Continued from Page 1.

"Candidates are pretty much consistent," he said. "If a person believes in the support of education at the federal level, you find out early in the endorsement game.

NEA-PAC is supporting Edgar and Wachob in the local U.S. Senate and House races, Carroll

"There are a couple of things to keep in the picture," said Peter Rentie, spokesman for the National Association of Homebuilders. "The political situation in the district — is it a safe Republican or a safe Democratic district?"

Rentie's organization also monitors votes on more than 20 different issues. The main issue is the group's opposition to tax reform, which may affect housing construction, Rentie said.

"I don't think it changes votes but it gives us access to the candidates," Rentie said. "People know people who give them money, just like you and I know our creditors and benefactors."

"We try to be there when we're needed," Rentie said. "It gives us much more impact, at least in getting our voice heard."

Rentie, whose group supports Specter and Clinger, said Pennsylvania members of his group are among the most politically active homebuilders. Because of this, he said, Congressmen from Pennsylvania are "better versed" on issues affecting homebuilders.

Alternatives needed

But Citizens Against PACs, a bi-partisan organization, has been pushing for a program of public financing of House and Senate campaigns, similar to the provision allowing people to contribute to presidential campaigns by checking a box on their income-tax forms, Zuckerman said.

"Each major party candidate would get the

same amount of money," Zuckerman said.
Their ultimate goal, Zuckerman said, is to limit

political spending overall. Citizens Against PACs is trying to gather support in Congress for a bill that would put their plan into effect, he said.

Citizens Against PACs is also conducting an \$80,-000 per year information campaign, distributing press releases and buying advertisements in local papers to detail the PAC funding of Congressional representatives, Zuckerman said.

Three area candidates, William Clinger, Bob Edgar and Bill Wachob, have mixed opinions of PACs. Though they enjoy the benefits of PACs, all see the potential for abuse and hope for changes in the system.

Clark said the Clinger campaign has concentrated on obtaining money from individuals, but sees no conflict in receiving PAC funds.

"At this point, the candidates, especially in a hotly contested election, are not aware of PACs except for those in the district," Clark said.

Clinger's PAC funds come from local groups or organizations with a large membership in the area, Clark said

Clark said the PAC contribution system should be altered to allow donations to the party instead of to individual candidates.

"The party should stand for its own beliefs and programs," he said. "There would be no way for the candidate to know who donated the money. It would make the party stronger.'

Wachob favors a congressional limit on PAC

contributions but said "the way the rules of the

game are set up now, all of the candidates and

politicians have to seek out PAC money." "I'm going to work toward a better system, but we all have to work within the system," Wachob said. He said he would favor a matching funds system that would emphasize the importance of smaller individual contributions.

offers:

"There's too much potential for PAC contributions to be used to reward politicians for correct votes," said Bill Epstein, press officer for Edgar's campaign.

"The role (of PACs) shouldn't be eliminated all together," Epstein said. "The general role they play is good but you have to maintain a balance in light of the huge amount raised."

Edgar co-signed the recent Campaign Limitation Act in the House of Representatives limiting PAC contributions to \$100,000 per candidate per year, Epstein said. The cap includes both primaries and the fall campaign, he said.

"One-hundred-thousand dollars isn't much," Epstein said. "The senate and gubernatorial campaigns are million-dollar races. Epstein also cited the most recent mayoral

election in Philadelphia in which Mayor Wilson B. Goode spent \$5 million. Though the legislation failed when proposed this

year, Edgar plans to introduce a similar bill in the Senate, Epstein said. Epstein said recent legislation such as limits on individual and group contributions to political

campaigns and campaign disclosure laws requiring candidates to reveal the sources of campaign income have already decreased corruption in political races. "I aggressively try to seek PAC support, especially when I agree with their opinions," Wachob

said, adding that he meets with the Democratic National Campaign Committee and PAC representatives in Washington when seeking support. "PACs have a legitimate interest in looking at a

candidate's record and providing for candidates who share their views and share their ideas." Wachob said

"Take the (\$5,000) I received from the teachers" association," Wachob said. "There's 5,000 teachers in the district. That's about \$1 per teacher."

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