



Connecting Lawyers and Communities

CLR e-Briefs

A legal information resource for Community Legal Resources' clients

April 1, 2004

"CLR e-Briefs" is intended to introduce important legal topics that may be of interest to Community Legal Resources' clients .

This edition offers information on "Nonprofits in an Election Year" and "Tax Foreclosures."

Nonprofits in an Election Year

501 (c)(3) organizations are prohibited from intervening in any political campaigning on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

The following are suggestions from the [Alliance for Justice](#) regarding election-year advocacy by nonprofits.

*Do not endorse candidates for public office.

*Do not make contributions to political parties or individual candidates.

*If registering people to vote, do so with the intention of educating people on the importance of voting, not to encourage voting for or against a candidate.



*Candidate forums and voter guides must include candidates from all parties and must not rate the candidates.

Nonpartisanship is a key element of 501(c)(3) organizations' tax status. If a nonprofit engages in partisan activity, the organization may risk losing its tax-exempt status.

IMPORTANT: Participating in or being employed by a nonprofit does not prohibit you, as an individual, from being involved in political campaigns. Simply refrain from using your nonprofit's name or resources in your activities.

[The Michigan Nonprofit Association and the Michigan Public Policy Initiative have prepared a guide "Michigan Public Policy Handbook: A Lobbying Guide for 501\(c\)\(3\) Nonprofits"](#)

County Tax Foreclosures

Pursuant to [Public Act 123 of 1999](#), Michigan counties are now foreclosing on tax-delinquent properties in two years rather than five years. As you may be aware, this accelerated tax foreclosure program has been recently implemented in Wayne County and will result in thousands of Wayne County properties being lost by their owners by the end of April 2004.

Public pressure has resulted in Wayne County extending the deadline for Wayne County property owners to redeem their properties.

Property owners delinquent on their 2001 or earlier Wayne County taxes now have until April 30, 2004 to pay the amount owed or file and be granted a one-year hardship extension to avoid foreclosure.

After April 30, 2004, the properties will be irrevocably foreclosed and may be sold at public auction by the County. A list of the properties subject to this foreclosure is available on the [Wayne County Treasurer's](#) website.



If you know of property owners who require assistance in applying for a hardship extension or are otherwise in need of assistance dealing with a Wayne County tax foreclosure, please have them contact Michigan Legal Services' Tax Foreclosure Prevention Project at 313- 964-4130.

[Wayne County Delinquent Property Information](#)

Contact CLR with any questions or legal needs

[Request Assistance](#)

Community Legal Resources (CLR) provides free legal assistance to community-based organizations. Please contact us at 313-964-4130 or visit our website for more information.

[Community Legal Resources](#)

This publication is intended to provide general information, and is not a substitute for legal advice.

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