

CONNECTING STATE LEADERS TO WYOMING PEOPLE

By DAN NEAL
Equality State Policy Center

Do your legislators reflect your views on protecting Wyoming's air, water and open spaces? On how to fix our health care system? On who should be taxed and how much?

Although Wyoming is a small state with relatively easy access to politicians, we often see a disconnect between policies on important issues and the desires of Wyoming's people. How can this be changed?

An Equality State Policy Center project launched last year focuses on the citizens' ultimate power – the vote. The *Calendar of Election Activities for Non-Profit Organizations*, published in September 2004, is a guide for ESPC member organizations and others involved in public interest advocacy.

The *Calendar* outlines what various non-profit groups like the ESPC and its member organizations can do during the election cycle without running afoul of federal laws and rules.

The Wyoming Outdoor Council, as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, can actively work to educate voters about its most important issues. It can support or oppose ballot measures as part of its lobbying work. It can educate and help voters register and it can help get voters to the polls.

WOC cannot recruit or endorse candidates as an organization; however, individual members of the group certainly can do so on their own time and if they're on their own dime.

The *Calendar* outlines a work program based on Wyoming's two-year election cycle. The *Calendar* outlines what kind of activities can be conducted by three classes of non-profit organizations operating under rules governed by the IRS:

501(c)(3)s – These are groups – the ESPC and WOC are examples – most limited by IRS rules because contributions to them are tax-deductible. They cannot engage in partisan politics, but still can contribute significantly to the effort to make the system function better for all citizens. They can conduct voter education, registration and get-out-the-vote activities.

501 (c)(4)s, (5)s and (6)s – Contributions to these groups are not tax-deductible. They can engage in partisan political activities, including candidate recruitment and endorsement. They also can raise money from their members for affiliated political action committees, subject to additional state laws and rules. They can recruit volunteers to help candidates and their campaigns. Organizations such as the Sierra Club, the Wyoming Education Association and the Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association function as C4s, 5s or 6s.

Political Action Committees – This type of organization has the broadest range of activity. PACs can endorse and contribute to candidates and otherwise assist them with their campaigns. They can run advertising for or against a candidate. Contributions to PACs are not tax-deductible.

To find a path through the rules governing these organizations, the ESPC committee working on this project consulted with three premier political attorneys:

- Laurence E. Gold, associate general counsel for the AFL-CIO;
- Richard L. Thomas, counsel for the Federation of State Conservation Voter Leagues; and
- John Pomeranz, former counsel with the Alliance for Justice in Washington, D.C.

The ESPC hopes the *Calendar* will help non-profit organizations maximize their impact on policy-making by clearly understanding the type of activities they legally can conduct. Then they can mobilize and inspire their members for action.

For a copy of the *Calendar*, please go to the ESPC Web site at www.equalitystate.org for a PDF file OR contact me at dneal@equalitystate.org.

Members of the ESPC staff are available to work with groups to help them understand their range of permissible electoral activities.

(Dan Neal is the executive director of the Equality State Policy Center.)



EQUALITY STATE
POLICY CENTER

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Calendar of Election Activities for Non-Profit Organizations

September 1, 2004

Subject: The ESPC's Electoral Research Project

During the ESPC's May 20, 2003 biennial retreat of its board of directors, the ESPC was directed to conduct a research project and report on electoral roles and activities that are permissible and appropriate for the respective classes of non-profit organizations that operate within the social, economic and environmental justice movement in Wyoming.

A "Movement-Building" Working Group, comprised of members of the ESPC board of directors, guided the implementation of this project.

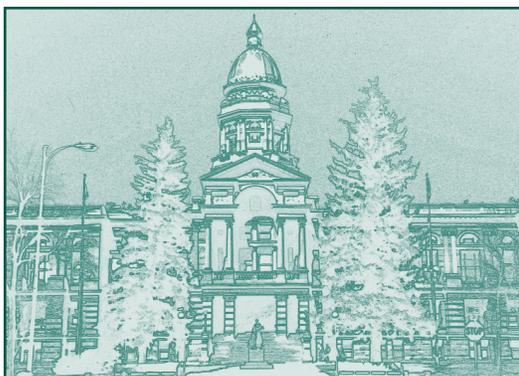
The ESPC board's charge to the ESPC board working group and staff was to answer the following questions in a calendar format:

1. What activities comprise a comprehensive list of electoral activities?
2. What are the permissible electoral activities that each of the following three categories of organizations are allowed by law to engage in:
 - a. 501(c)(3)s,
 - b. 501(c)(4)s / 501(c)(5)s / 501(c)(6)s, and
 - c. Political action committees (PACs)?
3. During a given two-year election cycle, what are the logical, sequential stages during which electoral activities are conducted?
4. During which electoral calendar stage would each of the permissible electoral activities be conducted?

