



MATRIOTS®

Fact Sheet & FAQs

MARCH 4, 2019

The Buzz: Who We Are

WHAT IS THE MATRIOTS PAC?

It is a political action committee supporting women candidates in Ohio. The Matriots was founded after six central Ohio women participated in the Women's March on Washington in January 2017: Mindy Coffey, Sally Crane Cox, Rebecca Ibel, April Zimmerman Katz, Cathe Kobacker, and Sharon Steele. These Marchers came away from the event inspired to create a force that worked to elect more women to public office in Ohio.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MATRIOTS PAC?

To elect more women to office throughout Ohio who will promote a healthy economy in which women can thrive and prosper. When women are equally represented politically, families and society as a whole prosper.

WHO LEADS THE MATRIOTS PAC?

Matriots is led by Elissa Schneider, executive director of the organization. It has a board of directors that sets policy and strategy for the PAC. The board is currently made up of chair Sally Crane Cox (who also serves as treasurer of the PAC), vice chair Rita McNeil Danish, secretary Rebecca Ibel, treasurer Sharon Steele, and Sandra J. Anderson, Trudy Bartley, Myrita Craig,

Rachel Escusa, Holley Fowler Martens, Mackey M. McNeill, Dara A. Pizzuti, Anne Marie Sferra, and Valerie Lemmie Thomas.

WHAT KIND OF PAC IS THE MATRIOTS?

We are a nonpartisan PAC, regulated by the Secretary of State and empowered to make endorsements and political contributions to candidates running for state and local office in Ohio.

WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE MATRIOTS PAC?

Any person who makes a contribution to the PAC is a member. We accept donations to our PAC from U.S. citizens qualified to contribute under Ohio election law. The Matriots currently has more than 700 members who have donated more than \$1,500,000 to this effort.

WHY DID WE CHOOSE A BEE TO REPRESENT THE MATRIOTS?

The queen bee has long been associated with feminine power, figuring prominently in ancient matriarchal cultures. Bees represent both community and cooperation, working diligently for the good of all hive members and growth in their home territory.

The Sting: Why We Matter

WHY ARE YOU FOCUSED ON WOMEN IN OHIO?

In Ohio the challenge—and opportunity—is clear:

- » Based on The Matriots PAC's 2018 "State of Women in Ohio Elected Office" report, the first formal measurement of women in Ohio political office, just 29% of all elected offices are held by women.
- » Research shows a correlation between political giving by American women and their representation in elected office. Meaning: the more women contribute to candidates and causes, the more women achieve politically.

WHY DOES WOMEN'S POLITICAL REPRESENTATION MATTER?

Because women are the majority gender, chief consumers, and primary caregivers in Ohio; but, according to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, Ohio women rank:

- » 27th in reproductive rights
- » 28th in political participation
- » 30th in poverty and opportunity
- » 33rd in employment and earnings
- » 37th in work and family
- » and 39th in health and well being

The Hive: How Endorsements Build the Movement

HOW WILL THE MATRIOTS GET MORE OHIO WOMEN ELECTED TO OFFICE?

We will encourage, endorse and support women running for office who share our values; and we will encourage women throughout Ohio to become more active politically by making contributions supporting candidates with votes and influence.

HOW WILL THE MATRIOTS ENDORSE CANDIDATES?

If a candidate embraces our beliefs and would like our endorsement and/or financial support, she should complete our endorsement application, available on our website. Applicants will then be screened for potential endorsement and may be invited for interviews conducted by our endorsement committee.

WHAT ARE THE BELIEFS CANDIDATES MUST SHARE TO GAIN ENDORSEMENT BY THE MATRIOTS?

The Matriots, and the candidates they support, believe in working together to create a healthy economy and safe, prosperous communities in which women can thrive and their human, civil and reproductive rights are safeguarded.

WILL THE MATRIOTS ENDORSE CANDIDATES BASED ON THEIR STANCE ON REPRODUCTIVE ISSUES?

The Matriots will not endorse a candidate who actively or vocally works against a woman's right to make personal decisions about her body and healthcare.

HOW WILL THE MATRIOTS SUPPORT CANDIDATES IN ADDITION TO ENDORSEMENTS?

The Matriots may make contributions to candidates they endorse, but not all endorsements will include a contribution. In addition, the PAC will promote the candidates they endorse through events and communications with PAC members and Ohio voters.

WHY IS THE MATRIOTS NOT AFFILIATED WITH A PARTICULAR POLITICAL PARTY?

