

- **By law, 501(c)3 nonprofits are prohibited from engaging in any partisan political activity, including but not limited to: candidate or political endorsement, campaign activities, partisan public statements, etc.**
- **501(c)3 nonprofits may lobby for or against legislation but are subject to limitations, specifically, lobbying activities cannot constitute a “substantial part” of the organization’s total activities.**
 - “substantial part” is subject to one of two qualifiers: resources used to support lobbying activities may not exceed one million dollars, OR, no more than five percent of overall organization time and resources may be dedicated to lobbying activities.
- **Any person, staff or volunteer, that is publicly known or affiliated with a 501(c)3 nonprofit is bound by the same legal requirements and standards with respect to partisan political activities.**
 - Affiliation, both perceived and real, includes formal employment as well as personally declared connection to the organization, including as a volunteer.
 - Advocates and volunteers must remain completely non-partisan at all times in order to avoid risk of jeopardizing the 501(c)3 status or the organizations they are working with and/or supporting.
 - Specifically, advocates and volunteers may not: endorse candidates for elected office or political appointment, express partisan views or make partisan statements, reference current or previous campaign or political party contributions, allow a political campaign event or activity to coincide with an ADA event.
- **Social media activities, while still technically not addressed in the 501(c)3 IRS legal code and regulations, is generally subject to the same legal guidance as all other advocacy and lobbying activities for 501(c)3 nonprofits. Advocates and volunteers should bear in mind the following when using social media for the purpose of advocacy and in general:**
 - Following and liking candidates for public office on Facebook and Twitter can be perceived as an endorsement, which is strictly prohibited.
 - If affiliated with the ADA in any way on social media accounts, you may not make political statements, endorsements or express partisan views of any kind.
 - Disclaimers about views and affiliations on social media profiles are insufficient in providing legal protections for otherwise connected 501(c)3 nonprofits.
 - 501(c)3 nonprofits, staff, advocates and volunteers may discuss policymakers/public officials and candidates in tweets and status updates but are subject to the same legal limitations applied to traditional communications channels, i.e. no partisan political activity whatsoever.