



**Worry Free Advocacy for Non-Profits**  
Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund  
Helena, MT, January 14, 2016

**Agenda**

- 8:30 – 9:00 am**                      **Registration**
- 9:00 – 9:15 am**                      **Welcome, Introductions** – Ross Proserpi, Field Director,  
Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund and Sponsoring Organizations

**Workshops by Sara Matlin, Bilingual Counsel, Alliance for Justice**

- 9:15 – 10:45 am**                      **Advocating & Lobbying with Confidence:  
Legal Tips for Nonprofit Advocates**

Lobbying is not only legal – it’s one of the most effective means for nonprofits to advance their missions! There are many reasons 501(c)(3) public charities lobby to achieve their policy goals: whether to influence your local government’s budget, to expand laws to decrease climate change, or to protect an existing environmental law. Fortunately, federal law allows 501(c)(3) public charities to lobby within generous limits. This workshop will address:

- How much lobbying a 501(c)(3) public charity can do each year;
- Definitions of lobbying;
- Tips for taking advantage of the narrow definitions of direct and grassroots lobbying; and
- How to apply these rules to ballot measure activities.

- 10:45 – 11:00 am**                      **Break**

- 11 am – 12:30 pm**                      **Non-partisan Civic Engagement Activities for 501(c)(3)s**

Elections are important opportunities to educate and engage voters and the community at large. Although 501(c)(3) organizations cannot support or oppose candidates for public office, there are many activities they can participate in during election years. This workshop covers the federal tax law rules regarding electoral activities for 501(c)(3)s, including:

- How can you continue to advocate for your issues during election years?
- How can you educate the public through candidate forums and questionnaires?
- How can you ensure voter registration and get-out-the-vote efforts are conducted legally?
- How can you safely support or oppose ballot measures without being partisan?

- 12:30 – 1:30 pm**                      **Lunch**

- 1:30 – 2:15 pm**                      **Non-profit Advocacy Rights Activity**

- 2:15 – 2:30 pm**                      **Break**

- 2:30 – 4:00 pm**                      **Presentation by Commissioner of Political Practices, Jon Motl, on the  
Disclose Act**

- 4:00 – 4:15 pm**                      **Evaluation and Wrap-up**