



# **LAWS FOR ELECTIONS**

*Training for Utah PTA, Regions, Councils  
and Local Units*

# WHERE DO I FIND THE RULES ?

## IRS Laws for 501c3:

### Bylaws:

- Local Bylaws Article 4, Section 15
- Council Bylaws Article 4, Section 14



# IRS LAWS FOR 501C3S (LIKE PTAS)

## **WE CANNOT:**



- **Make or solicit contributions to or for candidates or political organizations**
- **Endorse a candidate or rate the candidates (no matter how objective such rating may be)**
- **Publish or distribute partisan campaign literature or written statements**
- **Have our representatives speak out about a candidate**
- **Use our resources, like time and money, to influence an elections and obligations.**

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# THE RULES

**Utah PTA Bylaws: Article IV section 14 of councils and section 15 of locals.**

The association or members in their official capacities shall not, directly or indirectly, participate or intervene (in any way, including the publishing or distributing of statements) in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office; or devote more than an insubstantial part of its activities to attempting to influence legislation by propaganda or otherwise.

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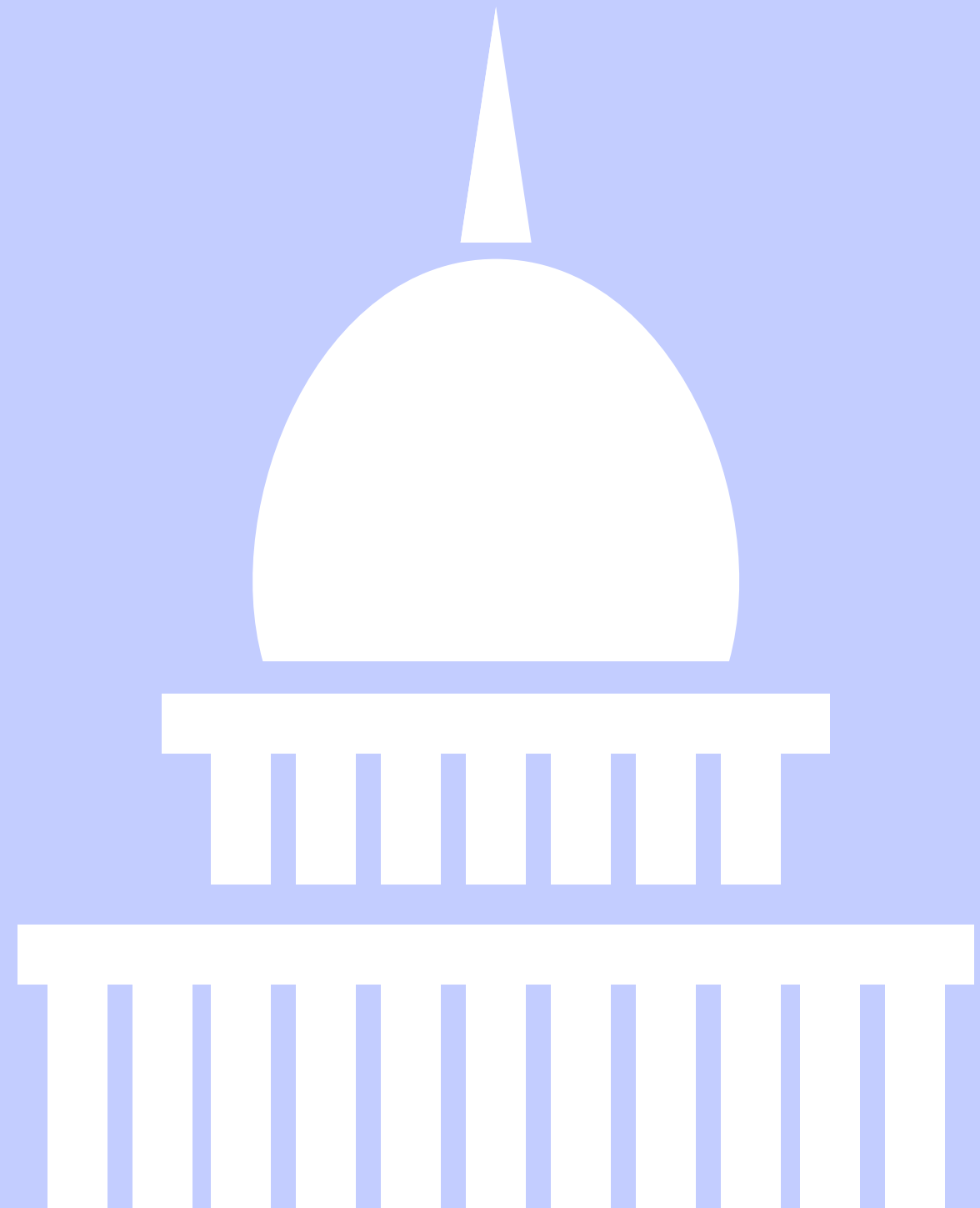
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Example: As PTA President or Legislative VP you cannot support a candidate or use more than 20% of your budget and total volunteer hours on lobbying.

