

PERMISSIBLE VOTER AND ELECTION ACTIVITIES FOR 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATIONS

10 Activities 501(c)(3) Organizations Can Do On a Non-Partisan Basis

- 1 Voter Registration*
- 2 Voter Education on the Process of Voting - where to vote, etc.
- 3 Nonpartisan Voter Guides on Candidates and Ballot Measures
- 4 Candidate Forums
- 5 Educate the Candidates
- 6 Encourage Voter Participation. Get Out the Vote.
- 7 Voting Rights and Election Reform
- 8 Help On Election Day: Volunteer poll workers, election monitors, etc.
- 9 Issue Advocacy During an Election
- 10 Support or Oppose Ballot Questions - subject to normal lobbying limits

* Subject to restrictions of funding sources. For example, the federal government sometimes prohibits use of federal funds for voter registration

A 501(c)(3) organization may not support or oppose any candidate for public office, including -

- Endorse candidates for office
- Make a campaign contribution or expenditure for a candidate
- Let candidates use its facilities, resources or mailing lists, unless it is *equally* available to all candidates
- Use an election communication explicitly designed to favor or oppose a candidate - such as using a single issue to compare the candidates during an election.



www.nonprofitvote.org

