

THE ADVISOR

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ACTION ALERT!

Legislative Newsletters During a Campaign Year



IMPORTANT! — Content

Legislative mailings may **NOT**:

- * Contain campaign related statements, such as,
 - “I have filed for a new term as your state Senator/Representative.”
 - “I hope to be in the legislature next year and will propose the following xxxx”
 - “I will likely file legislation next session on that subject and work with the administration on the issue.”
- * Include other legislator’s names indicating they are candidates for a particular office and their position on issues.
- * Be sent to constituents outside of the legislator’s current legislative district, unless the person has requested to be on the mailing list.

IMPORTANT! — Distribution

Many offices have called asking what the cut-off date is for mailing or distributing a legislative newsletter, (this includes those printed by the Legislative Print Shop), or sending a newsletter via an e-mail, prior to an election. The Legislative Ethics Act does not stipulate a date. However, **the closer to Election Day that a legislative newsletter is mailed or emailed, the greater the appearance it has of a political “campaign mailing”.**

We recommend no later than 30 days prior to an election, but it is a personal decision each legislator must make.

Primary Election – one month prior is July 20

General Election – one month prior is October 5

There are always exceptions to the 30 day recommendation. The bottom line rests on the content of the newsletter, the timeliness of the information, timing of distributing the newsletter, and to whom it is being sent.

Here are some examples:

- **May Be Appropriate:** Major sewer issue in a legislator’s district. It may be timely to send information to the residents affected by the issue during the 30 day period.
- **Probably Not Appropriate:** Sending a general information legislative newsletter during the 30 day period that could be sent after the election.

The deadline for the Legislative Print Shop to print newsletters for legislators who are “candidates” is Thursday, June 19, 2014.

The Print Shop needs at least 3 working days to process your request to print your newsletters.

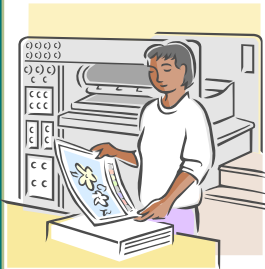
Mark your calendar: Please submit your request *by Monday, June 16, 2014.*



AS 24.60.030(c) prohibits a legislator who is a candidate for election from using state funds to print a legislative newsletter to individuals who are eligible to vote for the candidate during the 60 days before an election.

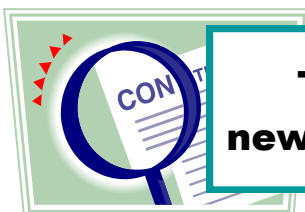


After June 19, 2014, legislative newsletters may be printed using:



- ◆ personal funds;
- ◆ office allowance account funds allocated under AS 24.10.110, (which are not considered state funds under AS 24.60.030(c)); or
- ◆ POET account funds.

Legislators who are *not* candidates may use the Print Shop to print legislative newsletters after the June 19th deadline.



The Ethics Office is available to review newsletters for content appropriate language.

