**501(c)(4)**

See also: [Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citizens_United_v._Federal_Election_Commission)

501(c)(4) organizations are generally civic leagues and other corporations operated exclusively for the promotion of [social welfare](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_welfare), or local associations of employees with membership limited to a designated company or people in a particular municipality or neighborhood, and with net earnings devoted exclusively to charitable, educational, or recreational purposes.[[30]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/501%28c%29_organization#cite_note-29) 501(c)(4) organizations may lobby for legislation, and unlike 501(c)(3) organizations they may also participate in political campaigns and elections, as long as its primary activity is the promotion of social welfare.[[31]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/501%28c%29_organization#cite_note-30) The tax exemption for 501(c)(4) organizations applies to most of their operations, but contributions may be subject to gift tax, and income spent on political activities - generally the advocacy of a particular candidate in an election - is taxable.[[32]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/501%28c%29_organization#cite_note-31)

Contributions to 501(c)(4) organizations are not deductible as charitable contributions for the U.S. income tax. 501(c)(4) organizations are not required to disclose their donors publicly.[[33]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/501%28c%29_organization#cite_note-32) This aspect of the law has led to extensive use of the 501(c)(4) provisions for organizations that are actively involved in lobbying, and has become controversial.[[34]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/501%28c%29_organization#cite_note-33)[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/501%28c%29_organization#cite_note-34) In 2010, a bill (the [DISCLOSE Act](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DISCLOSE_Act)) was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives that addressed identification of donors to organizations involved in political advocacy,[[36]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/501%28c%29_organization#cite_note-35) but the Senate Republicans filibustered and prevented a vote on the bill.[[37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/501%28c%29_organization#cite_note-36)

In summer 2011, comedian [Stephen Colbert](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Colbert) brought attention to the issue of [Super PACs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Super_PAC) by forming [his own](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colbert_Super_PAC) and a 501(c)(4).[[38]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/501%28c%29_organization#cite_note-37) As of August 2011, 165,000 of his viewers had joined it.[[39]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/501%28c%29_organization#cite_note-38)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/501(c)\_organization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/501%28c%29_organization)

<http://estela-kennen.suite101.com/what-is-a-501c4-organization-a14959>