

The key difference between a **non-profit** and a **political organization** lies in their **purpose, activities, and tax status**:

Non-Profit Organization

- **Purpose:** Formed to serve the public good in areas like education, health, culture, religion, or community development.
- **Examples:** Charities, museums, food banks, educational foundations.
- **Tax Status:** Typically classified as **501(c)(3)** organizations in the U.S., meaning they are tax-exempt and donations are tax-deductible.
- **Political Activity:** Can engage in limited lobbying but are strictly prohibited from supporting or opposing political candidates.

Political Organization

- **Purpose:** Formed to influence the selection, nomination, election, or appointment of individuals to public office.
- **Examples:** Political parties, political action committees (PACs), campaign committees.
- **Tax Status:** Usually classified under **527** of the IRS code. Contributions are not tax-deductible.
- **Political Activity:** Actively engages in political campaigning and electioneering.

In short:

- **Non-profits** focus on charitable, educational, or social causes.
- **Political organizations** focus on electoral politics and influencing government decisions or leadership.

