**501(c)(3) Guideline for GOTV Efforts**

We want to make sure that we all are aware of the opportunities and limitations of what nonpartisan 501 (c)(3) and 501 (c)(5) organizations are able to do with our voter outreach activities.  You probably know that EWV2020 is not an organization, but a project of a 501 (c)(3) organization, [RepresentWomen.](http://www.representwomen.org/) RepresentWomen is also our fiscal sponsor and has set up a bank account for us to receive tax deductible contributions.

[Here is info](https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/the-restriction-of-political-campaign-intervention-by-section-501c3-tax-exempt-organizations) about what 501 (c)(3) organizations can do with regard to voter registration and GOTV.  And below is the part that many may not be aware of.

*“Certain activities or expenditures may not be prohibited depending on the facts and circumstances.  For example, certain voter education activities (including presenting public forums and publishing voter education guides) conducted in a non-partisan manner do not constitute prohibited political campaign activity. In addition, other activities intended to encourage people to participate in the electoral process, such as voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives, would not be prohibited political campaign activity if conducted in a non-partisan manner.*

*On the other hand, voter education or registration activities with evidence of bias that (a) would favor one candidate over another; (b) oppose a candidate in some manner; or (c) have the effect of favoring a candidate or group of candidates, will constitute prohibited participation or intervention.”*

What this means, is that EWV2020 and its 501 (c)(3) Collaborating Partners CAN encourage members and contacts to register and vote – but cannot use voter outreach language that could be understood as an endorsement – or supporting one candidate over another.  Depending on context, such language might be, “So, support the candidate who supports equal pay” – or abortion rights or whatever the group’s core values and issues are.

Partners, we encourage you to check with your attorneys if you have questions about what you can say to make sure that language that is used is consistent with what 501 (c)(3) organizations can legally do.  We can still do a great deal by encouraging our members and contacts to register and vote.