



THE ADVISOR

Select Committee on Legislative Ethics

January 2016

ANNUAL DISCLOSURES *Deadline to file annual disclosures*

Thursday, February 18, 2016

If any association begins after February 18, a disclosure is due within 30 days of the association.

Ethics Committee Meeting

Monday, January 25, 2016, 8:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Room 106

Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 8:30 a.m.

Beltz Room, Thomas Stewart Building

Meeting information posted on BASIS.

Committee Members

Skip Cook, Chair

H Conner Thomas

Gary J Turner

Sen Gary Stevens

Sen Dennis Egan

Rep Chris Tuck

Rep Charisse Millett

Staff:

Jerry Anderson,

Administrator

269-0150

Janice Stewart

Administrative Assistant

269-8179

UPCOMING 2016 ETHICS TRAINING

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

8:30—Noon, Beltz Room,

Thomas Stewart Building

If you are unable to make this training, please contact *Janice Stewart* at 269-8179 or janice.stewart@akleg.gov to make alternate arrangements.

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CAMPAIGN YEAR QUESTIONS & ISSUES

Question: *Can a legislator link his/her campaign website or campaign Facebook site to a legislative Facebook site or other legislative site to allow a person to sign up for legislative newsletters from his/her office?*

Answer: No

On July 12, 2010, in Advisory Opinion 2010-09-CD, the Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) determined that state election law does not prohibit campaign materials or websites from referencing websites and newsletters created and maintained with legislative resources. In that opinion, however, APOC expressly stated that it was not taking a position "as to whether this activity violates any legislative ethics laws."

In the August 2010 edition of our newsletter "The Advisor," we advised that, notwithstanding the July 12, 2010 APOC opinion, "providing a link to a legislative webpage or e-newsletter on a campaign website is prohibited under AS 24.60.030(a)(5), AS 24.60.030(b), and AS 24.60.030(h)." We also advised that nothing in the Legislative Ethics Act "prohibits a legislator from 'pasting' certain information from a legislative website or e-newsletter to a campaign website as long as certain prohibitions are followed; i.e., no legislative contact information is displayed on the material that is 'pasted'." We re-published this advice recently, in the July 2012 edition of "The Advisor," and we adopt it, for the purposes of this advisory opinion, as an accurate summary of relevant portions of the Legislative Ethics Act.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above and to be consistent with AO 2007-07, the committee finds that the Legislative Ethics Act does not permit a legislator or legislative employee to publish, as part of a political election campaign communication on the Internet or elsewhere, an address or electronic link to an Internet website created or maintained with legislative resources if the website contains the legislator's contact information.

Adopted by the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics on August 8, 2012.

Full text of AO 12-04 can be accessed at <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/search/ethics/>

Important Information!

ALL VERBIAGE AND VISUALS REFERENCING “SOLICITING**” CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS MUST BE REMOVED FROM CAMPAIGN WEBSITES DURING A LEGISLATIVE SESSION.**

- You may state, ***“Campaign contributions cannot be accepted during a legislative session”***.
- However, you may **NOT** include a statement similar to, ***“Check back after session for information on how to donate”***.