

2025 Give.org Donor Trust Special Report Public Views on the Politicization of Charities

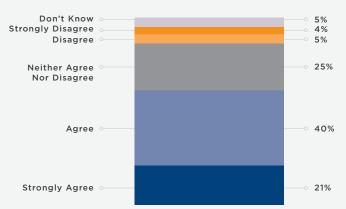


Advocacy by charities is both permitted and important for advancing social good and civic engagement. The IRS allows 501(c)(3) charities to promote mission-aligned causes but limits how much they can spend on lobbying and prohibits participating or intervening in political campaigns. This restriction is known as the Johnson Amendment and remains a cornerstone of the separation between charitable work and electoral politics. Our survey does not suggest that advocacy is problematic but rather explores how public perceptions may shape engagement with the sector. We found that:

"Charities today are more involved in political issues than they were 10 years ago."

Six in ten believe charities are more politically involved today than a decade ago.

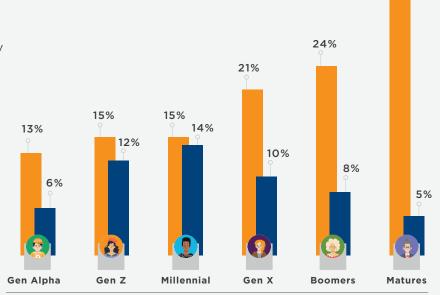




And younger participants are significantly less likely to view charities as primarily engaging in promoting social good rather than political agendas.

Older participants were significantly more likely to say that charities are primarily engaged in promoting social good causes rather than political agendas.

- Charities are primarily engaged in promoting social good causes rather than political agendas.
- Charities are primarily engaged in political agendas rather than promoting social good causes.



While some donors may be drawn to causes that align with their personal or political beliefs, others prefer to support nonpartisan organizations. Perceptions about the politization of charities may signal a growing challenge for the charitable sector and for organizations that strive to unite communities and foster bipartisan support.

