

Advocacy Training Resource

501(c)(3) Status & Election-Related Activities



NCJW is a 501(c)(3) organization

NCJW is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service. NCJW can encourage people to vote and support issues, including ballot initiatives, and comment on the electoral process. We cannot take positions on candidates or political parties. When planning efforts to promote and protect the vote and lobby your policymakers, NCJW must follow certain rules and restrictions.

FAQs

In what sort of election activities is NCJW allowed to participate?

NCJW members can and should engage in nonpartisan voter registration drives, voter education, getting out the vote, volunteering at the polls, and advocacy around voting rights.

Can NCJW sections or members endorse a candidate or party?

No. We cannot tell people to vote for a specific candidate, party, or ideology. We can emphasize the importance of voting. *(Note: As private individuals, we can engage in partisan activities, including campaigns.)*

Can NCJW encourage others to vote for candidates with certain views?

No. Telling individuals to vote for candidates who are “pro-LGBTQ rights,” for example, is similar to endorsing an individual candidate directly. Similarly, we cannot encourage members to vote for “more female” or “more Latinx” candidates. We can encourage members to vote for a slate of candidates that reflect the diversity of our communities.

Can NCJW discuss a legislator's campaign in a lobby meeting?

It depends. Talking to a lawmaker about a campaign statement they made related to a bill you're lobbying on is relevant and C3-compliant. However, any conversation about if you voted for the lawmaker or volunteered on their campaign is not C3-compliant.