

Get Out the Vote and Stay Out of Trouble

This workshop gave an overview of rules for 501(c)3 organizations. These are non-profit, tax exempt groups and our local chapters are covered by what is called an "umbrella" clause. That means National PFLAG has the exemption and National could lose their status if we as a local chapter break the rules.

The basic rule to remember is that we can back an issue, but never endorse a candidate for office. Nor can we say "vote for the pro-gay candidate". We cannot suggest voting for one party.

I learned that we should not wear a candidate button or shirt when we are in a PFLAG role---at PRIDE or when speaking to a group. We should not talk about candidates or political parties at PFLAG events. We cannot distribute voter's guides from a partisan group.

We can work to achieve or defeat legislation about an issue. And as individuals, not in a PFLAG role, we are free to do anything. All this is more important and more confusing than I realized, but we should call Charles Cook at National if we have questions.

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