

# Political Activity And Lobbying Report (2015)



## Overview

As a company whose business is based on public-private partnerships with government agencies in the United States and around the world, The GEO Group, Inc. (GEO) strives to maintain the highest level of ethics and compliance with respect to its government relations and political contributions. GEO's political contributions and lobbying activities are strictly monitored by GEO's Legal Department to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws.

GEO's government relations activities are focused on government actions (legislative, regulatory and executive) that impact public-private partnerships in corrections, detention, reentry, rehabilitation, and electronic monitoring services. Otherwise, GEO's political contributions and lobby expenditures do not encompass criminal justice or immigration policies such as whether to criminalize behavior, the length of criminal sentences or the basis for an individual's incarceration or detention. The disclosure in the lobbying reports filed by the company is representative of the types of matters on which the company lobbies. GEO does not lobby for or against policies or legislation that would determine the basis

for an individual's incarceration or detention, the length of sentences or the criminalization of behavior.

Government relations engagements and expenditures require Vice President level or above approval. The Legal Department provides support for the company's reporting and other compliance obligations.

GEO also sponsors a non-partisan political action committee (GEO PAC) which is funded solely through voluntary employee and shareholder contributions and which makes contributions to federal candidates and to candidates in certain jurisdictions where contributions from political action committees are allowed.

Corporate funds may be used to make political contributions where permitted by law. Political contributions using corporate funds are governed by GEO's Political Contributions Policy and their expenditure requires authorization and approval by our CEO, GEO's Legal Department and the Chief Accounting Officer or Vice President of Finance/Treasurer (summarized herein). GEO's Board of Directors routinely engages with GEO's management to ensure proper oversight of said policy.

## GEO PAC Contributions

GEO sponsors a non-partisan federal political action committee that is funded solely by voluntary employee and shareholder contributions. The GEO PAC is a federally registered PAC that may make contributions in connection with federal elections, subject to contribution limits defined by the Federal Election Campaign Act. The GEO PAC may also make state-level political contributions, in compliance with state contributions limitations, registration and reporting requirements where applicable.

All GEO PAC contributions must be approved by the GEO PAC Board of Directors. Detailed information on the GEO PAC's contributions to candidate campaigns and other political committees is publicly disclosed in the GEO PAC's regular reports to the Federal Election Commission (FEC). Disbursements from the PAC to state-level candidates and committees are also reported on these FEC filings.

All of the PAC's filings with the FEC are available for public review on the FEC's website at [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov).





## The GEO Group's Policy on Political Contributions:

Where lawfully permitted, GEO is authorized to contribute corporate funds to political candidates and political parties.

### Guidelines

- A. Federal campaign laws prohibit corporate contribution to federal candidates and most political committees.
- B. Political contributions may include direct monetary contributions of corporate funds, indirect contributions of corporate funds such as disbursement of funds to pay for candidate or party expenses, contributions of goods and services and all monetary contributions of political nature for which the fair market value is less than the amount paid.
- C. Federal and state laws prohibit reimbursement of any person for campaign contributions.
- D. GEO's Legal Department reviews all requests for corporate political contributions to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal campaign laws.

### Approval Procedure

1. The authorized company representative requesting the political contribution will provide a completed Political Contribution Request Form, and any appropriate supplementary documentation to the Vice President with supervisory authority for approval. For example, a Facility Administrator would provide the completed form to the appropriate Regional or Corporate Vice President, who, if the contribution exceeded \$2,000, would forward it to the CEO for approval.
2. Once the Political Contribution Request Form has been signed by the Vice President with supervisory authority, all requests must be routed to the General Counsel's office. While all requests must be approved, the General Counsel's Office, any requests in excess of \$2,000 must also be approved by the CEO, the Legal Department, and the CFO, CAO or Vice President of Finance/Treasurer.
3. In no event may any employee, officer or director be reimbursed for making political contributions.

## Political Contributions Table\*

Totals by Source of Funds:	2015
• Combined- Corporate and GEO PAC	\$840,940
-Corporate	\$655,500
-GEO PAC	\$185,440

  

Totals by Recipient Category (Source in Parenthesis):	2015
• Federal Candidates, Parties & Committees (Combined)	\$283,440
• State/Local Candidates, Parties & Committees (Combined)	\$557,500

\* Totals reflected aggregate contributions made by corporate subsidiaries.

## Lobbying Disclosures

Engagement in legislative and regulatory proceedings at the federal, state and local levels of government is important to promoting the benefits of public-private partnerships. GEO participates in the political process and retains the services of consultant government relations professionals in jurisdictions where it has or may pursue the development of public-private partnerships. Federal and state laws, including the Lobbying Disclosure Act, require GEO to report expenditures associated with these activities. Political information on these activities and associated expenditures can be obtained at <http://disclosure.senate.gov/> or <http://lobbyingdisclosure.house.gov>. Each searchable site provides access to all of GEO's lobbyist's reports. The total expenditures disclosed on the federal forms include all of GEO's spending on federal, state and local lobbying.

Information on GEO's political contributions and lobbying disclosures can also be found in state agency websites, such as the respective Departments of State, Ethics Commissions and/or State Divisions of Election (e.g. [sos.ca.gov](http://sos.ca.gov), [www.ethics.state.tx.us](http://www.ethics.state.tx.us), [dos.myflorida.com](http://dos.myflorida.com)).

## Fees for Direct Lobbying

In 2015, GEO paid an aggregate amount of approximately \$3.58 million to consultant government relations professionals for direct lobbying (as defined by the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) 162 (e)).

## Trade and Membership Associations, Chambers of Commerce and other Groups

GEO belongs to only one trade association as a member: the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts (NAREIT). From time to time, GEO may also contribute to other trade and membership associations, chambers of commerce, etc. Below is a list of such organizations to which GEO paid dues, fees, or contributions of \$25,000 or more in 2015.

**National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts\* (NAREIT):** \$63,241