

Public Policy Committee Meeting

June 5, 2026



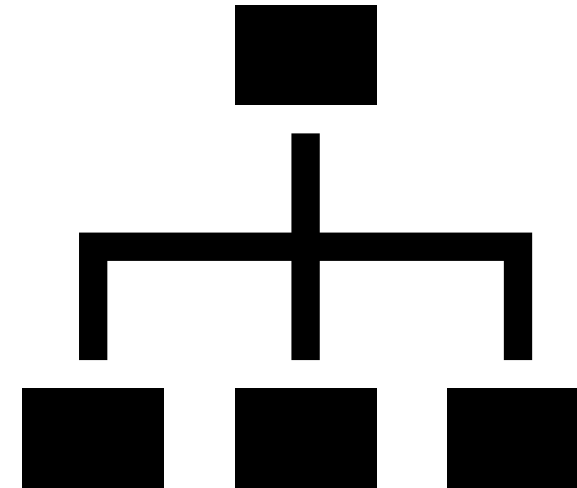
PPC Policy Objectives/Priorities

Three-Tiered Priority Framework: Organized to align staff time, member engagement, and political capital with the most impactful issues.

Top Priorities = Active Advocacy: Focus on issues requiring sustained engagement, coalition work, and grassroots mobilization—where TCIA is seeking concrete policy outcomes and measurable progress.

Monitoring Issues = Targeted Engagement: Maintain visibility and engagement on developing issues, stepping in strategically as needed while building positioning and relationships.

Emerging Issues = Early Tracking & Positioning: Track trends such as state-level policy activity, licensure, and insurance developments to ensure TCIA is prepared to act early if these issues begin to directly impact members.



PPC Policy Objectives/Priorities

State Licensure & NCOIL Activity (Emerging / Monitoring Priority): These issues signal growing state-level attention to professionalism, insurance practices, and regulatory oversight, and merit continued tracking and early positioning.

Current Posture: TCIA will continue to monitor developments in state licensure, insurance practices (including drone usage), and related NCOIL activity, while maintaining readiness to engage if member impacts become more immediate or defined.

Resource Allocation: At this time, these issues are not designated for sustained advocacy campaigns; staff time and organizational resources will remain concentrated on top-tier priorities, with targeted engagement as needed.

Adopt the policy objectives for setting priorities and allocating resources

NCOIL Engagement Opportunity:

An NCOIL committee meeting is scheduled in Boston in the upcoming months.

TCIA believes there is value in member presence at this meeting to observe, build relationships, and gather intelligence to inform future strategy.

Advocacy Activity Report

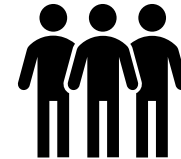
- **Building grassroots from the ground up.**
This year marks a systematic buildout of a true grassroots and grass tops combined advocacy model; member-driven, digitally enabled, and scalable.
- **Member Advocacy Toolkit:** Comprehensive toolkit with talking points and targeted asks published (May 2026)
- **WMC Auction audience strategy** developed to preserve the premium auction experience while expanding engagement building a sustainable pipeline of future donors and advocates.
- **Advocacy 101 Webinar Series:** Three of six free webinars throughout 2026 are now complete. Open to members and non-members, covering how to be an advocate, how to be aware, and how to be proactive.
- **PPC Website/Landing Page Operational.**
Meeting materials, archives, and resources online in a password protected area
- **Weekly Advocacy Posts for Staff**
Summaries are provided on the PPC site



TCIA Activists in 16 states have contacted 110 elected officials this quarter



15 letters and filings have been submitted on TCIA's behalf this year



There are currently 2,565 contacts in the TCIA online advocacy database

Fall 2026 Advocacy Engagement Strategy

- In 2026, TCIA will take a **strategic pause** from our traditional Washington, DC fly-in, with plans to **resume in September 2027**.
- Instead, we are shifting to a **localized, high-impact engagement model**, meeting policymakers where our members live and work through a **series of on-site visits at member company locations across key districts**.
- These visits will provide opportunities for **candidates to engage directly with members**, tour facilities, receive PAC contributions, and participate in media-facing moments where appropriate.

