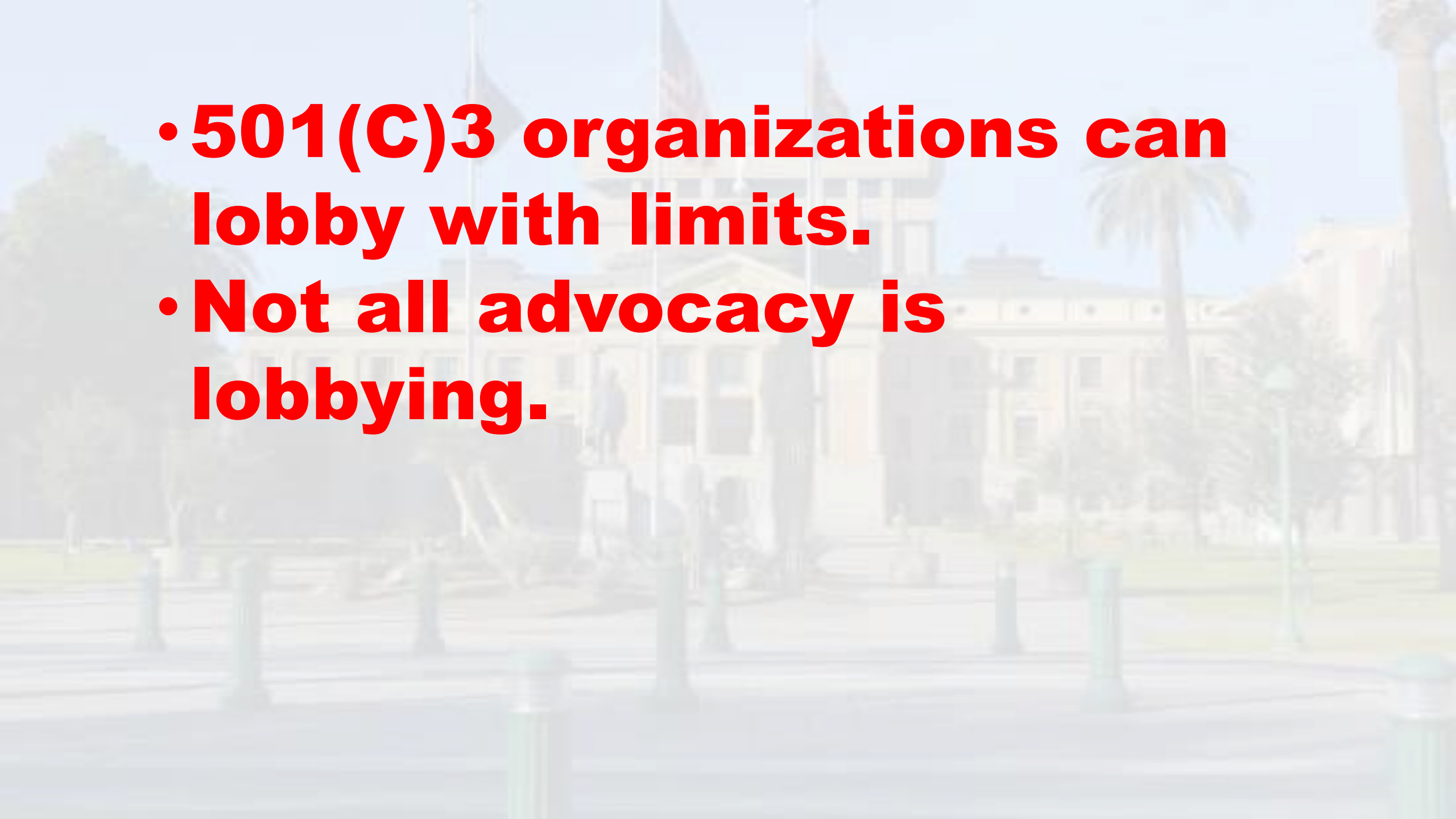




THE ARIZONA CENTER  
— FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS —



**Advocacy and  
Lobbying for 501(c)3  
Organizations**

- 
- **501(C)3 organizations can lobby with limits.**
  - **Not all advocacy is lobbying.**

# **What is lobbying?**

**Attempting to influence specific legislation and/or a ballot measure.**

## **Examples of advocacy\*:**

- **Educating legislators and/or the public;**
- **Community organizing;**
- **Writing an op-ed;**
- **Organizing a rally;**
- **Voter registration drives.**

**\*Not advocating for specific legislation**

# **Examples of lobbying:**

- **Meeting with legislators to express views about specific legislation;**
- **Drafting a sign-on letter;**
- **Organizing an event asking the public to support/oppose legislation;**
- **Writing talking points for volunteers to use when calling legislators about legislation;**
- **Going door-to-door in support of ballot measure**

# **501(C)3's should track their time lobbying. Two options:**

- **No substantial part of activities;**
- **501(h) expenditure test: generous dollar limits on how much lobbying an organization can engage in – calculated as a percentage of organizations total expenditures.**

**Arizona organizations also need to register with the Arizona Secretary of State if they engage in ongoing lobbying.**



**501(C)3 organizations cannot endorse or oppose candidates running for office.**



# **Permissible 501(C)3 activities:**

- **“Thanking” and “spanking” lawmakers;**
- **Publish annual voting records for your members;**
- **Educating candidates and voters about the issues;**
- **Sponsoring candidate debates and forums;**
- **Encouraging citizens to vote.**

# **Additional Free Resources/Advice for 501(C)3 Advocacy/Lobbying:**

- **Alliance for Justice/Bolder  
Advocacy**
- **[Bolderadvocacy.org](http://Bolderadvocacy.org)**

# Contact information

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## Social Media

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