

County Guidelines for Political Activities

Here are just a few ways your County Farm Bureau members can be the Voice of Agriculture during an election year:

Host Committees

- Individual FB Members can work with a political candidate to organize and coordinate an event, like a BBQs or a meet-and-greet
- Invite neighbors, friends, and community members who may be interested in hearing from the candidate
- Rally financial support for the candidate from people who attend the event

Annual Meetings

- Invite current elected officials and candidates who are running for office to your annual meetings
- If there are multiple people running for one office, consider inviting all contenders. The more the merrier!
- Give candidates an opportunity to interact with members to learn about the agricultural industry – there's nothing more powerful than a personal connection!

Can our County Farm Bureau be on a host committee, pay for a political fundraiser, or make donations to individual candidates?

- No. Arizona campaign finance law prohibits a corporation, LLC, cooperative, joint venture, or trust from contributing in any way to an individual candidate for federal, state, or local office.
- Individuals may serve on host committees and may donate up to \$5,100 to a political candidate

Contact the Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations team for more information.
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Can our County Farm Bureau make contributions to AgPAC?

- Yes! Thanks to recent updates in the law, it is legal for corporations, LLCs, cooperatives, joint ventures, and trusts to donate unlimited amounts to Political Action Committees, like Ag PAC of the Arizona Farm Bureau.
- However, any money donated for political purposes may be subject to a tax of 25-35 percent. And, regardless of whether the donation is taxable, the IRS and the County will require documentation of the donation.

What if our County Farm Bureau wants to endorse a candidate for political office without contributing financially?

- This is allowed under campaign finance rules, but requires documentation. Both the IRS and the County will need forms at the end of the year (including a 990 Schedule C and a 1120-POL).
- This rule includes written endorsements and endorsements adopted by a vote of the County Farm Bureau at any meeting.
- Failing to provide this documentation means putting the County Farm Bureau's 501(c)(5) tax exemption status at risk!

How can we make sure we're complying with all the rules?

- Your state Farm Bureau office is here to help!
- Open communication is vital to making sure you're in compliance.
- Don't hesitate to contact your government relations team or Ellen Miraldi, CFO and Director of Human Resources (ellenmiraldi@azfb.org), if you have any questions!