

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & DISCLOSURE OF POLITICAL AND ADVOCACY EXPENDITURES

ANNUAL DESCRIPTION OF PRIORITY ISSUES

Decisions are made every day at the local, state and federal levels that may have a significant impact on Darden Restaurants, Inc., our employees and/or our guests.

Darden is committed to transparency and accountability in our political and advocacy activities. We believe our shareholders, employees and guests should have access to information about our efforts to promote our interests and business objectives. We are also committed to ensuring our political and advocacy activities are lawful and consistent with our core values and protect and enhance shareholder value.

Our policy engagement focuses on removing barriers for growing our business and mitigating risks associated with public policy decisions made at all levels of government. We work independently and collaboratively, when appropriate, to oppose harmful legislation with the potential to jeopardize our business, both short and long-term.

In 2016, our policy engagement focused in these areas:

- Food, Beverage and Nutrition
- Labor, Benefits and Employment
- General Business and Tax