

# CLUB OPTIONS FOR POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

## Canine Legislative Support Fund

The Canine Legislative Support Fund is used to educate and lobby elected officials on your behalf at the federal, state, and local levels and to ensure your rights as a responsible dog owner are protected. These funds may not be used to contribute to political campaigns.



## Two Ways Your Organization or its Individual Members Can Protect Their Rights

1. 501(c)(3) organizations, 501(c)(4) organizations, and 501(c)(7) organizations can contribute to the AKC's Canine Legislative Support Fund
2. 501(c)(3) organizations, 501(c)(4) organizations, and 501(c)(7) organizations are not permitted to contribute to the AKC PAC; however, clubs can coordinate individual contributions to the AKC PAC --detailed records must be kept.

## Political Action Committee

AKC Political Action Committee (PAC) funds are used to contribute to campaigns to help elect dog-friendly leadership in congress and state legislatures across the nation. PAC funds may not be used to lobby officials once they are in office or to influence legislation. They may only be used in campaigns.



# COMMON ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES

## 501(c)(3) - Charitable, Educational, Religious, Scientific, Literary Organizations

## 501(c)(4) - Civic Organizations

## 501(c)(7) - Social, Recreational Clubs

- Absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective office.

- May engage in unlimited lobbying, provided it is related to the organization's "exempt" purpose.

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- Certain non-partisan activities, including presenting public forums, publishing voter education guides, and voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives, may be permitted.

- May engage in some political campaigns on behalf of or in opposition to candidates provided that intervention does not constitute the organization's primary activity.

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- Can distribute/publish issue alerts with calls to action for pending, non-campaign issues, like legislation.

- Permitted to conduct all of the nonpartisan voter education activities that a 501(c)(3) organization can engage.

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