GOAL

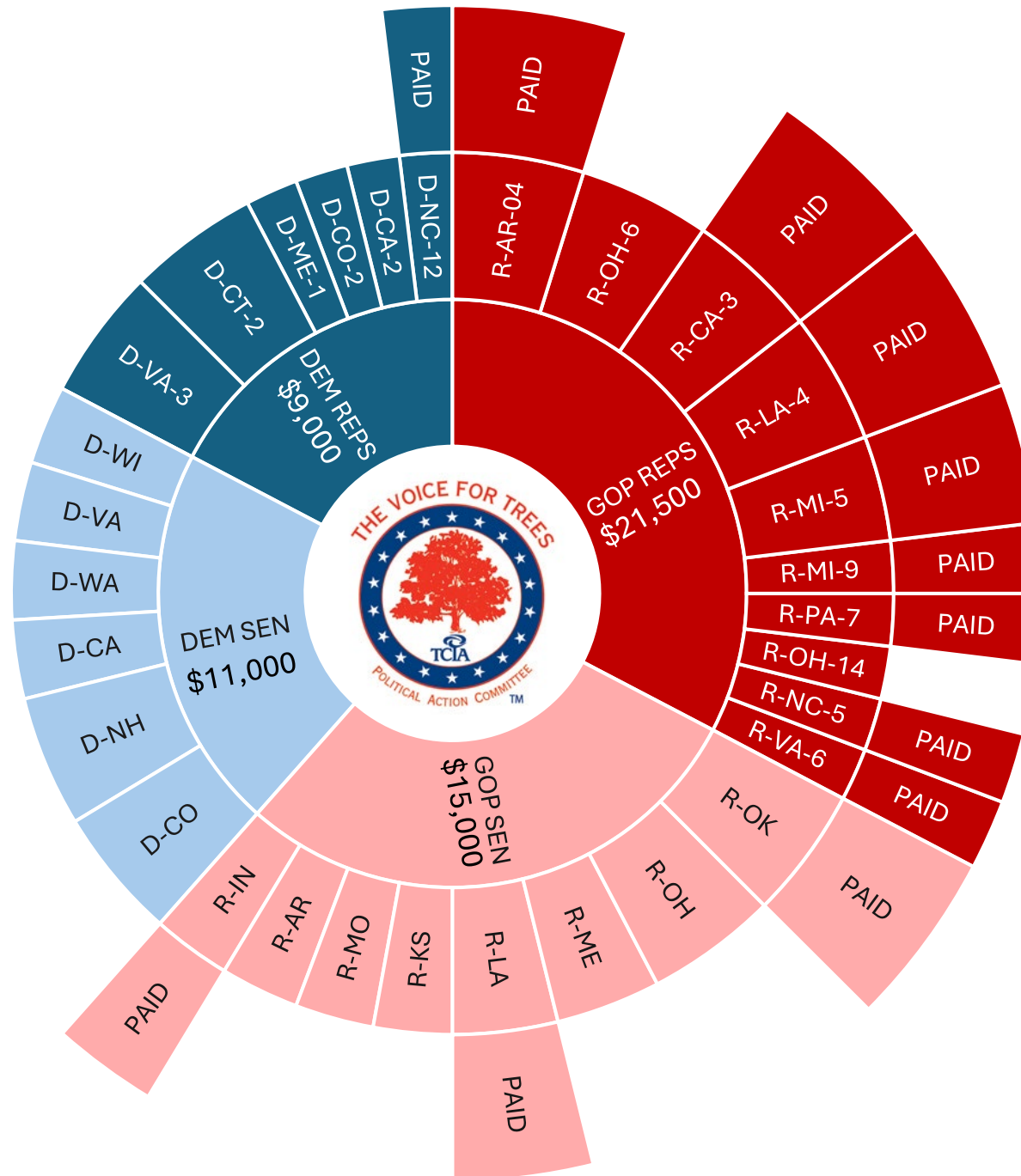
Strengthen district-level relationships, elevate the visibility of our industry, and create more authentic, real-world engagement with key policymakers.

RESULT

Expand both grass tops and grassroots reach, deepen member involvement, and build a stronger foundation for future fly-in advocacy efforts in 2027 and beyond.



