

Q&A

Question	Answer
Are there any concerns with providing information on publicly available information on election security from media or government organizations?	If the information is from a reputable, nonpartisan source (like the EAC) then it's fine.
If you have a Voter Registration Drive for another non-profit and their flyers and other information is being distributed, might this be a problem?	If you have a Voter Registration Drive for another non-profit and their flyers and other information is being distributed, might this be a problem?
If you have a Voter Registration Drive for another non-profit and their flyers and other information is being distributed, might this be a problem?	If all nonprofits (and their materials) are remaining nonpartisan, then it shouldn't be a problem. Teaming up with other organizations to host voter registration drives is a great activity. Watch out for materials distributed by c4 organizations, they have more leeway around lobbying and talking about candidates.
If a candidate endorses a platform / key issues, and an organization promotes by sharing that information with the public would that be considered endorsing a specific candidate / candidates?	I would try to find another, nonpartisan source of information instead of a candidate's campaign site. If you are highlighting their info in a non-candidate capacity, that is okay.
Our organization offers "voter guides" for local school board and city council races. Our voter guide consists of questions we have asked candidates and their responses. Can we have these local voter guides available next to our voter registration table?	Definitely! As long as they are nonpartisan (David is about to cover this) then it's a great idea to have info about who is on the ballot along with your registration drive.
What is the best way we can educate voters about candidates safely while staying non-partisan?	Great question! We will host a webinar in August about various tools/platforms that provide nonpartisan voter guides, including vote411.org by the league of women voters.
During get out the vote, could you say publicly on social media, "get out and vote for gun safety" or something like that? I'm guessing no, but I want to make sure.	David will address issue advocacy when combined with voter outreach in a few slides.
If I'm holding a voter education event at, say, a public library, and a candidate shows up (as a member of the public who may possibly want to meet people), what would be the best way to handle that?	Let the candidate know that you are nonpartisan and the candidate may not campaign (pass out materials, ask people to support their candidacy) while there. If there is a program/speakers, have someone clarify that your event is nonpartisan and campaigning is not allowed.
Why do you think a national organization chooses to not participate in voter education?	Many organizations are not aware that they may conduct nonpartisan voter engagement. Nonpartisan doesn't mean you can't talk about the importance of voting, but a misconception remains.

I am familiar with the term "partisan" referring supporting candidates and political parties, but is it also used when our organization endorses a ballot measure?	Nonprofits can advocate yes or no on a ballot measure. Look out for candidates who align themselves closely with ballot measures and take care not to let your communications look supportive of that candidate.
If you're an employee of a non-profit, etc., what about bumper stickers - seems like a funny question but if you use your car for work (coming and going to meetings, etc)??	Bumper stickers are fine, but maybe you cover it up if you're providing rides to the polls that day.

Webinar chat selections:

14:18:50 From Lisa Pascua to Everyone: Our organization offers "voter guides" for local school board and city council races. Our voter guide consists of questions we have asked candidates and their responses. Can we have these local voter guides available next to our voter registration table?

14:23:23 From Sharon Anderson to Everyone: League of Women Voters (www.lwv.org) partners with local affiliates to develop a great resource: Vote411.org. Helps with voter registration and ballots tailored for where you live.

14:26:45 From Erica Johnson to Everyone: For local elections, LWV does not allow generic "Vote" lawn signs to be displayed with candidate lawn signs, however, we do display "Vote" with signs endorsing a vote for/against a ballot issue on which the LWV has an established position. Does this violate nonpartisan rules?

14:30:08 From Jonathan Flores to Everyone: At AltaMed Health Services, we held a virtual townhall for the City of Los Angeles Mayoral Candidates. We invited the top 5 candidates (top 3 by when we started filming since two candidates dropped out of the race). Out of those 3 one candidate didn't respond to our request and we were able to move forward with the other two confirmed candidates! You can view videos here: <https://www.myvotemyhealth.org/votela/>

14:30:28 From Susan Strait to Everyone: so, for a candidate forum related to an issue (repro rights) if only one candidate comes is it still ok to hold the event?

14:31:21 From Nancy Price to Everyone: Optics are important for being perceived as nonpartisan.

14:34:08 From Stacey Webb to Everyone: Susan, I would say letting the no-show know that a chair will have her name on it w/ a declined to attend sign might get her there. We shouldn't allow candidates to keep citizens from "knowing" that is a non-democracy or manipulation strategy.

14:37:54 From Jonathan Flores to Everyone: Language in the invitation to the invited candidate is very important that's what we learned

14:38:01 From Paul Huffman to Everyone: Candidate Events for Federal races (e.g. U.S. Congress, U.S. Senate) can not be done with a single candidate by FEC rules. The speaker may want to validate that.

14:46:22 From Karen Langsjoen to Everyone: Paul, HOW CAN LOCAL LEAGUES IN MN hold forums even if only 1 candidate appears?

14:48:30 From Margo Reeg to Everyone: The League does not allow empty seat forums where only one candidate shows up. In CA we have dissolved the forum and allowed audience to informally ask questions of candidate.

14:48:39 From Erica Johnson to Everyone: LWV candidate events: see "empty chair rule" - allows a forum to go forward if at least 2 candidates are present. If only one of two candidates is present, that forum segment must be cancelled.

14:50:39 From Karen Langsjoen to Everyone: MN LWV has different rules

14:52:10 From Paul Huffman to Everyone: @Karen Langsjoen: We allow Leagues to hold a candidate forum with a single candidate where the second candidate has declined to participate only for non-federal races. This is in our Candidate Participation policy here: <https://www.lwvmn.org/candidate-participation>

14:52:33 From Paul Huffman to Everyone: I'm happy to discuss the LWV MN policy more off-line

14:53:18 From Stacey Webb to Everyone: Appears LWV has inconsistent policies for Forums & Guides. Something we should have addressed a few weeks ago at our Convention.

14:57:50 From Michelle Mears to Everyone: MOST LWV chapters are 501c4 which allows them to do more and different kinds of lobbying. Some chapters have elected to be 501c3 and limit their activities to get the advantages of c3.

14:58:24 From Paula Arechiga to Everyone: interesting ^^

15:03:52 From Cricket Jamet to Hosts and panelists: Very helpful as a hybrid PAC/501c4 that works with 501c3 orgs in our social welfare/advocacy work!

15:04:05 From Priscilla Burnham to Everyone: Excellent - helpful guidance - but it sounds like there are a lot of potential pitfalls given the current polarization and the increasing number of wedge issues