

LEGISLATIVE ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

Passing legislation on the federal, state, and local level is the critical “last mile” of the Patriotic Millionaires’ fight to ensure that the country’s political economy meets the needs of regular people, not just millionaires. We focus our attention on tax policy, minimum wage and democracy reform.

OUR PROCESS: Federal legislative priorities are decided by the leadership of the organization in collaboration with the Policy Working Group (PWG). All members are invited to participate in the PWG. The PWG receives requests to support policy proposals, evaluates the proposal in consultation with staff and experts, shares its findings and recommendations with the full membership, accepts feedback from members, and then makes a determination of the organization’s level of endorsement.

***State legislative priorities are decided by members from that state through a similar process.*

OUR PERSPECTIVE: When the organization evaluates legislation, we begin by asking: Is this proposal a) better than other similar pieces of legislation being considered and b) is it better than the status quo (doing nothing)? Legislation is rarely perfect. It almost always contains at least some provisions with which some people may disagree. **Lawmaking is an art, not a science. Most importantly, it is a process.** And for that process to be successful - for legislation to become law - it must ultimately yield enough votes to pass. As such, our legislative endorsement process errs on the side of “realpolitik,” meaning that our analysis takes into account what is actually possible at any given time in any given chamber and allows for the give and take negotiation that takes place between chambers.

Our three levels of endorsed legislation are:

- **WHIP THE VOTE!** Our highest priority legislation, these bills align perfectly with our core values and, if passed, will advance our goals significantly. We support these bills with the full force of the organization’s resources and membership. Our members and staff actively lobby Congressional offices to push co-sponsorship, providing research and real world perspective directly to lawmakers. We work within coalitions on communications and legislative strategy. Most importantly, we do everything we can to build public support for the policies, producing op-eds, videos, events, and speaking to the press in legislators’ home districts to help move the needle in Congress.
- **ENDORSED:** Legislation that Patriotic Millionaires supports, but does not rise to the same level of urgency and importance as Whip the Vote! For bills in this category, we provide communications assistance to Congressional offices, quotes and research for press releases, place op-eds, and support these bills on social media, but limit the resources we expend lobbying on Capitol Hill.
- **RECOMMEND CONSIDERATION:** Either formal legislation or “white paper” proposals, these ideas are ones the Patriotic Millionaires members believe have promise and ought to be further developed and debated.

Note: Most important legislation takes more than one cycle to become law. We provide continuous support of key legislative priorities through that evolution from one cycle to the next.

