



CLUB OPTIONS FOR POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

Common Organizational Structures

501(c)(3) – Charitable, Educational, Religious, Scientific, Literary Organizations

- Absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective office.
- Certain non-partisan activities, including presenting public forums, publishing voter education guides, and voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives, may be permitted.
- Can distribute/publish issue alerts with calls to action for pending, non-campaign issues, like legislation.
- **501(c)(3) organizations can contribute to the AKC's Canine Legislative Support Fund.**
- **501(c)(3) organizations are not permitted to contribute to the AKC PAC; however, clubs can coordinate individual contributions to AKC PAC —detailed records must be kept.**

501(c)(4) – Civic Organizations

- May engage in unlimited lobbying, provided it is related to the organization's "exempt" purpose.
- May engage in some political campaigns on behalf of or in opposition to candidates provided that intervention does not constitute the organization's primary activity.
- Permitted to conduct all of the nonpartisan voter education activities that a 501(c)(3) organization can engage.
- Permitted to endorse federal and state candidates.
- **501(c)(4) organizations can contribute to the AKC's Canine Legislative Support Fund.**
- **501(c)(4) organizations are not permitted to contribute to the AKC PAC; however, clubs can coordinate individual contributions to AKC PAC —detailed records must be kept.**

501(c)(7) – Social, Recreational Clubs

- May engage in unlimited lobbying, provided it is related to the organization's "exempt" purpose.
- May engage in political campaigns on behalf of or in opposition to candidates provided that intervention does not constitute the organization's primary activity.
- Permitted to conduct all of the nonpartisan voter education activities that a 501(c)(3) organization can engage.
- Permitted to endorse federal and state candidates.
- **501 (c)(7) organizations can contribute to the AKC's Canine Legislative Support Fund.**
- **501 (c)(7) organizations are not permitted to contribute to the AKC PAC; however, clubs can coordinate individual contributions to AKC PAC —detailed records must be kept.**

For informational purposes only. Consult with a licensed attorney and tax professional for advice and guidance for you and your organization.

Two Ways Your Organization or its Individual Members Can Protect Their Rights

AKC
CANINE LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT FUND



The Canine Legislative Support Fund is used to educate and lobby elected officials on your behalf at the federal, state, and local levels and to ensure your rights as a responsible dog owner are protected. These funds may not be used to contribute to political campaigns.

AKC Political Action Committee (PAC) funds are used to contribute to campaigns to help elect dog-friendly leadership in congress and state houses across the nation. PAC funds may not be used to lobby officials once they are in office or to influence legislation. They may only be used in campaigns.