We believe that working outside party lines will enable us to get beyond the partisan entrenchment that defines government today. We want to create a way for people to rally around women who share their values, regardless of their political or apolitical position. The current party structure limits women's involvement: there are many women who don't see themselves as "political," in step with any particular party, or feel that the party system is not serving their interests and those of their families.

WILL THE MATRIOTS ENDORSE OHIO WOMEN RUNNING FOR FEDERAL OFFICE?

Not at this time. The Matriots PAC is a state PAC and only endorses candidates for state and local offices.

WILL THE MATRIOTS ENDORSE OHIO WOMEN RUNNING FOR JUDICIAL OFFICE?

After extensive discussion and review of the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct, The Matriots PAC has declined to make any endorsements in judicial races at this time.

WILL THE MATRIOTS ENDORSE OHIO MEN RUNNING FOR OFFICE WHO SHARE THE MATRIOTS' VALUES?

No. Our intention is to grow the number of women in elected office in Ohio as a means to make Ohio a women-friendly state.

DO THE MATRIOTS ENDORSE PRIMARY CANDIDATES?

Yes, The Matriots PAC endorses candidates in both the primary and general elections. The Matriots endorse in primary elections because we recognize the impact of early support and understand this support helps candidates establish viability. Typically, The Matriots PAC endorses in competitive primaries only. The application for endorsement as well as deadlines to submit can be found at matriotsohio.com.

The Honey: Making a Difference

HOW WILL THE MATRIOTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

By encouraging women's political participation statewide, we will achieve greater representation by women writing and enacting policy and legislation. Research shows that women in elected office:

- » Are more likely to build coalitions and work across the aisle.
- » Tend to put a greater focus on legislation that specifically helps women and families.
- » Are more effective in getting things done by seeing their legislation through to passage.

WHAT IS AN EXAMPLE OF POLICY OR LEGISLATION THAT AFFECTS THE ECONOMIC HEALTH OF WOMEN?

Policies and legislation that would ensure women are paid the same wages as men who do the same work would go a long way toward providing women and their families with financial security. For example, the current median annual pay for an Ohio woman who holds a full-time, year-round job is \$37,140, (according to nationalpartnership.org, based on US Census information), while median annual pay for an Ohio man who holds a full-time, year-round job is \$47,737. This annual wage gap of \$10,000 can be even larger for Ohio women of color who are paid 66 to 86 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men. On average, this wage gap results in a combined total loss to Ohio women of more than \$17 billion every year.

HOW CAN I HELP THE MATRIOTS?

We want people statewide to contribute at any level to the PAC, to political efforts that support our candidates, and by encouraging others to give to the PAC. You can also attend events hosted by The Matriots, host a house party to help us grow our hive, advocate for women candidates you care about, and most importantly, vote for women in every election.

WHY SHOULD I CONTRIBUTE TO THE MATRIOTS?

The Matriots has conducted an organized study of the Ohio political system, policies, and legislation, as well as best practices from other

women's PACs, to determine how to make the most effective candidate endorsements and contributions—not just to win offices for women, but also to further our platform. As a result of The Matriots PAC's first formal measurement of women in Ohio elected office, we've learned just 29% of all elected offices are held by women. By 2028 we would like to see this number increase to 50% of all elected offices in Ohio held by women.

HOW MUCH MONEY WILL THE MATRIOTS GIVE CANDIDATES THAT IT SUPPORTS WITH POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS?

A PAC is limited by law to giving up to \$13,292.35 to a specific candidate, per election cycle. However, contributions limits vary by office and municipalities.

HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I GIVE TO THE MATRIOTS?

A PAC is limited by law to accepting no more than \$13,292.35 in a calendar year from an individual, an LLC, an LLP, or another PAC.

DO YOU ACCEPT DONATIONS FROM MEN?

Yes. Supporting women for political office benefits all of us, men and women.

HOW WILL THE MATRIOTS MEASURE SUCCESS?

When Ohio's economic policies reflect equal support for women and men and Ohio women are consistently represented at the table where policies and legislation are being enacted.

By 2028, we'd like to see 50% of all elected offices in Ohio held by women.

HOW DID THE MATRIOTS DO IN THE 2018 ELECTION CYCLE?

In 2018 The Matriots PAC endorsed a qualified slate of 34 candidates running for statewide and local offices around Ohio. 16 Matriots won their races, including four of four county commissioners. With the help of The Matriots, the percentage of women in the 133rd Ohio General Assembly increased from 22 percent to 26 percent, the highest percentage of women serving in Ohio's history.