The ESPC pleased to present the answers to these important questions in this comprehensive report.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Throop, Executive Director



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PERMISSIBLE ELECTORAL ACTIVITIES

501(C)(3)s	C4-5-6s	PACs		
✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement candidate recruitment plan 	
✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement citizen activist, citizen lobbyist, and organizational leader training and mentoring program 	
✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement voter education, registration and GOTV plan 	
✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement coordinated policy and wedge issues plan 	
	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit volunteers for campaigns 	
			Budget Session Policy Implementation	
✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct person-to-person grassroots organizing for citizen participation 	1/2/even to 3/31 even
✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use milieu of the session to organize, recruit, train and mentor activists 	
✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct mini-Wyoming Campaign School and Citizen Lobbyist Training 	
✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct public education on policy issues 	
	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview incumbent legislators (reelection planning and/or prospects recruiting) 	
	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit and visit prospective candidates 	
			Legislative Accountability	
		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct PAC fundraising 	3/1/even to 5/31/even
	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct affiliated PAC fundraising within membership 	
✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write, distribute and conduct media/public education on legislative report 	
	✓*	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write, distribute and conduct media/public education on legislative scorecard (*limitations) 	
✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver thank yous 	
			Pre-Election Filing Activities	
		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct PAC fundraising 	3/15/even to June Filing/ even
	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct affiliated PAC fundraising within membership 	
	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete candidate recruitment 	
		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate candidate campaign planning 	
	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get all candidates filed for election 	
✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare candidate questionnaire 	
		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for candidate endorsements 	
	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit volunteers for campaigns 	
			Primary Election Activities	
		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct PAC fundraising 	June Filing/ even to Aug Primary Election
	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct affiliated PAC fundraising within membership 	
✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement voter education, registration and GOTV plan 	
✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement candidate questionnaire 	
		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement endorsement process 	
✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct Wyoming Campaign School 	
		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct PAC coalition conference and assign liaisons to candidates 	
		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete campaign plans for all candidates 	
	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit volunteers for campaigns 	
			General Election Activities	
		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct PAC fundraising 	Aug. Primary to November General Election
	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct affiliated PAC fundraising within membership 	
✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement voter education, registration and GOTV plan 	
✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement candidate questionnaire 	
		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement endorsement process 	
		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct PAC coalition conference and assign liaisons to candidates 	
		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete campaign plans for all candidates 	
	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit volunteers for campaigns 	

501(c)(3) ORGANIZATIONS

November General Election/even

to

1/31/odd



Post General Election Analysis and Policy Formation

1. Conduct election debriefing conference
 - ☞ Election outcomes
 - ☞ Policy implications
2. Develop collaborative strategies on Executive and Legislative Branch leadership and structure
3. Develop collaborative strategies on policy issues
4. Engage Executive and Legislative Branches on leadership, structure and policy issues
 - ☞ Engage year-around with Executive Branch officials on executive appointments
 - ☞ Organize to influence Executive and Legislative Branch officials on legislative leadership elections, committee appointments and policy issues
 - ☞ Engage legislators on legislative leadership and committee appointment decisions
 - ☞ Engage with Executive and Legislative Branch officials on policy issues
5. Conduct organizing for citizen activists, citizen lobbyists, and organizational leaders training and mentoring
6. Conduct grassroots organizing for citizen participation
7. Conduct public education on policy issues
 - ☞ News releases
 - ☞ Guest columns
 - ☞ Letters to the editor
 - ☞ Broadcast news and talk shows
 - ☞ Paid media

