

# Political Engagement by Nonprofit Organizations

**Sponsored by:** Daphne Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, New York Foundation, the New York Women's Foundation, North Star Fund, Stonewall Community Foundation, and the Union Square Awards

Community-based nonprofit organizations are increasingly aware that the future of their communities are profoundly affected by elections at the federal, state, and city levels, the political arena because of the constraints imposed by their tax-exempt status, the complexities of campaign finance and election laws, and their unfamiliarity with the practical realities of electoral engagement.

This workshop will address the legal limits on political activity for both 501(c)(3) organizations and other types of tax exempt organizations -- what specifically constitutes prohibited partisan political involvement, the kinds of activity that are not prohibited, and the tools that are available to permit even partisan political engagement without jeopardizing tax-exempt status or violating election or campaign finance laws.

## Key Features and Topics Covered

- An examination of the legal limits on political activity by nonprofits;
- How to conduct nonpartisan activities such as voter registration drives, voter education projects, and candidate forums;
- Forming and funding 501(c)(4) organizations and political action committees (PAC);
- How to use direct mail, events, leafleting, and ethnic media to mobilize your communities; and
- How strategic relationships with political parties, political clubs, and labor unions can help advance your political agenda.

**Lawyers Alliance for New York** is the leading provider of free and low-cost business and transactional legal services to nonprofit and community development organizations that are working to improve the quality of life in New York City's low-income and disadvantaged neighborhoods.

**Who Should Attend:** Executive directors, senior staff and core members.

**When:** **Wednesday, June 1, 2011**  
**9:30 am – 3:30 pm**  
(breakfast and lunch will be served)

**Where:** Lawyers Alliance for New York  
171 Madison Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Corner of 33rd Street

**How to register:** Return the enclosed registration form by Friday, May 27 to:  
Carolyn Canahuate  
Lawyers Alliance for New York  
Fax (212) 941-7458 or e-mail [ccanahuate@lawyersalliance.org](mailto:ccanahuate@lawyersalliance.org)

**For more information:** Contact Carolyn Canahuate (212) 219-1800 or  
[ccanahuate@lawyersalliance.org](mailto:ccanahuate@lawyersalliance.org)