

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

JANUARY 2026

New Year, New Session Reminders

- Annual Ethics Disclosures are due February 18. See page 3 for more Information.
- Do you need a CLE or CPE certificate for completing ethics training in 2026? Contact the Ethics Office at ethics.committee@akleg.gov.
- Remember to remove donation language and **disable donation links** on your campaign site.

Committee Members

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

Administrator

Kevin Reeve

Nepotism Rules: What Do You Know?

1. Where in the Ethics Act are the nepotism restrictions found?
2. Who is considered an “immediate family member” for purposes of determining applicability of the nepotism rules?
3. May a legislator hire an immediate family member to work during session?
4. May a legislator's niece work for another legislator during session?
5. May two spouses work in the same legislative office during session if neither supervises the other?



See answers on page 5

Five Ways to Boost Your Ethics IQ

1. Visit the Alaska Legislature’s Ethics website at <https://ethics.akleg.gov/>, where you can learn about the Ethics Committee, read the Ethics Act, search advisory opinions, access previous *Advisor* newsletters, and more.
2. Reference the Standards of Conduct Handbook for guidance. The handbook contains situational examples for each section of the Ethics Act and other informational material.
3. Review ethics training materials.
4. Suggest items/issues to include in future *Advisor* newsletters or ethics training videos.
5. Call the Ethics Office at 907-269-0150 informal advice.

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What do Advisory Opinions Say About Political Activities in Session?

Note: This is a selection of excerpts from past Ethics Committee advisory opinions. The information provided is a general overview. It is not a comprehensive list. Your circumstances may require specific information or advice. Contact the Ethics Office with specific questions.

Advisory Opinion 18-02

- 1. May a legislator, after a state-funded relocation to Juneau for a legislative session, attend and sponsor a fundraiser for a state election campaign before the start of the legislative session?**

A legislator, after a state-funded relocation to Juneau for a legislative session, may attend and sponsor a fundraiser for a state election campaign **before** the start of the legislative session.

- 2. May a legislator, after a state-funded relocation to Juneau for a legislative session, attend a political forum or a fundraising dinner for a political party in Juneau during that legislative session?**

A legislator, after a state-funded relocation to Juneau for a legislative session, may attend a political forum or a fundraising dinner for a political party in Juneau during that legislative session, as long as the legislator merely attends and does not directly or indirectly host, co-host, solicit participation, promote the event, or aid the fundraising.

Advisory Opinion 07-06

- 1. Does AS 24.60.031 of the Legislative Ethics Act prohibit a legislator or legislative employee from hosting or co-hosting a campaign fundraising event for a candidate for the state legislature during a legislative session?**

[AS 24.60.031\(a\)\(1\)](#) says a legislator or 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 the state legislature; however, a legislator or legislative employee may, except in the capital city, solicit or accept a contribution, promise, or pledge for a campaign for the state legislature that occurs during the 90 days immediately preceding an election; ... *and therefore hosting or co-hosting a legislative campaign fundraising event during a legislative session would violate the prohibition in [AS 24.60.031\(a\)](#), unless the fundraiser is held outside of the capital city and within the 90 days immediately preceding an election.*



Advisory Opinion 12-03

- 1. Does the signing of a pre-election pledge, by an incumbent legislator, in exchange for a campaign contribution or endorsement or a promise of a campaign contribution or endorsement, violate the provisions of the Legislative Ethics Act -- specifically [AS 24.60.030\(e\)\(1\)](#)?**

The committee finds that the signing of a pre-election pledge, by an incumbent legislator, in a quid pro quo exchange for a campaign contribution or a promise of a campaign contribution, violates the provisions of the Legislative Ethics Act, specifically [AS 24.60.030\(e\)\(1\)](#). However, if the pledge is in exchange only for an endorsement or a promise of an endorsement it does not violate the Act. To clarify, we divide the issue into two parts, as follows:

I. Endorsements. [AS 24.60.030\(e\)\(1\)](#) expressly prohibits solicitation of campaign contributions, donations to certain causes, and "thing(s) of value" in the circumstances described in the first paragraph of this conclusion. However, the applicable definition of "thing of value" under [AS 24.60.990\(2\)](#), excludes political endorsements, support in a political campaign, or a promise of endorsement or support.

