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10:50 AM BY MICHELLE LEDER

Microsoft talks politics...



In the **proxy**, that Microsoft (**MSFT**) filed earlier this week, there was an interesting new disclosure about Microsoft's political contributions:

Microsoft recognizes the increasing interest of U.S. public company shareholders in establishing greater transparency of corporate political contributions. Microsoft discloses its political contributions to support candidates and ballot measures. Microsoft has also adopted principles for dues payments or contributions to trade associations or other tax-exempt organizations that engage in political activity, and if available the amount of these contributions and the amount of the contribution used for political activity.

Check you to **this page** where you can download four different PDF files: one for statewide candidates, one for federal candidates, another for committee contributions, and the last for corporate contributions. I've taken a quick skim of the federal PAC committee contributions and it shows that MSPAC has given to Democrats and Republicans, giving \$15K each to both parties' Senate and Congressional candidates. We're quite sure there's other interesting details in the four documents too.

Microsoft is doing this voluntarily, which in our book, at least, deserves a gold star.

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