

# 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**

**FEBRUARY 2025**

## *In memoriam:*

### **Ethics Committee Public Member Gerald McBeath**



Gerald “Jerry” McBeath passed away peacefully on Nov. 18, 2024, in his family home in Fairbanks, Alaska. Jerry began serving the committee as an alternate public member in 2020, and he became a regular public member in 2023.

Jerry was a Professor of Political Science, Emeritus, at UAF. Among other accomplishments during his tenure at UAF, he was a driving force in the establishment of a political science program and he co-authored a textbook on Alaska government and politics. After retiring, he devoted much of his time to public service. To the Ethics Committee, he brought a unique academic perspective as well as a rich understanding of government.

### **Committee Members**

Deb Fancher, Chair  
Skip Cook  
Conner Thomas  
Joyce Anderson  
Sen Gary Stevens  
Sen Robert Yundt  
Rep Kevin McCabe  
Rep Alyse Galvin

### **Administrator**

Kevin Reeve

## **Have You Completed Ethics Training?**

**FINAL SCHEDULED TRAINING for legislative staff and employees is Friday, February 14, from 8:30 AM to Noon**

Need the training link? [Email](#) or call the Ethics Office at 907-269-0150.

### *More information:*

AS 24.60.155 requires that all legislative employees who will serve over a 30-day time period complete a legislative ethics course administered by the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics at the start of a new legislative session or within 30 days of beginning service. Ethics training is required at the beginning of each legislative session regardless of whether you completed training in a previous year. Ethics training consists of three segments: Harassment Prevention, Ethics and Civility, and an overview of the Ethics Act.

Questions? [Email](#) or call the Ethics Office at 907-269-0150.

## **Campaign Fundraising Prohibition in Session**

Remember to check for and remove donation language and payment buttons from campaign websites during session. Contact the Ethics Office at 907-269-0150 or [Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov](mailto:Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov) for more information.

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# Disclosure Notes

## File Annual Ethics Disclosures by February 19

All legislators, legislative employees, and public members of the Ethics Committee are required to file annual disclosures within 30 days after the first day of session (February 19 in 2025) for participation in or association with certain individuals or entities. Below is a list of disclosures that require annual filing, along with information that may help you determine whether you need to file a disclosure.

### Are you an elected or appointed officer or board member of an organization?

If you are a board member of an organization and you **exercise advisory, investigatory, managerial, or supervisory power—even if you do not have voting power**—you must submit an annual disclosure for ongoing associations. Types of organizations generally requiring disclosure include:

- \*Non-profit organizations
- \*For profit organizations
- \*Religious organizations
- \*Educational organizations
- \*Condo Associations
- \*Native Corporations
- \*Governmental or National Boards.

See [AS 24.60.030\(f\)](#) and [Advisory Opinion AO 13-02](#) for more information.

### Do you have a financial relationship with a legislator, a legislative employee (if one supervises the other), a public official who must file a Financial Disclosure with APOC, or a registered lobbyist?

If yes, you must file a close economic association disclosure if the financial relationship totals \$250 or more. Ongoing financial relationships must be disclosed annually. Examples include sharing housing in Juneau, participating in a business partnership, or working for pay on a legislator's campaign. The dollar amount of the financial relationship does NOT need to be disclosed; only the fact that a close economic association exists. See [AS 24.60.070](#) for more information.

### Are you a spouse or domestic partner of a registered lobbyist?

If yes, you must file a close economic association with a lobbyist disclosure. [AS 24.60.070 \(c\)](#) states:

*When making a disclosure under [AS 24.60.070\(a\)](#) concerning a relationship with a lobbyist to whom a legislative employee is married or who is the legislative employee's domestic partner, the legislative employee shall also disclose the name and address of each employer of the lobbyist and the total monetary value received by the lobbyist from the lobbyist's employer. The legislative employee shall report changes in the employer of the spouse or domestic partner within 48 hours after the change. In this subsection, "employer of the lobbyist" means the person from whom the lobbyist received amounts or things of value for engaging in lobbying on behalf of the person.*

### Do you participate in one or more state benefit or loan programs administered by the State of Alaska?

Certain state benefit and loan programs require disclosure; a list of those programs are listed in Appendix C of the Standards of Conduct Handbook. [You can access the handbook online.](#) File a *State Benefit and Loan Programs* disclosure. See [AS 24.60.050](#) for more information.

### Do you receive direct or indirect financial benefit from a state contract, lease, or grant with an annual value of \$5,000 or more?

If you or a spouse or partner have an interest in a state contract, lease, or grant with an annual value of \$5,000 or more, you must disclose that interest. File the *State Contracts, Leases, and Grants* disclosure. See [AS 24.60.040](#) for more information.

