

TRU Nonpartisan Policy Statement

Developed May 2026

TRU is organized and operated exclusively for tax-exempt purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. We educate, advocate, and mobilize for more and better transit and other affordable sustainable mobility options.

In compliance with section 501(c)(3), **TRU is strictly nonpartisan**. As detailed in this document, we define "nonpartisan" to mean that TRU does not take a stand for or against any political party and does not support or oppose candidates for public office in any election (including elections that are conducted without political party affiliations).

People working for, leading, volunteering for, or otherwise supporting TRU are expected to remain strictly nonpartisan while representing the organization. All such personnel, while working for, volunteering for, or otherwise representing the organization, **must NOT**:

- **Endorse or oppose any candidate running for public office**
- Display candidate materials or signs or wear partisan buttons or attire for or against candidates
- Make a campaign contribution to or expenditure for or against a candidate
- Allow candidates to use TRU's facilities or resources, unless those resources are made equally available to all candidates at their fair market value
- Use TRU's resources, including email accounts, computers and phones, or sponsored events for partisan political activity
- Use TRU's official social media accounts to interact with partisan political content (or any other political content unrelated to TRU's mission) in any way, including but not limited to "liking", re-posting, or commenting on posts
- Rate candidates on who is most favorable to an issue
- Take positions or make statements about political issues unrelated to TRU's mission

If while you are representing TRU someone asks you who to vote for, say that this is a nonpartisan effort and you can't say who to vote for.

This policy does not impact what TRU personnel do during their own personal time. TRU does not ask its personnel about their individual political activities. TRU personnel may vote for any candidate or issue or engage in other forms of personal political activities so long as they do not use their TRU affiliation when doing so. As individuals and using their own personal time and resources, TRU personnel may support political parties and candidates for public office. When doing so, TRU personnel are urged to take all reasonable steps to avoid being perceived as taking a political stance on behalf of TRU.

Non-partisanship does not mean non-participation. TRU may and often does conduct a wide range of activities to promote voter registration, education, and turnout, in a nonpartisan manner. TRU may target specific communities – like bus riders and young voters. TRU may not target efforts at voters that have been pre-identified as voting for a certain party or candidate.

TRU may and often will:

- Advocate for, lobby for, and otherwise advance policy positions (subject to IRS lobbying limits)
- Conduct or promote voter registration
- Educate voters on the voting process
- Distribute nonpartisan candidate questionnaires, candidate pledges, or voter guides
- Organize get-out-the-vote activities and otherwise encourage people to vote
- Host or co-sponsor a nonpartisan candidate forum (where all candidates for an office are given equal invitation and equal opportunity to participate)
- Providing voting rights information for voters informing them of their rights on Election Day and numbers to call for help
- Educate voters on the issues