



League of Women Voters

§501(c)(4)

or

§501(c)(3)?



HISTORY

- **Over 200 local Leagues have converted to 501(c)(3)**
- **14 State Leagues have converted, including Texas, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Carolina, Kansas**



§501(c)(4)

**“Social welfare”
organizations whose
activities qualify as
charitable under
§501(c)(3)**



§501(c)(4)

- **Can support candidates or political parties**
- **No limits on lobbying**
- **Member dues and contributions are not deductible**



§501(c)(3)

**Organizations operated
exclusively for religious,
charitable, scientific,...or
educational purposes**



§501(c)(3)

- **Cannot support candidates or political parties**
- **Member dues (partially) and contributions (wholly) deductible**



§501(c)(3)

- **Lobbying cannot be a “substantial part” of overall activities**
- **May measure this by dollars spent, not time**



DIRECT LOBBYING

Communication with

- **Legislators or their staff**
- **Any government official or employee who participates in the formulation of the legislation**



DIRECT LOBBYING

**Communications with
the general public about
a referendum, ballot
initiative, constitutional
amendment, etc.**



§501(c)(3) Benefits

- **Deductibility of dues and contributions for non-Ed Fund activities**
- **Increased contributions**



§501(c)(3) Benefits

- **Eligible for more grants if they are available**
- **Possible lower expenses**
- **Less administrative work**



§501(c)(3) Costs

- **Front end time and expenses to convert**
- **May be some minimal additional annual filings**



HOW TO CONVERT

Single entity Leagues:

- **Amend Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws**
- **File IRS application online**



HOW TO CONVERT

Dual entity Leagues:

- **Amend Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws**
- **Legal merger, no IRS application**