

Lobbying and Charities: a Quiz

To learn more about what nonprofit officials know about federal laws governing charity advocacy, Jeffrey M. Berry, of Tufts University, and his colleagues gave a random sample of charity leaders the following quiz. The correct answers, plus the percentage of nonprofit executive directors who knew the answers, can be found below.

Can a nonprofit organization:

Support or oppose federal legislation under current IRS regulations?

Yes No

Take a policy position without reference to a specific bill under current regulations?

Yes No

Support or oppose federal regulations? Yes No

Lobby if part of your budget comes from federal funds? Yes No

Use government funds to lobby Congress? Yes No

Endorse a candidate for elected office? Yes No

Talk to elected public officials about public-policy matters?

Yes No

Sponsor a forum or candidate debate for elected office? Yes No

Lobbying by Charities: Answers to the Quiz

Following are the answers to the quiz plus the percentage of executive directors of charities who answered correctly in a nationwide survey.

Can your organization:	Correct answer	Percentage who had the correct answer
Support or oppose federal legislation under current IRS regulations?	Yes	54%
Take a policy position without reference to a specific bill under current regulations?	Yes	61%

Support or oppose federal regulations?	Yes	62%
Lobby if part of your budget comes from federal funds?	Yes	32%
Use government funds to lobby Congress?	No	93%
Endorse a candidate for elected office?	No	84%
Talk to elected public officials about public-policy matters?	Yes	80%
Sponsor a forum or candidate debate for elected office?	Yes	45%