

Volunteers for Agriculture®

VFA

Volunteers for Agriculture® (VFA) is Wisconsin Farm Bureau's political action committee. Since 1990, the VFA has helped elect candidates who work for agriculture's interests in Madison. The VFA builds strong relationships with legislators of both parties to help us achieve our legislative priorities.

Goals

- **Promote** the economic and social well-being of farmers, rural families and agricultural interests.
- **Head off** burdensome legislation and regulations.
- **Advocate** for farmers' and agriculturists' interests amid a changing social, economic and political climate.

How VFA Helps

- **Contributes** directly to the candidate's campaign committee.
- **Purchases** advertising in support of candidates.
- **Motivates** our members to vote for endorsed candidates.

VFA Committee

The activities of VFA are governed by a committee consisting of 18 Farm Bureau members, two from each of the nine board districts. Two members of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors are appointed to the committee to act as liaisons to the board. VFA serves as a separate, segregated political fund. It solicits and receives political contributions and makes expenditures to support candidates without regard to political affiliation.

“The VFA is one of the few political action committees that endorses candidates from both sides of the political aisle. Many of the key issues for farming are subject to an urban-suburban-rural divide rather than a partisan one.” – **Jim Holte, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President**

“The VFA supported me for State Assembly in 2014 and 2016 because they appreciate my farming background and as a farm owner/manager they know I speak their language. The farmers that make up the VFA committee take their role seriously. They endorse candidates, like me, who believe and understand how important agriculture is to Wisconsin. They get behind candidates who understand farming concerns and will work in the Capital for those causes.” – **State Representative Deb Kolste, Democrat from Janesville**

“Farm Bureau’s political action committee - Volunteers for Agriculture® - is an incredibly effective resource in helping to elect state officials who acknowledge how important agriculture and farmers are to the state of Wisconsin. I always appreciate their continued support and do my best to represent my Farm Bureau constituents on important ag issues at the State Capitol. I hope Farm Bureau members across the state truly understand what a key role the VFA plays in electing ag-friendly candidates.” – **State Representative Keith Ripp, Republican from Lodi**

Track Record

In the 2012, 2014 and 2016 fall primary and general elections, **90%**, **95%** and **97%** of VFA endorsed candidates were elected, respectively.



Bottom Line

Elections are ultimately won and lost based on the vision and ideas of any given candidate, but a candidate's message can't get out unless it is well-funded through donations from family, friends and like-minded supporters. This is where the VFA can financially help a candidate who believes in the values and lifestyle that agriculture provides so many hard-working farmers in Wisconsin.

When the VFA monetarily supports and helps our endorsed candidates win, **YOU** have just gained another voice that can speak on behalf of agriculture in the State Capitol.



How to Help

As a voting member of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, you can make a \$10 contribution when you make your annual Farm Bureau dues payment. If you choose to not contribute, you simply subtract \$10 from the amount on the line marked 'total'.

Please Note

Per Wisconsin law, the name and address of anyone who makes a contribution are reported to the Wisconsin Ethics Commission, the state agency that oversees campaign finance law, and are a public record which may be viewed online. Contributions are voluntary and not deductible for income tax purposes. Corporate contributions are prohibited.

 **Volunteers For Agriculture®**

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