# PTA LEADERS RUNNING FOR ELECTED OFFICE

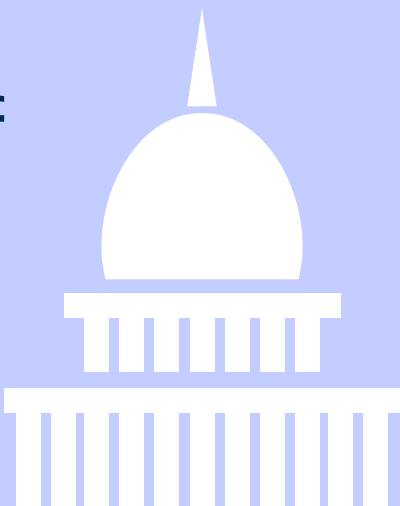
While leadership in PTA can provide members with the skills and training to be successful, it cannot serve as a platform for a candidate's campaign. There are very strict laws and regulations governing how campaigns are conducted.

[Add a little bit of body text](#)



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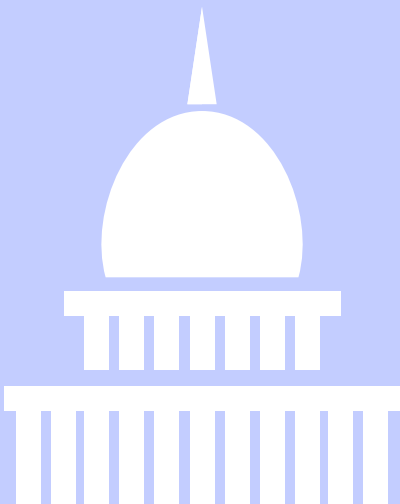
- Candidates must not use any PTA membership list to promote themselves or any campaign event or activity. Instead, use your list of friends you have made over the years, many of whom may also be in the PTA.
- Do not send any campaign invitations or messages to anyone with a PTA designated email address, or use PTA lists for emails.
- Candidates must not give the impression that PTA endorses their candidacy. While it is fine to communicate the skills and experience you gleaned as a PTA leader or member, it is best to make this part of your greater resume and qualifications as a candidate.





# PTA LEADERS RUNNING FOR ELECTED OFFICE, CONT.

- In general, do not use the term “PTA” to brand yourself or identify a group. For example, do not use terms such as “Join me as a PTA leader for my campaign launch” when sending invitations or branding your picture on a campaign poster as “PTA Mom/Dad”.
- PTA leaders who are candidates, don’t need to avoid mentioning PTA completely as the rich leadership experience that is gained thru PTA leadership is valuable. It’s allowed to mention PTA but do not include the name of your PTA or your PTA title, if they are an officer, as this would be using your “official capacity” mentioned in the bylaws.
- Become very well versed in all the rules and regulations



# ELECTION SEASON GUIDELINES

PTAs are  
501c3  
nonprofit  
organizations



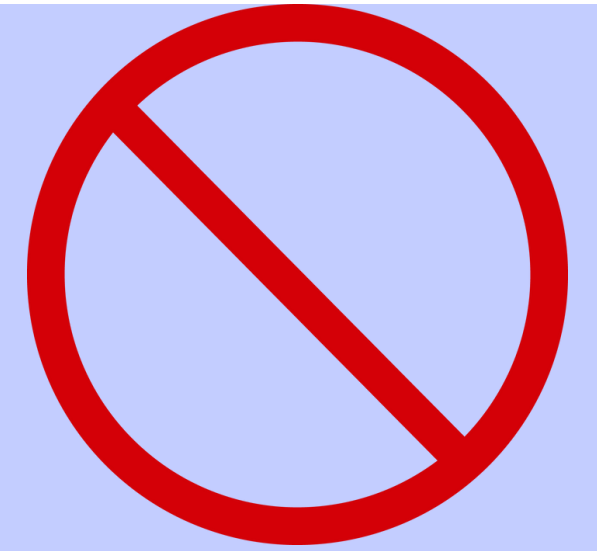
and must  
remain  
neutral  
and  
nonpartisan  
during  
elections.

# WHAT A PTA CAN DO

- Host a candidate's forum where all candidates appearing on the ballot for a given position must be invited to participate and given equal time to respond. Some candidates may choose not to attend and that is acceptable.
- Publish a candidate's questionnaire: all candidates must be given the opportunity to answer the questionnaire and responses must be printed exactly as written.
- Register voters. Volunteers must register all eligible voters regardless of party affiliation or political views.
- Remind members to vote.
- Educate candidates on issues important to PTA.



# WHAT A PTA CANNOT DO



- Invite only one candidate in an election to come speak to the PTA.
- Tell PTA members to only vote for a candidate who supports X position.
- Rate candidates on who is most favorable to your issue(s).
- Distribute any campaign materials on behalf of a candidate.
- Wear campaign buttons or t-shirts during a PTA meeting or PTA event.
- Endorse or oppose candidates or use their PTA leadership positions to endorse candidates.
- Donate to campaigns or facilitate fundraising for any candidates.



# A LOCAL PTA CAN SUPPORT POSITIONS/ISSUES BUT NOT CANDIDATES

A PTA may not advocate for or against a candidate for public office.

On the other hand, a PTA may advocate for or against a particular issue as long as that advocacy furthers its mission. PTAs may continue to advocate for issues during a political campaign, but must not use advocacy as an excuse for, or to double as, political campaign intervention.



Find more information on

<https://www.utahpta.org/grassroots-advocacy-what-can-i-do>

IRS Campaign  
Intervention Training

- [PDF](#)
- [Training Videos](#)

**THANK YOU**

