THE ADVISOR

Annual Disclosures

Deadline to file <u>annual</u> disclosures

Thursday, February 18, 2016

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

If you are unsure as to whether or not you need to refile,

please contact our office at 269-8179.

Advisory Opinion 15-02

Lunch and Learn Sessions

Adopted by the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics on January 25, 2016.

- A legislator or legislative employee may promote or facilitate the event, and use state resources in doing so, if the state's cost of facilitating the event is nominal and the event does not interfere with the legislator's or legislative employee's legislative duties.
- Flyers and other messages promoting the events should not list the name of the food caterer or food establishment.
- Flyers and other messages should emphasize the learning opportunity on a matter of legislative concern more prominently than the free meal or the name of a sponsor of the event.
- A legislator or legislative employee who attends a lunch and learn event primarily for the purpose of obtaining information on a matter of legislative concern may receive the gift of a free meal under the exception in AS 24.60.080(c)(1)(B) or (c)(4), if the gift is from a person who is not a lobbyist, or under the exception in AS 24.60.080(a)(2)(A), if the gift is from a lobbyist.

Committee Members

H Conner Thomas, Chair

Skip Cook

Gary J Turner

Sen Gary Stevens

Sen Dennis Egan

Rep Chris Tuck

Rep Charisse Millett

Staff:

Jerry Anderson, Administrator

269-0150

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CAMPAIGN YEAR ALERT!

AS 24.60.030(b)

A legislative employee may not on government time assist in political party or candidate activities, campaigning, or fund raising. A legislator may not require an employee to perform an act in violation of this subsection. However, incidental campaign activities, are permissible if the activities are part of the normal legislative duties of the employee such as:

♦ Answering incoming telephone calls of a campaign nature

 (Refer the caller to campaign headquarters or the legislator's home.)

♦ Handling incoming campaign correspondence

 (Give the correspondence to the legislator for processing/action OR send an email back to the person along with campaign contact information.)

AS 24.60.030(c)

Unless approved by the committee, during a campaign period for an election in which the legislator or legislative employee is a candidate, a legislator or legislative employee may not use or permit another to use state funds, other than funds to which the legislator is entitled under AS 24.10.110, to print or distribute a political mass mailing to individuals eligible to vote for the candidate. In this subsection,

(1) a "campaign period" is the period that

 (A) begins 60 days before the date of an election to the board of an electric or telephone cooperative organized under AS 10.25, a municipal election, or a primary election, or that begins on the date of the governor's proclamation calling a special election; and
 (B) ends the day after the cooperative election, municipal election, or general or special election;

(2) a mass mailing is considered to be political if it is from or about a legislator, legislative employee, or another person who is a candidate for election or reelection to the legislature or another federal, state, or municipal office or to the board of an electric or telephone cooperative.

June 17, 2016, is 60 days before the primary election.

See the Model Office Policy at http://ethics.akleg.gov/documents/model_office_policy.pdf

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Don't Forget!

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".***