

SANDLER REIFF

SANDLER REIFF LAMB
ROSENSTEIN & BIRKENSTOCK, P.C.

1025 Vermont Ave NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005
www.sandlerreiff.com
T: 202-479-1111
F: 202-479-1115

Guidelines for Nonprofit Organizations for Activities Informing and Engaging the Public About Climate Change Issues in the 2016 Election September 27, 2016

Commissioned by the ClimateCongress Wikipedia Project (<http://ClimateCongress.us>, a project of the California Climate Breakthrough Initiative) for use by all 501(c)3 and (c)4 organizations. Please direct questions and comments to info@ClimateCongress.us.

Activities groups may engage in, announcing them via press releases, statements, websites, and messages to their members or mailing lists:

| Activity | 501(c)3? | Notes | 501(c)4? | Notes |
|--|----------------|---|------------|--|
| ANNOUNCE: A group's staff, members, and supporters commit to demonstrate that climate change matters to US voters, asking candidates, <i>"What will you do about climate change?"</i> | YES | Publicly disseminating polling & other research showing that climate change is an issue that matters to voters is permissible c3 activity, as long as the message does not include or refer to the positions of specific candidates on that issue. Such dissemination in itself would not imply endorsement or opposition to any candidate. | YES | Permissible for c3, and clearly for c4 also. |
| PROMOTE: Announce availability of information at the ClimateCongress.us website and at SourceWatch and Wikipedia. | YES | Because ClimateCongress will present nonpartisan substantive, factual, objective, and fully sourced information, with no links to analyses or ratings implying endorsement of or opposition to candidates, a c3 can announce its availability or encourage its use. | YES | Permissible for c3, and clearly for c4 also. |
| RESEARCH: Encourage research on candidate statements and activities, reporting them to ClimateCongress.us. | YES | c3s can encourage supporters to gather nonpartisan information about statements and positions of all candidates, and report them to ClimateElection.us, and to add information on candidates at their Wikipedia entry. | YES | Permissible for c3, and clearly for c4 also. |
| RATE: Encourage and report individual, organizational and media endorsements and ratings of candidates. | NO | Encouraging and reporting individual, organizational and media endorsements and ratings on candidates is <i>not</i> permissible for a c3. | YES | A c4 can encourage and report on individual, organizational and media endorsements and ratings on candidates. |
| ATTEND/ASK/ENGAGE: Encourage attendance at candidate town halls, debates, etc., to ask questions, hold signs, distribute flyers, talk to media/attendees. | IN PART | Encouraging supporters to attend candidate events and raise questions of all the candidates is permissible. Supporters can develop their own content, signs and flyers, but the c3 cannot pay for or organize any communication or activity that implies support for or opposition to candidates based on their position on climate change. | YES | c4s can encourage supporters to attend candidate events, raise questions and display signs, flyers, etc. implying praise for or criticism of candidate's position on climate change. |
| MEDIA: Reaching out to | YES | Providing information about the issue to journalists, media | YES | No issue for a c4. |

Guidelines for Nonprofit Organizations For Activities Informing and Engaging the Public About Climate Change in the 2016 Election September 20, 2016 Page 2

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| journalists, event moderators, urging a focus on climate issues. | | outlets, to facilitate raising questions with all candidates about the issue, and urging media outlets to query and challenge candidates about their positions, contributes to neutral public education and does not convey endorsement/opposition to specific candidates, or specific legislation. | | |
| POST: Encourage participation in online candidate discussion forums. | IN PART | Encouraging participation in online candidate forums about climate/environmental issues, to which all candidates in a race have been invited (or to which only certain candidates are invited based on pre-existing, objective criteria like registering a certain minimum in the polls and that are moderated in a fashion that is neutral as to all the participating candidates), would be encouraging participation in the type of public information candidate forum that a c3 itself is allowed to sponsor. | YES | A c4 can encourage participation in a candidate forum that would be permissible for a c3 to sponsor |
| ORGANIZE: Encourage members to participate in local climate-focused coordinating groups in each State or Congressional District, with activities including organizing nonpartisan public climate forums or debates. | IN PART | Encouraging supporters to participate in coordinating meetings in each State or Congressional District involving representatives from a variety of other groups would be permissible for a c3, even though some of the actions then planned may be impermissible for the c3 to support (financially), endorse or sponsor. | YES | Encouraging supporters to participate in coordinating meetings in each State or Congressional District involving representatives from a variety of other groups including c3s and c4s would be permissible for a c4. |
| COORDINATE: Help organize & participate in national by-invitation climate election strategies forum. | IN PART | Discussing strategies for enhancing role of climate change in the election is permissible for c3 groups, but discussions among c4 groups regarding strategies for devising and promoting candidate ratings, exposing candidate views on climate change in a critical way, etc. need to be held in separate sessions without participation of c3 organizations. | YES | Discussion of strategies for enhancing role of climate change in the election is permissible for c4 groups; some strategies can be discussed with c3 groups, while others involving rating/critiques of candidates should be limited to c4 groups. |