



501(c)(3) and Being Nonpartisan

What does this mean? SWOP USA and each Chapter are 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofits. This is a very specific tax code that limits our ability to be partisan in elections. It is really important that ALL chapters abide by this or we run the risk of losing our tax status nationally.

SWOP's Board completely understands that elections can be high intensity times as we navigate if candidates are allies or foes to our movement. However, it is critical that we remain unbiased in all communications, media, interviews, social media sharing, etc. when discussing running candidates running for public office.

Prohibited activities include:

- Endorsing or opposing a candidate running for public office
- Making a campaign contribution to or an expenditure for or against a candidate.
- Rate candidates on who is most favorable to your issue.
- Let candidates use the organization's facilities or resources, unless those resources are made equally available to all candidates at their fair market value.

The good news is that we are allowed to encourage folks to vote and educate the community on issues important to SWOP USA. Some activities we are allowed to do in lieu of the above mentioned include:

- Conduct or Promote Voter Registration
- Educate Voters on the Voting Process
- Distribute Nonpartisan Sample Ballots, Candidate Questionnaires, or Voter Guides
- Organize Get-Out-the-Vote Activities
- Encourage and Help People to Vote
- Host or Co-Sponsor a Candidate Forum
- Educate the Candidates on Your Issues
- Continue to do Issue Advocacy During an Election

SWOP USA asks each chapter to be cautious and thoughtful during these times and to please reach out to Christa Daring (christa@swopusa.org) if they have any questions or need more explanations on remaining nonpartisan.