VFT-PAC Target Distribution Plan

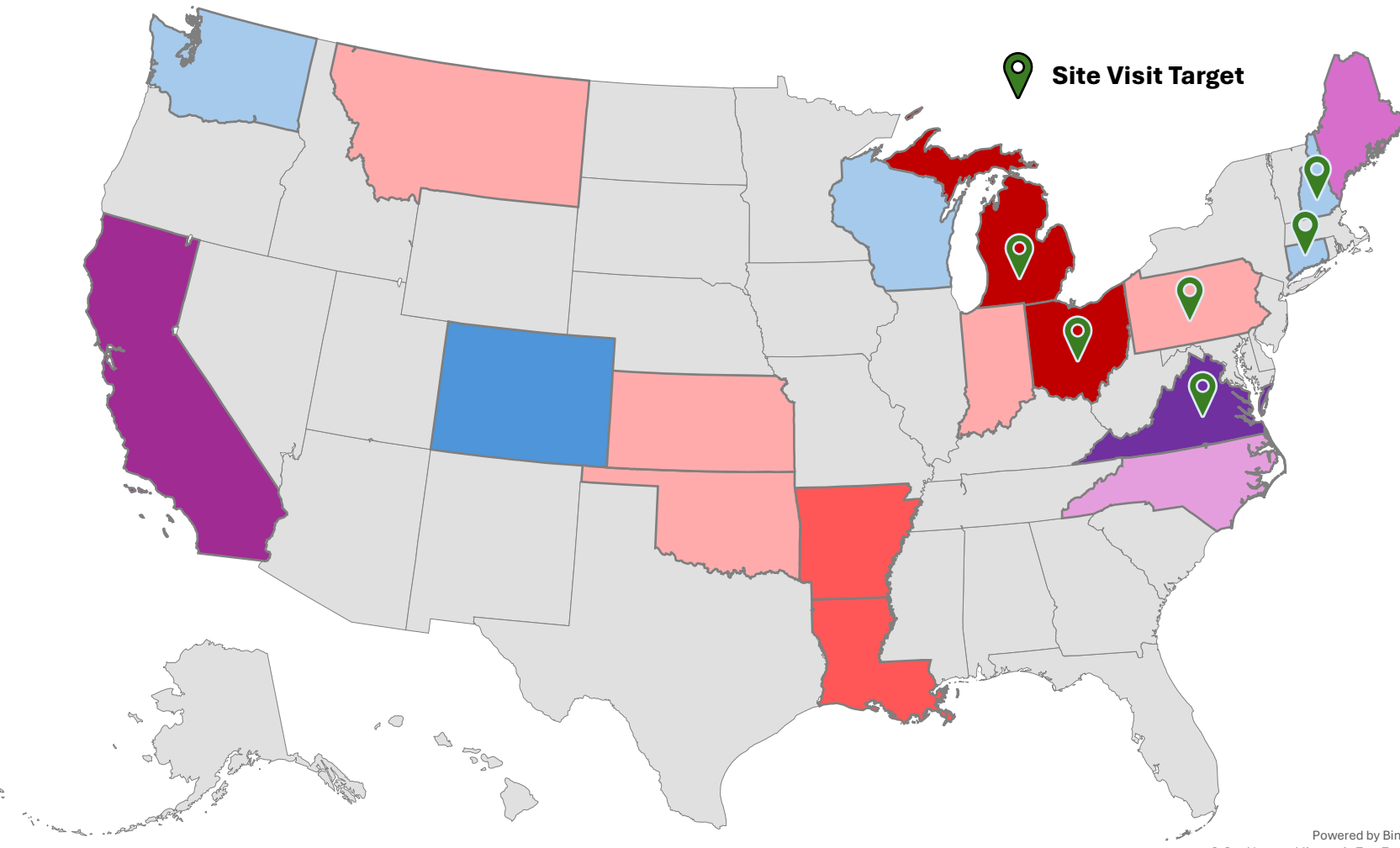


Quick VFT-PAC Plan Facts:

- \$56,500 planned, \$25,500 distributed to date
 - \$20,000 to Dems, \$36,500 to GOP
 - \$13,500 to Reps, \$17,500 to Sens
 - 16 Representatives and 14 Senators
 - 18 States
 - Contains \$20,000 contingency
- 6-7 On-Site visits targeted for 2026
- Distribution ramps up this QTR



2026 VFT-PAC Donation Plan By State



STATE	Planned	To Dem	To GOP	Dispersed
MI	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000	\$3,000
OH	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000	\$0
CA	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
VA	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
LA	\$4,500	\$0	\$4,500	\$4,500
AR	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000	\$5,000
CO	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0	\$0
ME	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$0
CT	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	\$0
NH	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	\$0
OK	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500	\$5,000
PA	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500	\$1,000
NC	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
IN	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500
KS	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500	\$0
MO	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500	\$0
WA	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	\$0
WI	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	\$0

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VFT-PAC Plan Analysis

The current plan reflects, in large part, where we've seen the **strongest opportunities for engagement on issues directly impacting the tree care industry.**

In many cases, these decisions have been driven by:

- **Committee jurisdiction and leadership roles**
- **Existing relationships**
- **Demonstrated alignment on specific issues**

Taken together, this approach reflects a strategy focused on **near-term policy influence**, prioritizing members who are actively engaged in shaping outcomes relevant to our industry.

Strategic Question Moving Forward

There is growing discussion that the upcoming election **may result in a shift in congressional control.** If that occurs, committee leadership and legislative priorities could change, and with that, the landscape in which we advocate.

