



Tools for Democracy

Get Informed

Take Action

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SEARCH:



## Tools for Organizing:

### Tools to Help You WIN:

#### Legal Questions

#### Where can I get legal advice about demonstrations?

[Exercising your Legal Rights during the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference](#) - Information for activists, demonstrators, and observers. From the [National Lawyers Guild](#)

[American Civil Liberties Union](#) - Works to "defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties of persons guaranteed by the Constitution and the laws of the United States." [\[source\]](#)

#### How does our group get tax exempt status?

[Obtaining Federal Tax Exempt Status](#) - From the [Citizen Advocacy Center](#)

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**Do you have a question that you would like to see answered here? Please [contact us!](#)**

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## Tools for Organizing:

### Tools to Help You WIN:

#### **Do Your Research/How to Find Information**

##### **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)**

- [The Center for Public Integrity's "Start an Investigation" page](#)
- [A Citizen's Guide On Using The Freedom Of Information Act And The Privacy Act of 1974 To Request Government RecordsTennessee Criminal Law Defense Resources](#) - from [Tennessee Criminal Law Defense Resources](#)
- [USING THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT a Step-by-Step Guide](#) - an [American Civil Liberties Union \(ACLU\)](#) Publication

##### **Scientific Research**

- [Union of Concerned Scientists](#)

##### **Medical Research**

- [Physicians for Social Responsibility](#)

##### **Independent Media**

- [MediaChannel.org](#) - A media issues supersite, featuring criticism, breaking news, and investigative reporting from hundreds of organizations worldwide.
- [Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting \(FAIR\)](#)

##### **Electoral Information**

- [Guide for Citizens](#) - learn more about financing campaigns for federal office, the rules and regulations pertaining to this process, or elections and voting in general. From the [Federal Election Commission](#)

##### **How to Research Corporations**

- [CorpWatch](#) - comprehensive resource focusing

on holding corporations accountable

- [The Corporate Library](#) - "a central repository for research, study and critical thinking about the nature of the modern global corporation, with a special focus on corporate governance and the relationship between company management, their boards and their shareowners." [\[source\]](#)

- [Corporate Dirt Archives](#) - from the [Corporate Accountability Project](#)

- [CEO Compensation Index by Company](#) - Click on a company name to find the CEO's total compensation and to see how it compares to your and other workers' earnings. From the [American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations \(AFL-CIO\)](#)

- [How to Track Down Executive Pay](#) - researching proxy statements. From the [American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations \(AFL-CIO\)](#)

- [Search the EDGAR database](#) at the [Securities & Exchange Commission website](#) to find corporate filings. (10-K reports, if available, are generally fairly complete and will often list corporate subsidiaries. If you're looking for a company with multiple words in its name, make sure to use ADJ in-between words. For example, "General ADJ Electric".) Use the [Customized Forms Selection](#) if you need to search for specific things (for example, shareholder proxies are under DEF).

- [Washington Post Corporate Financial Search](#) - from the [Washington Post](#)

[YourOwnPrivateEye.com](#) - General info-finding tips

## Government

- [Library of Congress](#)

- [United States House of Representatives](#)

- [United States Senate](#)

- [Researching Your Politicians: Campaign Contribution and Voting Records](#) - from the [Corporate Accountability Project](#)

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#### **Getting Out Your Message**

[The ACTION Center](#) is an activist's collective in Philadelphia in which activists work as full-time volunteers on many of the projects.

[Petitioning Rights in Public Places](#)

[Your Right to Flyer in Malls](#)

[Presentations to Social Clubs](#) from the [Schaffer Library of Drug Policy](#)

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#### **Getting Noticed/Working With the Media**

##### Independent Media Center

Biodevastation Convention 2001 - General media tools for activists from Biodevastation Convention 2001 including tips for interviews, media advisories and press releases

Cause Communications - guides to get the media's attention and reviews of media relations and many other resources

##### Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR)

FAIR's Media Contact List - Major television, cable, and radio contacts

FAIR's Media Activism Kit - How-to guides for identifying, documenting and challenging inaccurate or unfair news coverage. Also contains information about how to promote independent media.

Local Media Activism Groups - compilation of nationwide media contact groups

20/20 Vision - Tips for magnifying your message

##### Phone Calls

##### Generating local media attention

writing effective letters to the editor

writing and publishing an op-ed

influencing editorials

calling a talk radio show

##### Magnifying Our Impact

MediaChannel.org - A media issues supersite, featuring criticism, breaking news, and investigative reporting from hundreds of organizations worldwide.

##### Essential resources for the working journalist

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### Tools to Help You WIN:

#### **Contacting Your Public Officials**

[CitizenLobbyist.com](#) - How to Lobby Congress; A Workbook for Citizen Organizations

[Citizen Guide to the Federal Election Commission](#)

[Working With Your Members of Congress](#) - at the [United for a Fair Economy](#) website

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#### **Fundraising**

[Fundraising and non-profit management](#) - Advice from [Ohio Citizen Action](#)

[The Nonprofit FAQ](#) - tons of fundraising articles and tips from the [Internet Nonprofit Center](#)

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#### **Web Pages and List Servs**

The ACTION Center - Using the Internet for Activism: listservs and web pages

EnviroWeb Support - web page development, domain name registration, lists of list servs

One Northwest - web page development and search engine tips and various forms of technology assistance

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## [Tools for Organizing:](#)

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#### **Running for Public Office**

[Resources & Tools](#) - advice for progressive candidates from the [Independent Progressive Politics Network](#)

[Citizen Guide to the Federal Election Commission](#) - Learn about financing campaigns for federal office, the rules and regulations pertaining to this process, or elections and voting in general.

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