



# THE ADVISOR

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## ACTION ALERT!

The deadline for the Legislative Print Shop to print newsletters for legislators who are candidates is **Thursday, June 28, 2012.**

The Print Shop needs at least 3 working days to process your request to print your newsletters; therefore it is recommended that you submit your request *today!*

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 28, 2012, legislative newsletters may be printed using personal funds, office allowance account funds, (which in this instance are not considered state funds), or POET account funds.

Legislators who are *not* candidates may use the Print Shop to print legislative newsletters after the June 28th deadline.

## 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 29**

**General Election – one month prior is October 7**

There are always exceptions to this general 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.

Keep in mind legislative mailings may **NOT**:

- \* Contain any campaign related statements.
- \* Be sent to constituents outside of the legislator's current legislative district, unless the person has requested to be on the mailing list. ♦

