \$100 refund.

### Almost Free Money

This dollar for dollar tax credit is taken on Form 40, Oregon Individual Income Tax Return (line 40 in 2002), which means you receive the total amount back in the form of a tax credit when you file your Oregon tax return next year. This credit has nothing to do with federal taxes.

For more information on tax credits, you can contact the Oregon Department of Revenue, refer to ORS 316.102.

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/316.html>

Oregon Department of Revenue  
955 Center Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97310  
503-378-4988

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## How To Establish Your PAC

### *Are your county commissioners listening to you?*

A separate organization that all citizen advisory committees (CACs) and neighborhood associations (NAs) should consider establishing are ongoing PACs that will exist for more than one year. Set up your PAC to have the same mission as your CAC or NA. For example, the *Hugo PAC* is an ongoing committee (miscellaneous committee) that will exist for more than one year. It was established to build alliances and reward candidates who are helpful with its mission as identified on its statement of organization filed with the Josephine County Clerk's Office (see mission panel).

Each year the Board of Directors for the *Hugo PAC* determines if there are any ballot measures and/or candidates in Josephine County that it wants to support with its funds. The mission elements are used to determine that support. We believe PAC resources give our candidates and ballot measures more change of winning, e.g. purchasing signs, ads, etc.

**How do you feel?** If you agree with us please make your interests known to your neighbors and become a co-sponsor of this issue paper. Interested in more information? Come to Hugo and a member of the *Hugo Neighborhood* and/or *Hugo PAC* will be happy to walk you through the process.

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## Missions Of CVIG, Hugo Neighborhood, and Hugo PAC

This information brochure is one of a series of information documents jointly published by Citizens For A Voice In Growth (*CVIG*), the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*) and the Hugo Political Action Committee (*Hugo PAC*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors to help protect our rural quality of life, promote citizenry, and to involve citizens in the decision-making process.

*CVIG* is a group of citizens dedicated to increasing the effectiveness of Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement. *CVIG* supports: open spaces, clean rivers, a clean environment, responsible growth, small businesses, minimum noise pollution, and minimum light and sign pollution. *CVIG* was responsible for the passage of measure 17-77, which changed the Grants Pass City Charter to allow citizens the right to vote on annexations.

The *Hugo Neighborhood* and the *Hugo PAC* are nonprofit associations composed of citizens interested in both land use and the history of the Hugo area, which is in Josephine County, Oregon. Their land use missions are to promote the social welfare of the citizens of the area by working to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and by preserving, protecting, and enhancing the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors.

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**PACs For  
CACs & NAs:  
A Citizen Issue Paper**



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(updated)**

by

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &  
Historical Society**

**Hugo Political Action Committee**

**Citizens For A Voice In Growth**