

Why is it important to know what kind of IRS classification my club/Range has?

It is extremely important to know what classification you are currently filed under with the IRS. This classification (usually a 501(c)3, 501(c)4, or 501(c)7) determines many things for your organization like how you handle money, what reporting you need to do, how you can engage in politics and lobbying, and what type of income the organization can bring in. This information can be located on your founding corporate documents, your annual tax filings, or by contacting the IRS (hint: you can look up nonprofits on the IRS website)

Can Clubs/Ranges that are 501(c)3, 501(c)4, or 501(c)7 be politically active?

See the chart on the front of this document to see where your club falls and what restrictions apply to your type of club.

Can Clubs/Ranges that are 501(c)3, 501(c)4, or 501(c)7 work with NRA/CRPA in opposing or supporting legislation?

Clubs and Ranges can absolutely share updates on legislation and litigation with their members as educational member communications. Passing on information to members without adding any commentary to that information is not lobbying—it is educating the members on issues that relate to the furtherance of the organizational mission.

Can Clubs/Ranges that are 501(c)3, 501(c)4, or 501(c)7 engage in voter registration and other election activities?

Yes! You can hold voter drives, alert your members to issues on the ballot, and share voter guides with members. These are not considered reportable election and campaign activities. REMEMBER: As a 501(c)3 you should not support/oppose a particular candidate or issue on the ballot, but you may still share the information with your members. (See more detailed information in the chart on the front of this page)

Can Clubs/Ranges that are 501(c)3, 501(c)4, or 501(c)7 encourage members to vote?

Yes! And you should encourage them to vote. Again, voter engagement in general is not considered campaign electioneering by the IRS.

Can Clubs/Ranges that are 501(c)3, 501(c)4, or 501(c)7 invite candidates to speak to their members?

This can be a bit more difficult. If you have a candidate out to speak to your members there are several things that you should tell them to avoid speaking about: 1) They should NEVER discuss campaign strategy with you, 2) they should keep to general support of Second Amendment issues. This is hard for many candidates to do so organizations tend to shy away from having them speak. It may be better to have a candidate forum where you have prepared questions on issues that are important to club members and each candidate answers those in more of a controlled environment.

Can Clubs/Ranges that are 501(c)3, 501(c)4, or 501(c)7 be involved in election fundraising activities?

No, for 501(c)3 organizations. Yes, for other types of nonprofits, but with conditions.

For other types of organizations that want to raise money for a candidate or initiative, if they raise more than a specific amount, they may become a “campaign” and must report all of their donors to the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) in addition to other reporting. Caution should be used here because member names may have to be disclosed. An alternative is to encourage members to give on their own.