



Title: Political Intervention	Number:
Cross Reference:	
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I. **PURPOSE:**

Outlines the legal limitations of the SAENA as a 501(c)(3) organization in relation to political candidates or parties.

II. **BACKGROUND/DEFINITIONS:**

A 501(c)(3) organization must be organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes set forth in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code, and none of its earnings may inure to any private shareholder or individual. In addition, it may not be an action organization, i.e., it may not attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities and it may not participate in any campaign activity for or against political candidates.

III. **PROTOCOL/PROCEDURE:**

A. Prohibited Expenditures

Consistent with its tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code, it is the policy of the San Antonio Emergency Nurses Association (SAENA) that it will not incur any expenditure for political intervention. For purposes of this policy, political intervention will be defined as any activity associated with the direct or indirect support or opposition of a candidate for elective public office at the federal, state, or local level. Political intervention does not include lobbying activities, defined as direct or indirect support or opposition for legislation, which is not prohibited under the Internal Revenue Code. Examples of prohibited political expenditures include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Contributions to political action committees
2. Contributions to the campaigns of individual candidates for public office
3. Contributions to political parties
4. Expenditures to produce printed materials (including materials included in periodicals) that support or oppose candidates for public office
5. Expenditures for the placement of political advertisements in periodicals



B. Endorsements of Candidates

It is the policy of the SAENA not to endorse any candidates for public office in any manner, either verbally or in writing. This policy extends to the actions of representatives of the SAENA, when these individuals are acting on behalf of, or are otherwise representing, the SAENA.

C. Prohibited Use of State Council Assets and Resources

It is the policy of the SAENA that no assets or human resources of said Chapter will be utilized for political activities, as defined as above. This prohibition extends to the use of SAENA assets or human resources in support of political activities are engaged in personally by board members or any other representative of the SAENA. While there is no prohibition against these individuals engaging in political activities personally (on their own time, and without representing that they are acting on behalf of the SAENA), these individuals must at all times be aware that SAENA resources cannot at any time be utilized in support of political activities.