



# The Walgreen Co.

## Political Action Committee

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**Happy February!** We hope your new year is off to a great start.

We are excited to kick off another year of PAC programming for our members. You can look forward to a continuation of our speaker series, which brought you fascinating discussions with Rep. Rodney Davis, Mayor Sylvester Turner, and Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester. We're also looking to partner with more of the Business Resource Groups to bring you interesting content like the Women of WBA event we hosted earlier this year.

We hope you'll stay tuned.

**You can find below a few quick tidbits about the new Congress, plus the long-awaited results of our PAC Election Prediction Contest – and a bonus spotlight of the winner!**

### **The Complications of a 50/50 Senate**

After Democrats flipped two U.S. Senate seats in dual runoff elections in Georgia, the Senate is split 50/50 for the first time in almost twenty years. This unique situation necessitates Democratic and Republican

leaders coming to a “power-sharing agreement,” an arrangement that includes rules on how the Senate will operate in a variety of tie-breaking scenarios.

Many are aware that the Vice President casts the tie-breaking vote in full Senate votes. This power will come in handy when confirming President Biden’s nominees for cabinet positions and other top officials. It can also be useful in a limited budgetary maneuver called “Reconciliation,” which is a process used to pass certain types of legislation in the Senate with a simple majority vote as opposed to the standard 60 vote threshold. This process was most recently used by Republicans to pass the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in 2017, and could pave the way for another round of coronavirus relief, healthcare legislation, clean-energy investments, or infrastructure measures.

Less familiar is that the power-sharing agreement will also help the Senate navigate ties in committee votes, as the committees will likely be split evenly between Republicans and Democrats. In normal circumstances, a tie in committee results in a measure failing. However, the power-sharing agreement can allow those tied measures to pass and move forward for consideration by the full Senate.

## **Republicans Increase Leverage in a Tightly Divided House**

With Republicans making significant gains in the House, the chamber has its slimmest majority in modern history (221-211). There is little room for error for the Democrats compared to the last Congress: With a slim majority and a number of conservative Democrats representing Republican-leaning districts, Democrats will have to work with centrist members of both parties to get their priority legislation passed.

With a new session also comes new committee leadership. While most of the leadership remained the

same on the Democratic side, there are new top Republicans on the committees that oversee health care priorities key to Walgreens. Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-5) is the new top Republican on the House Energy and Commerce Committee (E&C), and Rep. Brett Guthrie (KY-2) takes over as the top Republican on the E&C Subcommittee on Health. While they are in the minority, they will still wield considerable influence in the legislative process. Of note, Rep. Guthrie previously sponsored legislation to give pharmacist provider status in the Medicare program – having pharmacy champions in top spots bodes well for retail pharmacy and the pharmacy profession as a whole.

## **Election Contest Results**

It took a bit longer than expected, but we finally have a winner in our PAC Election Prediction Contest: **John Ferraz!** A district manager from Florida, John is a longtime Walgreens team member and supporter of WalgreensPAC. You can read more about John below in our PAC member spotlight.

Here's the entire top 5. Thank you again to all members who participated!

1. John Ferraz
2. Victoria Kroeger
3. Susan Deleo
4. Thomas Isbon
5. Jon Arends

## **PAC Member Spotlight: John Ferraz**



John Ferraz started at Walgreens as a cashier in 1997 and has been with us ever since. He was promoted to store manager at the age of 22, one of the youngest store managers Walgreens has ever had. After serving as a district manager in North Bergen, NJ for four years, John moved to the Space Coast of Florida where he now works with the “Titusville Titans” in the Titusville district.

About his colleagues, John says that he has worked with some of the most dedicated and hard-working team members at Walgreens. He is especially proud of his team’s charitable work and their resilience and ability to overcome challenges.

On WalgreensPAC, John had this to say: “I’ve been a WalgreensPAC member for a few years now and always value the additional insight they provide through their newsletters and emails. I encourage [all eligible team members] in our company to join the PAC if you can. There is a lot of work that needs to be done to allow us to continue to do what is best for our communities and the patients we serve.”

**We thank John for being a PAC member, but also for all the work he has done for Walgreens and for his community in his distinguished career!**



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