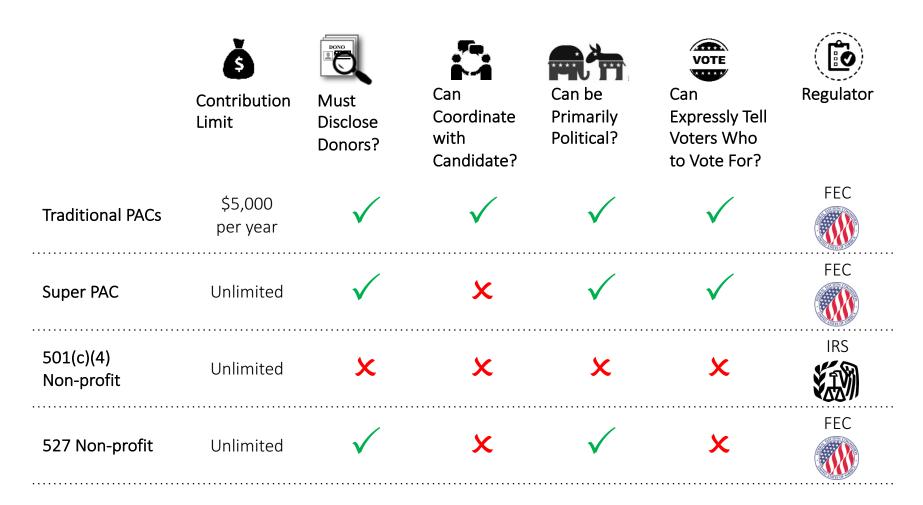
Advocacy groups have distinct benefits and limits

Advocacy groups and their regulations



Source: Bloomberg Politics, July 31, 2015; OpenSecrets.com: Center for Responsible Politics.

Advocacy groups engage differently in the campaign field

Types of advocacy organizations by level of campaign engagement

Advocacy Group	Explanation	Most Common Types of Groups	Level of Campaign Engagement
501(c) Groups	Tax-exempt nonprofit organizations, 29 different types, which can engage in varying amounts of political activity depending on the type.	 501(c)(3) – groups that operate for religious, educational, charitable, scientific reasons 501(c)(4) – civic leagues, social welfare organizations, local associations of employees 501(c)(5) – labor, agricultural, horticultural organizations 501(c)(6) – business leagues, chambers of commerce, real estate boards 	Some - political engagement is allowed, as long as it doesn't interfere with the organizations primary purpose but organizations cannot engage in political campaign activities
527 Group	Tax-exempt group that raises money for political activities	Political partiesCandidatesCommittees	High – this group is heavily focused on campaign activities
PACs (Political Action Committees)	Raises and spends money contributions for the purpose of electing or defeating candidates	Business-represented PACsLabor-represented PACsIdeological interest PACs	High – this group is heavily focused on campaign activities
Super PAC	Independent political action committees that make no contributions to candidates or political parties	 Business-represented Super PACs Labor-represented Super PACs Ideological interest Super PACs Individual Super PACs 	High but indirect – this group participates in the campaign field by independently supporting races

Source: Center for Responsive Politics, "Types of Advocacy Groups," Open Secrets, 2015; National Journal Research, 2015.