1/2/odd

to

3/31/odd



General Session Policy Implementation

1. Intensify person-to-person grassroots organizing for citizen participation
 - ☞ Organizational meetings
 - ☞ Community meetings
2. Use milieu of the session to organize, recruit, train and mentor citizen activists, citizen lobbyists, and organizational leaders
3. Conduct public education on policy issues (see activities in #7 above)

2/15/odd

to

5/31/odd



Legislative Accountability

1. Write, distribute and conduct media/public education on legislative report
2. Deliver thank yous
 - ☞ Legislative and Executive Branch officials
 - ☞ Media
 - ☞ Leadership and volunteers in our own organizations
 - ☞ Citizens

4/1/odd

to

8/31/odd



Policy/Electoral Planning

1. Plan for development of an ongoing citizen activist, citizen lobbyist, and organizational leader training and mentoring program
2. Plan voter education, registration, and get-out-the vote (GOTV) activities
3. Develop coordinated policy and wedge issues plan

☀ **Grassroots Activation**

1. Implement citizen activist, citizen lobbyist, and organizational leader training and mentoring program
2. Implement voter education, registration and GOTV plan
3. Implement coordinated policy and wedge issues plan

9/1/odd
to
1/31/
even

✍ **Budget Session Policy Implementation**

1. Conduct person-to-person grassroots organizing for citizen participation
 - ☞ Organizational meetings
 - ☞ Community meetings
2. Use milieu of the session to organize, recruit, train and mentor citizen activists, citizen lobbyists, and organizational leaders
3. Conduct mini-Wyoming Campaign School (candidate training) in conjunction with the Citizen Lobbyist Training
4. Conduct public education on policy issues.
 - ☞ News releases
 - ☞ Guest columns
 - ☞ Letters to the editor
 - ☞ Broadcast news and talk shows
 - ☞ Paid media

1/2/even
to
3/31/even

📖 **Legislative Accountability**

1. Write, distribute and conduct media/public education on legislative report
2. Deliver thank yous
 - ☞ Legislative and Executive Branch officials
 - ☞ Media
 - ☞ Leadership and volunteers in our own organizations
 - ☞ Citizens

3/1/even
to
5/31/even

📁 **Pre-Election Filing Activities**

1. Prepare candidate questionnaire

3/15/
even
to June
filing

☒ **Primary Election Activities**

1. Implement voter education, registration and GOTV plan
2. Implement candidate questionnaire
3. Conduct Wyoming Campaign School

June
filing/
even/
Aug.
Primary

✓ **General Election Activities**

1. Implement voter education, registration and GOTV plan
2. Implement candidate questionnaire



Aug.
Primary to
Nov.
General

CALENDAR OF ELECTORAL ACTIVITIES

501(c)(4)-(5)-(6) ORGANIZATIONS

Notes:

1. Activities that 501(c)(3) organizations are not permitted to engage in, but that are permissible for c4, 5, and 6s, are starred (*).
2. Contributions to 501(c)(4) organizations are *not* tax deductible. Even though 501(c)(4) organizations are permitted to conduct all 501(c)(3)-permissible activities, non-tax exempt 501(c)(4) organizations customarily do not engage in activities that can be conducted by tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations. Instead, it is customary for 501(c)(4) organizations to only conduct activities that 501(c)(3) organizations are not permitted to engage in.

Post General Election Analysis and Policy Formation

1. Conduct election debriefing conference
 - ☞ Election outcomes
 - ☞ Policy implications
2. Develop collaborative strategies on Executive and Legislative Branch leadership and structure
3. Develop collaborative strategies on policy issues
4. Engage Executive and Legislative Branches on leadership, structure and policy issues
 - ☞ Engage year-around with Executive Branch officials on executive appointments
 - ☞ Organize to influence Executive and Legislative Branch officials on legislative leadership elections, committee appointments and policy issues
 - ☞ Engage legislators on legislative leadership and committee appointment decisions
 - ☞ Engage with Executive and Legislative Branch officials on policy issues
5. Conduct organizing for citizen activist, citizen lobbyist, and organizational leader training and mentoring
6. Conduct grassroots organizing for citizen participation
7. Conduct public education on policy issues
 - ☞ News releases
 - ☞ Guest columns
 - ☞ Letters to the editor
 - ☞ Broadcast news and talk shows
 - ☞ Paid media

