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LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

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# THE ADVISOR

JUNE 2010, SECOND EDITION

  
**IMPORTANT INFORMATION!**  
**PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY!**  


**Effective today, June 16, 2010, the Ethics Committee rescinded their action of May 27th, regarding Advisory Opinion 10-01, State Paid Travel and Collateral Campaigning Activity.**

**Due to this action, the previous recommended policy from August 19, 2008, is applicable.**

**Below is an explanation:**

## **USE OF STATE RESOURCES** **CAMPAIGNING, FUNDRAISING, PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY**

**The use of state resources are prohibited for fund raising, campaigning, or involvement in or support of or opposition to partisan political activity. AS 24.60.030(a)(2) and AS 24.60.030(a)(5). Please take a moment to review the following information:**

None of the exceptions to the use of state resources in AS 24.60.030 allow political fund raising, campaigning, or partisan political activity during a legislative business trip made with *state resources*. The Ethics Committee continues to recommend the legislature revisit this absolute restriction in statute in view of the vast difference between urban and rural legislative districts.

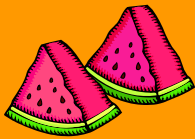
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**STATE RESOURCES is defined as:** “State funds, facilities, equipment, services, or another government asset or resource, including money provided by the legislature to cover or reimburse the costs incurred by a legislator or legislative employee as the result of travel on legislative business.”

**Exemption:** Travel costs incurred to and from the capital city and other locations within Alaska in order to participate in legislative sessions are not considered a “state resource” for purposes of this discussion.

If a legislator or legislative employee makes a trip for legislative business and “non-state resources” are used to pay for the trip, the above prohibition is not applicable.

**NON-STATE RESOURCES include:**

- ◆ Campaign Funds
- ◆ Personal Funds
- ◆ POET Account
- ◆ Office Allowance Account (a non-state resource for purposes of this discussion).

**Note:** Both the POET Account and Office Allowance Account must be used for a “legislative” purpose and cannot be used for a “campaign” purpose.

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**QUOTE OF THE MONTH:**

**“The purpose of ethics laws, first and foremost, lies in promoting both the reality and perceptions of integrity in government.”**

Mark Davies quoted in *Government Ethics and Law Enforcement: Toward Global Guidelines (2000)*

**Have a great summer!**