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Disclosure Notes

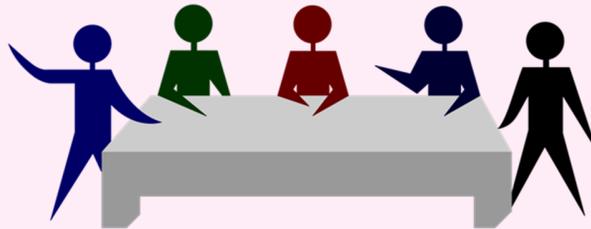
File Annual Ethics Disclosures by February 18

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 18 in 2026) for participation in or association with certain individuals or entities. Below is a list of disclosures that require annual filing, along with information that will 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 2026, even if you filed a disclosure in 2025. 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 (60 days for travel) of the beginning of the association (or first day of travel) or within 30 days of the date you become subject to the Ethics Act;
- 90 days after your last 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 18, 2026) for participation in or association with certain individuals or entities.

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

Email: Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov

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

Reminder: Legislative Staff Are Required to Submit Timely Leave Slips

Legislative staff are required to submit a leave slip within 24 hours after return to duty when taking time off from regularly scheduled work hours. Failure to do so could be a violation under the Legislative Ethics Act AS 24.60.030(a)(2) for campaign work not covered by a leave slip.

In the event an ethics complaint is filed alleging participation in campaign or non-legislative activities on government time, the burden of proof would be on the employee to show a pre-approved work schedule *or* show leave time had been requested for the time in question. Prevent the appearance of impropriety and a possible violation of the Legislative Ethics Act by completing and submitting leave slips on a timely basis. LAA policy requires leave slips be submitted within 24 hours after a return to duty.

If an employee is unable to turn in a leave slip by the pay period deadline, for whatever reason, it is the responsibility of the supervisor to fill out the leave slip and submit it to the Personnel Office.

If you need to complete late leave slip requests, contact the LAA Personnel Office at 907-465-3854.

From the State of Alaska Legislative Staff Employee Handbook Page 8

Use of Personal Leave

All uses of leave must be reported on a Leave Request/Report Form more commonly called a "leave slip". The employee's supervisor should approve use of personal leave. A leave slip should be submitted for each absence during a pay period. Blocks of leave taken over several pay periods should have separate leave slips submitted for each pay period. Leave slips for planned absences should be completed by the employee, signed by the employee's supervisor and sent to personnel prior to the absence. Leave slips for unplanned absences (illness, accident, emergency, etc.) should be submitted immediately upon the employee's return to work. If an employee is unable to complete the leave slip by the pay period cutoff, it is the responsibility of the supervisor to complete the leave slip and turn it into the Personnel Office.

See the [State of Alaska Legislative Staff Employee Handbook](#) for more information.

Inquiring Minds Want to Know...

About Political Activities in Session

Continued from page 2

Advisory Opinion 12-03

II. Contributions. A pledge to take or withhold a legislative, administrative, or political action is unlawful when made by a member of the legislature in direct exchange for either a campaign contribution or a donation to a cause favored by that member, because it violates [AS 24.60.030\(e\)\(1\)](#).

Furthermore, because the pledge is unlawful under [AS 24.60.030\(e\)\(1\)](#), it also violates [AS 24.60.030\(a\)\(1\)](#), cited at the beginning of this discussion, which prohibits soliciting or accepting a benefit other than official compensation for the performance of public duties.

In determining whether or not these violations of the Act have occurred in a particular instance, the committee will first determine whether the member made the pledge with an understanding that the contribution or a donation would be made in exchange for it.

Contact the Ethics Office if you need more information about political activities during session.

Nepotism: What Do You Know?

Continued from page 1

1. The restrictions are found in [AS 24.60.090](#).
2. "Immediate family" is defined in [AS 24.60.990\(a\)\(6\)](#) as a spouse or domestic partner, a parent, a child, a stepchild, an adopted child, or a sibling if the family member resides with, is financially dependent on, or shares a substantial financial interest with a legislator or legislative employee.
3. No, a legislator may not hire an immediate family member to work at any time. During session, a legislator's immediate family member may not work for compensation in the house in which the legislator is a member
4. Yes, a legislator's niece may work for another legislator during session. A niece is considered neither an immediate family member nor financially dependent on the legislator.
5. Yes, per [AS 24.60.090](#), it would be allowed if neither spouse has supervisory authority over the other.