More Than Our Votes
Contributing to the FCPE

Every major policy decision affecting education is made by a politician, whether it’s the governor, the Oklahoma Legislature or your local school board. That’s why many Oklahoma Education Association members choose to make voluntary contributions to OEA’s nonpartisan Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE).

An OEA member or a local affiliate requests FCPE involvement in a particular race. OEA leaders and the staff legislative team begin the process of forming an interview committee.

An interview committee is created with FCPE donors who live and/or work in that House or Senate district. The committee requests interviews with all candidates in that race.

The interview committee decides on a candidate recommendation (or no recommendation). The interview committee also decides whether to give the recommended candidate money and/or assistance.

The FCPE Council votes on whether to accept the interview committee’s candidate recommendation. The council is made up of OEA members who are elected by the organization membership.

FCPE Facts

• **No dues dollars are involved.** Dues dollars NEVER go to the Fund for Children and Public Education. All donations are voluntary, and all donations come from OEA members.

• **Participation doesn’t require big donations.** To sit on these committees doesn’t require a large contribution. In fact, the FCPE guidelines recommend $10 annually.

• **FCPE policy outlines how to treat incumbents.** OEA will not endorse someone against an incumbent unless that incumbent has “taken action to harm the OEA as an organization, public education or its employees,” according to FCPE policy.

• **OEA members who are candidates receive donations.** OEA members receive automatic campaign contributions based on the office: $250 for a House of Representatives seat, $500 for a Senate seat, or $750 for a statewide seat. This does not constitute a recommendation.

On average, OEA members vote at a rate 20 percent higher than the general public, but **voting isn’t enough.** Electing good candidates costs money. To contribute to the FCPE, go to bit.ly/OEAfcpes.