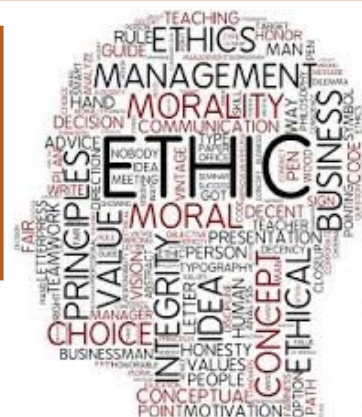


# THE ADVISOR

*High moral and ethical standards are essential to assure the trust, respect, and confidence of the people of Alaska.*



**SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS**

**OCTOBER 2021**

## Have You Filed Your Kenai Classic Disclosure?

You are required to file a **Sanctioned Charitable Event** disclosure for you and/or your family members who participated in any of the Kenai River Classic events, and received gifts that individually had a total value of \$250 or more. The disclosure must be filed within 60 days of participation. **Be sure to use the Sanctioned Charitable Event disclosure form.**

➔ **If you have filed and did not receive an email confirming submission of your disclosure, contact the Ethics Office at 907-269-0150.**



## Special Session, Special Campaign Rules

### • Campaign Fundraising

AS 24.60.031(a) and (b) restrict legislators and legislative employees from campaign fundraising

*...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...*

Those restrictions extend to local, state, and federal elections. Before participating in any fundraising activity for candidates for local, state, or federal office, contact the Ethics Office at [Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov](mailto:Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov) or 907-269-0150 to learn more.

➔ **And remember to check for and remove donation language and payment buttons from your own campaign websites during session.**

### • Endorsing Municipal and Federal Candidates

Legislators and legislative employees may support and endorse a candidate in a municipal or federal election. However, during a regular or special session, there are limits on engaging in other election campaign activities.

**Before endorsing a candidate for a municipal or federal election or engaging in other election campaign activities**, email [Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov](mailto:Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov) or call 907-269-0150 to make sure you are in compliance with the [Legislative Ethics Act](#).

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Skip Cook  
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Sen Tom Begich  
Sen David Wilson  
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Rep Sara Hannan

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907-269-0150  
  
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Admin Assistant  
907-269-8179

## In This Issue

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# Tips for Talking to People Who Disagree With You

**1. Don't assume bad intent.** *"Assuming ill motives almost instantly cuts us off from truly understanding why someone does and believes as they don't. ...when we assume good or neutral intent, we give our minds a much stronger framework for dialogue."*

**2. Ask questions.** *"When we engage people across ideological divides, asking questions helps us map the disconnect between our differing points of view.*

*That's important because we can't present effective arguments if we don't understand where the other side is actually coming from and it gives them an opportunity to point out flaws in our positions."*

**3. Stay calm.** *"This takes practice and patience, but it's powerful. ...People often lament that digital communication makes us less civil, but this is one advantage that online conversations have over in-person ones. We have a buffer of time and space between us and the people whose ideas we find so frustrating. We can use that buffer. Instead of lashing out, we can pause, breathe, change the subject or walk away, and then come back to it when we're ready."*

**4. Make the argument.** *"This might seem obvious, but one side effect of having strong beliefs is we sometimes assume that the value of our position is, or should be, obvious and self-evident; that we shouldn't have to defend our positions because they're so clearly right and good; that if someone doesn't get it, it's their problem—that it's not my job to educate them. But if it were that simple, we would all see things the same way ... We can't expect others to spontaneously change their own minds. If we want change, we have to make the case for it."*

The words of Megan Phelps-Roper in a 2017 TED talk. Phelps-Roper regularly contributes to [ideas.ted.com](https://ideas.ted.com) and is a writer and educator on topics related to empathy in dialogue.

## Disclaimer

Information in this newsletter is provided as a general overview. Your circumstances may require more specific information and advice. Contact the Ethics Office if you have any questions as to whether your intended action is in compliance with the [Legislative Ethics Act AS 24.60](#).

### Contact the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics

**Mailing Address:**

PO Box 90251  
Anchorage, AK 99509-0251

**Physical Location:**

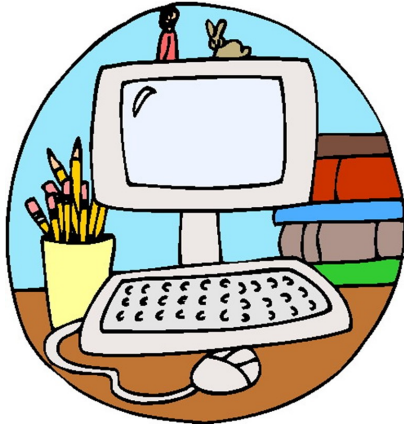
Anchorage Legislative Office Building  
1500 W Benson Blvd Suite 220  
Anchorage, AK 99503

**Phone:** 907-269-0150

**FAX:** 907-269-0152

**Email:** [Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov](mailto:Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov)

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



## File Your Ethics Disclosures Online

1. Go to <http://intranet.akleg.gov/> and scroll down to the "File an Ethics Disclosure" section.
2. Click on the line that reads "CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE ON-LINE PROCESS."
3. Enter your credentials (your computer log-in, not your email address).
4. Click on the type of disclosure you want to file.
5. Complete the form using drop down menus when available. (Provide complete information. Remember, gifts of travel are for the purpose of obtaining information about matters of legislative concern. Include a one or two sentence narrative that addresses how the information you obtained is a matter of legislative concern.)
6. Check your completed disclosure for accuracy and click "Proceed."
7. Review your disclosure and if correct, press "Submit."

**Contact the Ethics Office at 907-269-0150 or 907-269-8179**

## More Help in Filing Your Disclosure

Download a four-page detailed instruction handout at <https://ethics.akleg.gov/disclosures.php> or **contact the Ethics Office at 907-269-0150 or 907-269-8179 if you need additional information.**

## Disclosures Required for New Close Economic Associations

AS 24.60.070 requires a close economic association disclosure when a substantial (\$250 or more) financial relationship exists with a legislator, a legislative employee (if one supervises the other), a public official who is required to file an APOC financial disclosure, or a registered lobbyist. The disclosure must be filed within 30 days of the beginning of the association regardless of whether it's during session, a recess, or the interim. Generally, both parties must file a disclosure. Examples of close economic associations include shared housing expenses, a business partnership or relationship, and the purchase/sale of an item or service. **Contact the Ethics Office at 907-269-0150 or 907-269-8179 for more information.**

## Deciding Whether to Accept a Gift of Travel?

Gifts of travel are for the purpose of obtaining information about matters of legislative concern. In Advisory Opinion 88-03, the Ethics Committee advises ... "Since inception, the committee has adopted a conservative approach in the interpretation of the code of ethics, recognizing that avoidance of an appearance of conflict can be as important as avoiding conflicts."



**Before accepting a gift of travel or hospitality, be sure that the activity has a legislative purpose.**

- What legislative concern is being addressed in the activity?
- Will the activity help me better perform my official duties?
- Will the activity benefit the legislature as a whole?
- Does the activity have the appearance of reward or inducement for official action on my part?

**If after reviewing the questions above, you are unsure whether the gift of travel or hospitality has a legislative purpose or whether it may have the appearance of a conflict, we advise contacting the Ethics Office at 907-269-0150 or [Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov](mailto:Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov) before accepting the gift.**