

Campaign Communications and Use of State Funds during Recess

You May...

- Spend campaign funds.
- Use a photo or electronic file, produced with state resources, for campaign purposes.
- Attend a political party event.
- Donate money at a political party event.
- Fill out candidate questionnaires.
- Endorse a local municipal candidate.
- Endorse an electrical co-op board candidate, or local utility board candidate.
- Run for local municipal office (but not on state time).

Legislative employees only:

- Include your name on a fundraiser for a federal candidate.
- Attend fundraiser for a federal candidate.
- Participate in activities including party fundraisers.

You May Not...

- Solicit, accept, or receive campaign funds for a local or state candidate.
- Solicit campaign contributions for a municipal candidate, electrical co-op board candidate, or utility board candidate.
- Use a **legislative** Facebook page for soliciting campaign funds or for other campaign activities.

Legislators Only:

- Donate an item for auction at a political event.
- Solicit, accept or receive campaign funds for a federal election candidate, to influence a state ballot proposition or question, or for a political party.

Legislative employees only:

- File a *Letter of Intent* or *Affidavit of Candidacy* for **state** office before resigning your position.

2020 Important Ethics Dates Timeline

Thursday, June 18, 2020	Last day to use “state resources,” for example, using the print shop or legislative office printers for mass mailings
Friday, June 19, 2020	60 days before the Primary Election
Sunday, July 19, 2020	Final day to send general information newsletters prior to the Primary Election, whether paper or electronic, without utilizing “state resources.” Contact the ethics office for more information.
Tuesday, August 18, 2020	Primary Election Day
Wednesday, August 19, 2020	OK to send newsletters again, but not utilizing “state resources”
Sunday, October 4, 2020	Final day to send general information newsletters prior to the General Election, whether paper or electronic, without utilizing “state resources.” Contact the ethics office for more information.
Tuesday, November 3, 2020	General Election Day
Wednesday, November 4, 2020	OK to send out newsletters including those utilizing “state resources”

Legislative Purpose Test

Before taking action or accepting a gift of travel, ask yourself:

- What is the legislative purpose of my action?
- Is the activity or service necessary to perform my official duties?

If not, do not take action or accept a gift of travel.

Remember:

- There is no definition of “legislative purpose” in the Legislative Ethics Act.
- Each situation may need to be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Several statutes and formal advisory opinions provide guidance.
- Contact the Ethics Office at 907-269-0150 or Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov for more information.



File Your Ethics Disclosures Online

1. Go to <http://intranet.akleg.gov/> and scroll down to “File now” under the “File an Ethics Disclosure” section.
2. Go to the line that begins with “Click HERE.”
3. Double click on the word “HERE.”
4. Enter your credentials (your computer log-in).
5. Click on the type of disclosure you want to file.
6. Complete the form using drop down menus when available.
(Provide complete information. Gifts of travel are for the purpose of obtaining information about matters of legislative concern. Include a one or two sentence narrative addressing how the information obtained is a matter of legislative concern.)
7. Check your completed disclosure for accuracy and click submit.

Reminder: Disclosures required for new associations

Disclosures must be filed within 30 days of the beginning of an association regardless of whether it’s during session, a recess, or the interim.

Board memberships (within 30 days of the beginning of the association). *Example:* A legislator or legislative employee is elected to a condo association board on April 12, 2020.

Close economic associations (both parties must file a disclosure within 30 days of the beginning of the association). *Example:* A legislator purchases a piece of artwork worth \$250 or more from a legislative employee on April 15, 2020.

State Benefit and Loan Programs (within 30 days of the beginning of participation). *Example:* A legislator or legislative employee receives a new commercial fishing loan on April 30, 2020.

State Contracts, Leases, and Grants (within 30 days of the beginning of the association). *Example:* A legislator or legislative employee renegotiates a state contract on July 1, 2020.

If you are unsure as to whether you need to file a disclosure, contact the Ethics Office at 269-0150 or 269-8179.

Sec. 24.60.031. Restrictions on fund raising.

(a) A legislative employee may not

(1) on a day when either house of the legislature is in regular or special session, solicit or accept a contribution or a promise or pledge to make a contribution for a campaign for state or municipal office; however, a legislative employee may, except in the capital city or in the municipality in which the legislature is convened in special session if the legislature is convened in a municipality other than the capital city, solicit or accept a contribution, promise, or pledge for a campaign for state or municipal office that occurs during the 90 days immediately preceding the election for that office; or

(2) accept money from an event held on a day when either house of the legislature is in regular or special session if a substantial purpose of the event is to raise money on behalf of the legislative employee for political purposes; however, this paragraph does not prohibit a legislative employee from accepting money from an event held in a place other than the capital city or a municipality in which the legislature is convened in special session if the legislature is convened in a municipality other than the capital city during the 90 days immediately preceding an election for state or municipal public office in which the legislative employee is a candidate.

(b) A legislator may not

(1) on a day when either house of the legislature is in regular or special session, solicit or accept a contribution or a promise or pledge to make a contribution

(A) for the legislator's own campaign for state or municipal public office, unless the solicitation, acceptance, promise, or pledge occurs in a place other than the capital city or a municipality in which the legislature is convened in special session if the legislature is convened in a municipality other than the capital city during the 90 days immediately preceding the election in which the legislator is a candidate;

(B) for another candidate in an election for municipal, state, or federal office;

(C) to influence a state ballot proposition or question; or

(D) for a political party;

(2) accept money from an event held on a day when either house of the legislature is in regular or special session if a substantial purpose of the event is to raise money on behalf of the legislator's campaign for state or municipal public office; however, this paragraph does not prohibit a legislator from accepting money from an event held in a place other than the capital city or a municipality in which the legislature is convened in special session if the legislature is convened in a municipality other than the capital city during the 90 days immediately preceding a state or municipal election in which the legislator is a candidate; or

(3) in a campaign for state or municipal office, expend money that was raised on a day when either house of the legislature was in a legislative session by or on behalf of a legislator under a declaration of candidacy or a general letter of intent to become a candidate for public office; however, this paragraph does not apply to money raised in a place other than the capital city or a municipality in which the legislature is convened in special session if the legislature is convened in a municipality other than the capital city during the 90 days immediately preceding an election in which the legislator is a candidate.

(c) In this section, contribution has the meaning given in [AS 15.13.400](#).

DISCLAIMER

Information in this newsletter is given as a general overview. Your circumstances may require more specific information and advice. Please contact the ethics office if you have any questions as to whether your intended action is in compliance with the Ethics Act AS 24.60.

Contact the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics

Mailing Address:

PO Box 90251
Anchorage, AK 99509-0251

Physical Location:

Anchorage Legislative Office Building
1500 W Benson Blvd Suite 220
Anchorage, AK 99503

PH: 907-269-0150

FAX: 907-269-0152

Email: Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov

Website: <http://ethics.akleg.gov/>