

# THE ADVISOR



**SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS**

**AUGUST 2018**

## **Moratorium on Ethics Complaints During a Campaign Period**

Complaints received concerning the conduct of a **candidate for state** office during a campaign period shall be returned to the complainant unless the subject of the complaint permits the committee to proceed. AS 24.60.170(o) & (p).

The **campaign period** begins 45 days before a Primary Election and ends at the close of General Election Day, November 6, or the day the candidate withdraws or the day the results of the Primary Election are certified, whichever is earlier. AS 24.60.170(q).

### **2018 Campaign Period Began July 7**

#### **Committee Members**

Skip Cook, Chair  
H Conner Thomas  
Joyce Anderson  
Deb Fancher  
Lee Holmes  
Sen John Coghill  
Sen Dennis Egan  
Rep Chris Tuck  
Rep Colleen Sullivan-Leonard

#### **Staff**

Jerry Anderson, Administrator  
269-0150  
  
Jacqui Yeagle, Admin. Assistant  
269-8179

## **Ethics Committee Public Member Vacancies**

The Select Committee on Legislative Ethics has an **alternate public member vacancy**. In addition, a regular **public member term** will expire and become available for appointment in January 2019. Public members are selected by the Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court and ratified by two thirds of the full membership of the legislature. Public members serve a three-year term.

Apply to be a public member of the committee by sending a letter of interest along with a resume to Chief Justice Joel Bolger, Alaska Supreme Court, 303 K St., Anchorage, AK 99501 and include your political party affiliation as noted on your voter registration on file with the Alaska Division of Elections.

Learn more about the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics at <http://ethics.akleg.gov/>.

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## **Advisory Opinion 18-03 Approved July 17, 2018**

*Does the Legislative Ethics Act (the Act) restrict a legislator's use of the legislative print shop, and state funds to print materials, during the period leading up to a primary election, if the legislator is an independent candidate and therefore participating only in the general election?*

The Select Committee on Legislative Ethics finds as follows:

(1) AS 24.60.030(a)(2) and (a)(5) apply specifically to the use of legislative resources in connection with a partisan political purpose or a political campaign, and limit or prohibit the printing or distribution of printed material in that connection.

(2) The prohibition on printing or distributing political mass mailings during a campaign period, under AS 24.60.030(c), discussed above, applies to:

(A) use of the legislative print shop; and

(B) candidates for election, whether they are participating in a primary election, running as an independent candidate, or running as a member of a political party.

(3) A legislator who is a candidate in a general election and uses the legislative print shop or other state resources to print materials during the campaign period described in AS 24.60.030(c) creates a substantial appearance of impropriety, even where the legislator is an independent candidate whose name is not on the primary election ballot.

[Full text of the Advisory Opinion](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/search/ethics/) is available at <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/search/ethics/>.

## **Advisory Opinion 18-04 Approved July 17, 2018**

*Would a legislator's reservation or submission of a Legislative Citation in memoriam or in honorarium of a person who is not the legislator's constituent raise an issue under the Legislative Ethics Act (the Act)?*

The Select Committee on Legislative Ethics finds the Act does not prohibit a legislator from reserving or submitting a Legislative Citation, in honorarium or in memoriam, that names a person who is not a constituent of that legislator. However, limitations under AS 24.60.030 would apply, and if there were an appearance of ethical impropriety, that would also be a factor the committee would consider.

[Full text of the Advisory Opinion](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/search/ethics/) is available at <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/search/ethics/>.

### **Sexual and Other Workplace Harassment Training**

Beginning in 2019, all legislators and legislative employees will be required to attend *Sexual and Other Workplace Harassment Policy Training*. The Alaska State Commission for Human Rights will conduct the training.

Contact the Personnel Office at 907-465-3854 or the Ethics Office at 907-269-0150 for more information.

# Campaign Ethics Dates to Remember

**July 22**..... Last day the Ethics Committee advises sending general information newsletters prior to the Primary Election, whether paper or electronic, without utilizing “state resources”

**August 21** ..... Primary Election Day

**August 22** ..... OK to send newsletters again, but not utilizing “state resources”

**October 7** ..... Suggested last day to send general information newsletters prior to the General Election, whether paper or electronic, without utilizing “state resources”

**November 6** ..... General Election Day

**November 7** ..... OK to send out newsletters including those utilizing “state resources”

## Disclosure Notes

**The following types of associations must be filed within 30 days of the beginning of the association — even during the interim!**

- Membership on a Board
- Close Economic Association
- State Contracts, Leases, & Grants \$5,000+
- State Benefit & Loan Program
- Representation for Compensation
- Travel/Hospitality Disclosures

**A little more description, please, when filing travel and/or hospitality disclosures!**

- Spell out acronyms such as NCSL.
- Provide complete information about the donor.
- Give a description of the topics discussed, forums attended, or other pertinent agenda items. Simply entering “Annual Summit,” for example, does not provide enough information for the public.

**File your disclosure online. It’s easy!**

Go to <http://intranet.akleg.gov/> and click on “File an Ethics Disclosure”. Enter your credentials (same as computer log-in). Click on the type of disclosure you want to file, fill out using drop down menus when appropriate, check for accuracy and submit. So easy!

**Thank you!**

## Contact the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics

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