

SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

You Asked, We Answered

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May a legislator print birthday cards for mailing to individuals in the print shop during a campaign period under AS 24.60.030(c)?

Yes. The restriction in AS 24.60.030(c) is for printing a political mass mailing during the period that begins 60 days before the primary election and generally ends after the November election. Cards sent to individuals throughout the year to recognize birthdays are not considered a mass mailing under statutory language.

If a legislator does not have an opponent in either the primary or general election, do the same prohibitions regarding newsletters apply?

Yes. Regardless of whether a sitting legislator has a campaign opponent or not, all restrictions and prohibitions in the Act apply.

May a legislator copy email addresses and other information from a legislative database of constituents for campaign purposes?

Yes. A legislator may use constituent information gathered by a legislator using legislative resources and copy and use that information for personal or campaign use under advice given in AO 04-01. This would include email addresses.

May a legislator use messages and article pieces from legislative newsletters of the legislator if the legislative contact information is stripped from the original source?

Yes. Note that a *campaign worker* must strip out the legislative contact information from the original sources as opposed to a legislative staffer on government time.

2020 Important Ethics Dates

Contact the Ethics Office for more information

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
Saturday, July 4, 2020	Moratorium on ethics complaints begins (AS 24.60.170(q))
Sunday, July 19, 2020	Final day to send general information newsletters prior to the Primary Election, whether paper or electronic, without using state resources.
Tuesday, August 18, 2020	Primary Election Day
Wednesday, August 19, 2020	OK to send newsletters again, without using state resources.
Sunday, October 4, 2020	Final day to send general information newsletters prior to the General Election, whether paper or electronic, without using state resources.
Tuesday, November 3, 2020	General Election Day
Wednesday, November 4, 2020	OK to send out newsletters including those utilizing state resources.

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
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Phone: 907-269-0150
FAX: 907-269-0152
Email: Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov
Website: <http://ethics.akleg.gov/>

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 one or two sentences about how the information you obtained is a matter of legislative concern.)**
7. Check your completed disclosure for accuracy and 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 July 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 August 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 May 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.