

Action	Can a 501(c)3 or its staff do this?	What to consider?
Communicate with the judicial or executive branch or administrative agencies	Yes, no restrictions; encouraged!	
Discussion of broad issues that does not refer to a specific piece of legislation	Yes, no restrictions; encouraged!	
Provide a strong opinion on a specific piece of legislation but omit a call for action	Yes, no restrictions; encouraged!	
Name legislators in favor or against an action and omit request to contact them	Yes, no restrictions; encouraged!	
Prepare and distribute a nonpartisan analysis of a legislative proposal	Yes, no restrictions; encouraged!	
Testify for or provide assistance to a legislative committee after a written request	Yes, no restrictions; encouraged!	
Self-defense lobbying where the organization's future is threatened	Yes, no restrictions; encouraged!	Communications concerning legislation that may affect the organization's existence, powers, duties, 501(c)(3) status, or deductibility of contributions
Lobby as private citizens and not as representatives of the organization	Yes, no restrictions; encouraged!	
The organization contacts legislators or government officials directly	Yes, this is direct lobbying	Federal grant funds may not be spent on lobbying Lobbying cannot be a "substantial part" of a 501(c)3's activities*
Organizations try to influence legislation indirectly by attempting to mold the general public's opinion on an issue and includes a call to action for the public	Yes, this is grassroots lobbying	Federal grant funds may not be spent on lobbying Lobbying cannot be a "substantial part" of a 501(c)3's activities*
Participate or intervene in political campaigns for or against a candidate for national, state, or local elective office, not including nominees for appointed offices	No, this is electioneering and is strictly prohibited for 501(c)3s	
Educational and get-out-the-vote activities	Yes, nonpartisan voter education is allowed	Organization must not endorse a particular side of an issue or campaign. Be diligent with specifics**

Information in this table from BoardSource: <https://boardsource.org/resources/what-is-advocacy/>

*See discussion around "substantial part" and the 501(h) election, a form an organization can file to elect to be measured, rather than guess at whether legislative lobbying makes up a substantial part of activities, [here](#).

**See specific considerations for nonpartisan voter education [here](#).