**November General Election / even
to
1 / 31 / odd**

General Session Policy Implementation

1. Intensify person-to-person grassroots organizing for citizen participation
 - ☞ Organizational meetings
 - ☞ Community meetings
2. Use milieu of the session to organize, recruit, train and mentor citizen activists, citizen lobbyists, and organizational leaders
3. Use milieu of the session to recruit and orient candidates for public office*
4. Conduct public education on policy issues (see activities in #7 above)

**1 / 2 / odd
to
3 / 31 / odd**

* activity not permissible for 501(c)(3) organizations



Legislative Accountability

1. Conduct affiliated PAC fundraising within membership*
2. Write, distribute and conduct media/public education on legislative report
3. Write, distribute and conduct media/public education on legislative scorecard (with timing, content and distribution limitations)*
4. Deliver thank yous
 - ☞ Executive and Legislative Branch officials
 - ☞ Media
 - ☞ Leadership and volunteers in our own organizations
 - ☞ Citizens

2/15/odd
to
5/31/odd



Policy/Electoral Planning

1. Plan for development of an ongoing citizen activist, citizen lobbyist, and organizational leader training and mentoring program
2. Plan for candidate recruitment*
3. Plan voter education, registration, and get-out-the vote (GOTV) activities
4. Develop coordinated policy and wedge issues plan

4/1/odd
to
8/31/odd



Grassroots Activation

1. Conduct affiliated PAC fundraising within membership*
2. Implement candidate recruitment plan*
3. Implement citizen activist, citizen lobbyist, and organizational leader training and mentoring
4. Implement voter education, registration and GOTV plan
5. Implement coordinated policy and wedge issues plan
6. Recruit volunteers for campaigns*

9/1/odd
to
1/31/even



Budget Session Policy Implementation

1. Conduct person-to-person grassroots organizing for citizen participation
 - ☞ Organizational meetings
 - ☞ Community meetings
2. Use milieu of the session to organize, recruit, train and mentor citizen activists, citizen lobbyists, and organizational leaders
3. Conduct mini-Wyoming Campaign School (candidate training) in conjunction with the Citizen Lobbyist Training
4. Conduct public education on policy issues
 - ☞ News releases
 - ☞ Guest columns
 - ☞ Letters to the editor
 - ☞ Broadcast news and talk shows
 - ☞ Paid media
5. Interview incumbent legislators (reelection planning and/or prospects recruiting)*
6. Recruit prospective candidates*

1/2/even
to
3/31/even

CALENDAR OF ELECTORAL ACTIVITIES

3/1/even
to
5/31/even



Legislative Accountability

1. Conduct affiliated PAC fundraising within membership*
2. Write, distribute and conduct media/public education on legislative report
3. Write, distribute and conduct media/public education on legislative scorecard (with timing, content and distribution limitations)*
4. Deliver thank yous
 - ☞ Executive and Legislative Branch officials
 - ☞ Media
 - ☞ Leadership and volunteers in our own organizations
 - ☞ Citizens

3/15/
even to
June
Filing



Pre-Election Filing Activities

1. Conduct affiliated PAC fundraising within membership*
2. Complete candidate recruitment*
3. Get all candidates filed for election*
4. Prepare candidate questionnaire
5. Recruit volunteers for campaigns*

June Filing
/even to
August
Primary



Primary Election Activities

1. Conduct affiliated PAC fundraising within membership*
2. Implement voter education, registration and GOTV plan
3. Implement candidate questionnaire
4. Conduct Wyoming Campaign School
5. Recruit volunteers for campaigns*

Aug.
Primary to
November
Election



General Election Activities

1. Conduct affiliated PAC fundraising within membership*
2. Implement voter education, registration and GOTV plan
3. Implement candidate questionnaire
4. Recruit volunteers for campaigns*

NOTES:

* activity not permissible for 501(c)(3) organizations

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC) ORGANIZATIONS

Notes:

1. Activities that 501(c)(3) organizations are not permitted to engage in, but that are permissible for c4, 5, and 6s, are starred (*); activities that c3, 4, 5, and 6s are not permitted to engage in are double-starred (**).
2. Contributions to Political Action Committees (PACs) are not tax deductible. Even though PACs are permitted to conduct all 501(c)(3)-permissible activities, non-tax exempt organizations customarily do not engage in activities that can be conducted by tax-exempt organizations. Instead, it is customary for PACs to only conduct activities that 501(c)(3) organizations are not permitted to engage in.

