



NONPARTISANSHIP

Tax-exempt 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations are permitted to conduct nonpartisan voter registration, education, and get-out-the-vote activities. 501(c)3s are also permitted to engage with candidates for public office as long as such interactions remain strictly nonpartisan. Before embarking on a nonpartisan election campaign, nonprofit staff and volunteers must familiarize themselves with the requirements of nonpartisanship to avoid jeopardizing their tax-exempt status. While this report does not provide a comprehensive checklist for maintaining nonpartisanship and is not a substitute for formal legal guidance, a brief outline is included.



In general, 501(c)3 nonprofits are **permitted** to:

- ✓ Conduct nonpartisan voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives;
- ✓ Educate voters about participation in the political process and issues on the ballot;
- ✓ Engage candidates on political issues, as long as these efforts do not favor any candidate or political party;
- ✓ Host election-related public events;
- ✓ Conduct voter protection activities; and
- ✓ Endorse and advocate for ballot measures within the restrictions on lobbying for 501(c)3 nonprofits.

These activities are only permissible when they are conducted in a nonpartisan manner, meaning that they do not advance the interests of a particular candidate or political party, or intend to influence the outcome of an election. For example, a nonprofit can **never** choose which citizens to register or mobilize based on their actual or perceived party affiliation: all prospective voters must be treated equally.

501(c)3 nonprofits must **never**:

- ✗ Endorse political candidates;
- ✗ Donate money, resources, or time to any candidate or political party; or
- ✗ Publish or communicate anything that explicitly or implicitly favors or opposes a candidate.

Staff of 501(c)3 nonprofits can volunteer for partisan political campaigns in their personal time; however, they can never conduct partisan activities on staff time, use their employer's resources, or do anything to indicate that they represent their organization.

For comprehensive resources and technical assistance on nonpartisanship, please refer to the [Alliance for Justice's Bolder Advocacy campaign](#).



OUR HOMES
OUR VOTES



ourhomes-ourvotes.org

National Low Income Housing Coalition