

Lutherans For Life and Political Involvement

As another presidential election approaches, questions arise about proper involvement of groups like LFL. Lutherans For Life, as any 501(c)(3), is “absolutely prohibited from political campaigning.” This would include endorsing candidates. While it is true that many LFL chapters are not 501(c)(3) themselves, because of the affiliation with National, ascending liability is always possible. Thus, chapters should approach the issue of political involvement as if they were a 501(c)(3).

501(c)(3)s are allowed to lobby—advocate the adoption or rejection of legislation, contact members of a legislative body, or urge the public to contact members of a legislative body with respect to legislation—but there is a limit. “No substantial part of the activities of a qualifying organization may consist of attempting to influence legislation.” A Lutherans For Life chapter may, for example, write a letter lobbying for defeat of a state assisted-suicide law. They may discuss the positions of candidates on *public issues*. However, the majority of their activities need to be focused on educational and service activities. The mission of Lutherans For Life is to witness to the sanctity of human life, through education, based on the Word of God. Our call is to use the Word of God to educate, through the power of the Holy Spirit, change hearts, and inspire ourselves and others into service.