### Are you on contract/agreement to represent a client before a state agency, board, or commission?

If yes, you must file a *Representation for Compensation* disclosure in 2023, even if you filed a disclosure in 2022. See [AS 24.60.100](#) for more information.

# Disclosure Notes

The Ethics Act ([AS 24.60](#)) requires legislators, legislative employees, and public members of the Ethics Committee to disclose for the public certain activities and associations in which they engage.

## Do I Have to File an Ethics Disclosure?

Only if you participate in any of the following activities or associations.

- Appointment or reappointment to a board or commission - [AS 24.60.030\(f\)](#)
- Participation in a state contract or lease - [AS 24.60.040](#)
- Participation in a state benefit program or obtained a state loan - [AS 24.60.050](#)
- Formation of a close economic association (financial relationship) with a legislator, legislative employee, lobbyist, or public official who is required to file a Financial Disclosure with the Alaska Public Offices Commission - [AS 24.60.070](#)
- Representation of a client for pay before a state agency, board, or commission - [AS 24.60.100](#)
- Receipt of a gift not connected to legislative status worth \$250 or more in value - [AS 24.60.080\(c\)\(6\)](#)
- Receipt of a gift of travel/hospitality for legislative matters worth \$250 or more in value - [AS 24.60.080\(c\)\(4\)](#)
- Receipt of a gift by a family member due to legislative connection worth \$250 or more in value - [AS 24.60.080\(i\)](#)
- Receipt of a gift for compassionate reasons - [AS 24.60.075\(c\)](#)
- Receipt of a gift of legal services related to legislative matters - [AS 24.60.080\(c\)\(8\)](#)
- Receipt of gift related to a sanctioned charity event - [AS 24.60.080\(d\)](#) and [AS 24.60.080\(c\)\(10\)](#)
- Receipt by a family member of a gift related to a sanctioned charity event - [AS 24.60.080\(i\)](#)

## When Do I File an Ethics Disclosure?

- Within 30 days of the beginning of the association or within 30 days of the date you became subject to the Ethics Act;
- 90 days after final day of service under [AS 24.60.115](#) if the matter or interest was not previously disclosed;
- Some activities and associations require annual disclosures within 30 days after the first day of session (February 19, 2025) for participation in or association with certain individuals or entities. See next page for more information.

**NOTE: You do not need to file a disclosure if you have nothing to report.**

## File Ethics Disclosures Online. It's Easy!

1. Go to <http://intranet.akleg.gov/> and scroll down to the "File an Ethics Disclosure" section.
2. Click on "Login."
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 detailed agenda and 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."

### Need More Help 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 more information.

## 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/>

# Remember the Key Gift Rules!

## RULE #1:

May not solicit, accept or receive gifts totaling \$250 or more in a calendar year from the same person.

## RULE #2:

May not solicit, accept or receive a gift from a lobbyist.

### Exceptions to Rule #1

- **Hospitality** at a residence within the state or at a social event or meal (No disclosure is required)
- **Discounts** generally available to the public or benefits the state (No disclosure is required)
- **Culturally shared food** (No disclosure is required)
- **Travel and hospitality** primarily for the purpose of obtaining information on a matter of legislative concern (Gift of travel disclosure is required within 60 days)
- **Gifts from an immediate family member** under AS 24.60.080(c)(5) (No disclosure is required)
- **Gifts not associated with the recipient's legislative status** (Confidential disclosure is required within 30 days)
- **Welcome to Juneau gifts or discounts** during session (No disclosure is required)
- **Legal services for a legislative matter** (Disclosure is required within 30 days)
- **Gift of transportation from** a legislator or a legislative employee to a legislator or legislative employee (No disclosure required)
- **Charitable contribution or ticket** to a sanctioned charity event (Disclosure required within 60 days)

### Exceptions to Rule #2

- **Food and non-alcoholic beverage** for immediate consumption with a value of \$15 or less OR if the food and beverage is provided as part of an event open to all legislators or legislative employees. (No disclosure required)
- **A contribution, ticket, or ticket-related gift** to a sanctioned charitable event with an annual cumulative total value of less than \$250 from an individual lobbyist. (No disclosure required)
- **A gift unconnected with legislative status** from an immediate family member. (Lobbyist spouse, no disclosure required)
- **A gift delivered on the premises of a state facility** and accepted on behalf of a recognized nonpolitical charitable organization. (No disclosure required)
- **A compassionate gift** (Preapproval is required and a disclosure is required within 30 days)

### DISCLAIMER

Information provided is a general overview. Your circumstances may require specific information or advice.

Contact Ethics Committee Administrator Kevin Reeve at 907-269-0150 to make sure your intended action complies with the Ethics Act AS 24.60.

## Here's a Tip!

Keeping a gift log is a helpful way to track of gifts you receive throughout the year. Download a gift log at <https://ethics.akleg.gov/disclosures.php>.