Post General Election Analysis and Policy Formation

1. Conduct election debriefing conference
 -  Election outcomes
 -  Policy implications
2. Develop collaborative strategies on Executive and Legislative Branch leadership and structure.
3. Develop collaborative strategies on policy issues.
4. Engage Executive and Legislative Branches on leadership, structure and policy issues
 -  Engage year-around with Executive Branch officials on executive appointments
 -  Organize to influence Executive and Legislative Branch officials on legislative leadership elections, committee appointments and policy issues
 -  Engage legislators on legislative leadership and committee appointment decisions
 -  Engage with Executive and Legislative Branch officials on policy issues
5. Conduct organizing for citizen activist, citizen lobbyist, and organizational leader training and mentoring
6. Conduct grassroots organizing for citizen participation
7. Conduct public education on policy issues
 -  News releases
 -  Guest columns
 -  Letters to the editor
 -  Broadcast news and talk shows
 -  Paid media

**November General Election/even
to
1/31/odd**

General Session Policy Implementation

1. Intensify person-to-person grassroots organizing for citizen participation
 -  Organizational meetings
 -  Community meetings
2. Use milieu of the session to organize, recruit, train and mentor citizen activists, citizen lobbyists, and organizational leaders
3. Use milieu of the session to recruit and orient candidates for public office*
4. Conduct public education on policy issues (see activities in #7 above)

**1/2/odd
to
3/31/odd**

* activity not permissible for 501(c)(3) organizations

** activity not permissible for c3, c4, c5, and c6 organizations

PACs

CALENDAR OF ELECTORAL ACTIVITIES

2/15/odd
to
5/31/odd



Legislative Accountability

1. Conduct PAC fundraising**
2. Write, distribute and conduct media/public education on legislative report
3. Write, distribute and conduct media/public education on legislative scorecard*
4. Deliver thank you
 - ☞ Executive and Legislative Branch officials
 - ☞ Media
 - ☞ Leadership and volunteers in our own organizations
 - ☞ Citizens

4/1/odd
to
8/31/odd



Policy/Electoral Planning

1. Plan for development of an ongoing citizen activist, citizen lobbyist, and organizational leader training and mentoring program
2. Candidate recruitment planning*
3. Plan voter education, registration, and get-out-the vote (GOTV) activities
4. Develop coordinated policy and wedge issues plan

9/1/odd
to
1/31/even



Grassroots Activation

1. Conduct PAC fundraising**
2. Implement candidate recruitment plan*
3. Implement citizen activist, citizen lobbyist, and organizational leader training and mentoring
4. Implement voter education, registration and GOTV plan
5. Implement coordinated policy and wedge issues plan
6. Recruit volunteers for campaigns*

1/2/even
to
3/31/even



Budget Session Policy Implementation

1. Conduct person-to-person grassroots organizing for citizen participation
 - ☞ Organizational meetings
 - ☞ Community meetings
2. Use milieu of the session to organize, recruit, train and mentor citizen activists, citizen lobbyists, and organizational leaders
3. Conduct mini-Wyoming Campaign School (candidate training) in conjunction with the Citizen Lobbyist Training
4. Conduct public education on policy issues
 - ☞ News releases
 - ☞ Guest columns
 - ☞ Letters to the editor
 - ☞ Broadcast news and talk shows
 - ☞ Paid media
5. Interview incumbent legislators (reelection planning and/or prospects recruiting)*
6. Recruit prospective candidates*

* activity not permissible for 501(c)(3) organizations ** activity not permissible for c3, c4, c5, and c6 organizations



Legislative Accountability

1. Conduct PAC fundraising**
2. Write, distribute and conduct media/public education on legislative report
3. Write, distribute and conduct media/public education on legislative scorecard*
4. Deliver thank yous
 - ☞ Executive and Legislative Branch officials
 - ☞ Media
 - ☞ Leadership and volunteers in our own organizations
 - ☞ Citizens

3/1 /even
 to
5/31 /even



Pre-Election Filing Activities

1. Conduct PAC fundraising**
2. Complete candidate recruitment*
3. Initiate candidate campaign planning**
4. Get all candidates filed for election*
5. Prepare candidate questionnaire
6. Plan for candidate endorsements**
7. Recruit volunteers for campaigns*

