



PRESS RELEASE

April 1, 2021

AEPAC: A pact among Ethiopian Americans to engage in the democratic process through political action

Philadelphia, PA - The American Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC) announced its official launch today. AEPAC is a voluntary, non-profit, non-partisan, politically non-aligned public affairs organization for Ethiopian Americans and American friends of Ethiopia. AEPAC aims to provide accurate, timely and actionable information to US law makers and government officials, nongovernmental organizations, and the public in the formulation of policies that serve the mutual interests of the U.S. and Ethiopia. AEPAC's core mission is to strengthen and enhance bilateral relations between U.S. and Ethiopia, support close security cooperation, foster strong economic ties, and work together to advance democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights. AEPAC operates with a network of grassroots partners.

AEPAC is organized for the purpose of raising money to engage in the political and electoral process by supporting the election of candidates aligned to our mission. PACs can give \$5,000 to a candidate per election (primary, general, or special). They can also give up to \$15,000 annually to any national party committee, and \$5,000 annually to any other PAC. PACs may receive up to \$5,000 from any one individual, PAC or party committee per calendar year. AEPAC is registered with the U.S. Federal Elections Commission.

In addition, AEPAC provides public relations and lobbying efforts to strengthen among other things, US-Ethiopia mutual interest and to transform US-Ethiopia relationship from assistance recipient to trading partner. The financial donation restriction mentioned above do not apply to such activities. Unofficial estimates put the number of Ethiopians living in the United States at around one million. Ethiopia-born immigrants constitute the second largest (after Nigeria) African immigrant group in the United States. Over the past two decades, Ethiopian immigrants in the United States have successfully established businesses, religious and civic institutions to serve the broader communities and to engage in grassroots policy advocacy.

Currently AEPAC is the only political action committee registered with the Federal Elections Commission to promote the interests of Ethiopian Americans in the United States. Ethiopian Americans, permanent residents and other American friends of Ethiopia are welcome to **join as members, donors, and voters to support AEPAC's mission by visiting our website at www.aepact.org.**

Paid for by the American Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC) (www.aepact.org) and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Contact us: at info@aepact.org