The current VFT-PAC allocation strategy clearly reflects **strong engagement with members who are active on our issues today.**

The opportunity in front of us is ensuring we are **equally well-positioned to advance TCIA's priorities in whatever political environment emerges after November.**



Issues Update: OSHA Tree Care Standard

- Latest Action:
 - May 19 Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health (ACCSH)
 - OSHA requests that ACCSH provide a recommendation that the agency proceed with publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking on Tree Care Operations.
 - Unanimous recommendation to proceed
- Next Steps:
 - Continued engagement with OSHA on Scope and Application
 - MD, VA, CA Standards and ANSI Z133
 - Revised Enforcement Memorandum
 - Inspection Guidance for Tree Care and Tree Removal Operations

Issues Update: Wildfire

- S.140, The Wildfire Prevention Act of 2025
 - SEC. 201. Vegetation management, facility inspection, and operation and maintenance relating to electric transmission and distribution facility rights-of-way.
 - (a) Hazard trees within 50 feet of electric power line.—Section 512(a)(1)(B)(ii) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(a)(1)(B)(ii)) is amended by striking “10” and inserting “50”.
 - TCIA Recommendations:
 - Owner/Operator Clarification: a targeted technical clarification to strike “contractors or other agents” from the Section 512(a)(2) definition of “owner/operator,” so the term refers to the federal authorization holder rather than contractors executing approved vegetation-management work.
 - Minimum Standard of Care: establishment of a minimum standard of care for hazard-tree pre-inspection based on an ANSI A300 Level 1 (Limited Visual) Tree Risk Assessment, to improve consistency and defensibility and support contractor availability in high-risk wildfire areas.
 - Status:
 - December 2, 2025: Legislative Hearing
 - June 10: Markup (TCIA Recommendations Included in ANS)

Issues Update: Wildfire

- NERC: Reducing the Risk of Wildfire Ignition by the Bulk Power System
 - Final Report filed on May 1 in response to Executive Order 14308
 - Includes “best” practices and recommendations to reduce wildfire ignition risk
 - VM: risk modeling and geospatial tools for identifying vegetation proximity
 - NERC should pursue modifications to Reliability Standard FAC-003 so that it applies to more transmission facilities between 100 kV and 200 kV
 - TCIA Filed Comments in Response to Draft Report in March
- CA SB 254 Natural Catastrophe Resiliency Study
 - Final report issued April 7
 - Key recommendations include statewide wildfire mitigation standards, workforce development initiatives, utility liability reform, and expanded catastrophe-risk financing mechanisms
 - Legislature conducted four oversight hearings in May to review recommendations (Senate Energy, Senate Insurance, Senate Emergency Management/Natural Resources, Assembly Utilities & Energy)

Issues Update: Pesticides

- Farm Bill 2026
 - House passed H.R. 7567 on April 30, but adopted the Luna amendment stripping pesticide labeling uniformity, state pesticide preemption, and NPDES permit relief
 - Vote on amendment: 280–143, including 73 Republicans + 207 Democrats in support.
 - MAHA-aligned advocacy emerged as a significant force during House consideration and helped drive bipartisan support for removing the pesticide language.
 - Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman John Boozman has indicated the Senate could begin marking up its own farm bill this month; timing and prospects for pesticide provisions remain uncertain.
- Custom Blends
 - Evaluated options for addressing the Connecticut custom blending interpretation issue; current EPA engagement assessed as high risk.
 - Exploring alternative pathways, including Forest Service/NRCS authorities, while monitoring EPA and judicial developments.

Issues Update: Immigration

- H-2B Update
 - DHS and DOL released the full FY26 supplemental allocation (64,716 additional visas) beyond the statutory cap.
 - January–March and April allocations were fully utilized; May–September visas remain available.
 - TCIA participated in H-2B Workforce Coalition advocacy supporting Certified Seasonal Employer (CSE) cap relief for FY27.
 - March coalition letter urged House and Senate appropriators to include CSE language.
 - House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee released FY27 bill text on June 4 including coalition-backed CSE language.
 - Subcommittee markup June 5. Full Committee markup scheduled for June 10.

Issues Update: CDL/CMV Integrity Initiative

- English Language Proficiency
 - April 16, 2026: FMCSA issued revised ELP enforcement guidance clarifying roadside inspection procedures, use of translation tools, sign-recognition assessment, and border-zone application of out-of-service criteria.
 - May 14, 2026: OFLC FAQs requiring labor certification applications/job orders involving CMV operation to include explicit ELP standards; effective June 15, 2026.
- Training Provider Registry Audits
 - Thousands removed from TPR
 - FMCSA continues audit activity that may result in documentation requests and proposed removal of training providers/locations from the Registry.
- Feedback
 - Increased federal focus on CDLs and commercial driver qualification standards.
 - Monitoring reports that some states may be modifying licensing practices in response to federal CDL integrity initiatives, potentially affecting foreign-born workers and H-2B employees operating CMVs.

Closing

- New Business
- Questions
- Next Meeting