3/15 /even
 to
June Filing

☒ Primary Election Activities

1. Conduct PAC fundraising**
2. Implement voter education, registration and GOTV plan
3. Implement candidate questionnaire
4. Implement endorsement process**
5. Conduct Wyoming Campaign School
6. Conduct PAC coalition conference**
 - ☞ Coordinate resources, e.g. funding, volunteers and technical assistance
 - ☞ Assign liaisons from coalition of PACS to candidates/campaigns
 - √ Oversight and technical assistance
 - √ Scheduling and resource coordination
7. Complete campaign plans for all candidates**
8. Recruit volunteers for campaigns*

June Filing /even
 to
August Primary

✓ General Election Activities

1. Conduct PAC fundraising**
2. Implement voter education, registration and GOTV plan
3. Implement candidate questionnaire
4. Implement endorsement process**
5. Conduct PAC coalition conference**
 - ☞ Coordinate resources, e.g. funding, volunteers and technical assistance
 - ☞ Assign liaisons from coalition of PACS to candidates/campaigns
 - √ Oversight and technical assistance
 - √ Scheduling and resource coordination
6. Complete campaign plans for all candidates**
7. Recruit volunteers for campaigns*

August Primary
 to
November General

About the ESPC

The Equality State Policy Center (ESPC), a Wyoming nonprofit, is a broad-based coalition of Wyoming organizations.

The ESPC utilizes research, public education and advocacy to hold Wyoming state government accountable to the people it represents and to increase citizen participation in, and influence over, public policy decision-making.

The ESPC publishes the *Wyoming LAP* Book* (*Legislative Accountability Project), a compilation of each legislator's campaign contributions and voting record on key legislative issues, available on the ESPC's website at www.equalitystate.org and in every county library.

The member organizations of the ESPC coalition are:

AFL-CIO, Wyoming State
American Civil Liberties Union, Wyoming Affiliate
Biodiversity Conservation Alliance
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers / United Brotherhood of Teamsters
Construction and General Laborers Union
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance
Northeast Wyoming Central Labor Council
Northwest Carpenters Council, Wyoming Chapter
Operating Engineers, Local 3
Powder River Basin Resource Council
Sierra Club, Wyoming Chapter
Southwest Wyoming Central Labor Council
United Association Of Plumbers and Pipefitters of America, Local 192
Wyoming Equality
United Transportation Union
Utility Workers Union of America Local 127
Wyoming Building and Construction Trades Council
Wyoming Association of Churches
Wyoming Conference of Electrical Workers
Wyoming Education Association
Wyoming Grassroots Project
Wyoming Outdoor Council
Wyoming Public Employees Association
Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association
Wyoming Wildlife Federation

Things you CAN do as a 501(c)(3) organization:

- * Conduct voter registration and nonpartisan get-out-the-vote efforts.
- * Educate the public on issues and encourage participation in the political process.
- * Educate all candidates and political parties on your issues.
- * Conduct or participate in a nonpartisan candidate forum.
- * Make presentations on your organization's issue to platform committees, campaign staff, candidates, media, and the general public.
- * Work on behalf of a ballot measure.
- * Continue your normal lobbying on issues.
- * Rent or sell mailing lists to candidates at fair market value, if made available to all candidates.

Things you CANNOT do as a 501(c)(3) organization:

- * Endorse or oppose a candidate—implicit or explicit.
- * Coordinate activities with a candidate.
- * Contribute money, time, or facilities to a candidate.
- * Set up, fund, or manage a PAC.

End Notes:

The purpose of the ESPC's *Electoral Research Project* and this research report document, *Calendar of Election Activities for Non-Profit Organizations*, is to clearly describe permissible electoral activities for various classes of organizations. This work does not constitute actual activities by ESPC, a 501(c)(3) organization, or any other organization.

The role of the ESPC is to conduct and publish research for ESPC's board of directors and for ESPC member organizations. As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the ESPC may assist other 501(c)(3) organizations with permissible electoral activities. However, the ESPC is prohibited from coordinating with or assisting 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), 501(c)(6) or PAC organizations with electoral activities.

Disclaimer: This document is intended to be used for general guidance, and does not constitute legal advice. For technical questions encountered in specific circumstances, please consult your attorney.