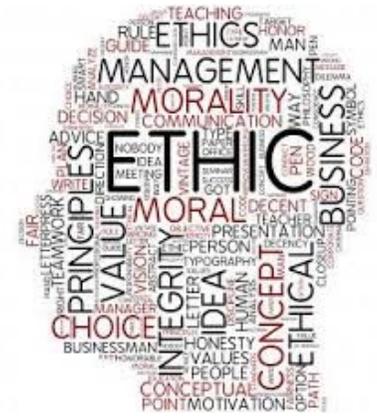


# THE ADVISOR

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



## SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

MARCH 2023

### ADVISORY OPINION 2023-01

The Select Committee on Legislative Ethics adopted Advisory Opinion 23-01 at the March 9, 2023, committee meeting. Below is an excerpt from the conclusion. **Full text of the Advisory Opinion can be found at <https://www.akleg.gov/search/ethics/>.**

#### Conclusion

1. The "immediate family" exception in AS 24.60.080(c)(5) does not allow a gift worth \$250 or more from the spouse of the legislator's sibling.
2. The "legal services" exception in AS 24.60.080(c)(8) does not include the purchase of future legal services or a third party contracting to provide a legislator or legislative employee future legal services for legal expenses on matters of legislative concern.
3. A gift of legal services may simultaneously be related to a legislator's legislative status and offered for a matter that is not of legislative concern.
4. The capacity in which a legislator is sued is not determinative of whether a gift related to that lawsuit is connected to the legislator's legislative status.
5. A specific matter may be a matter of legislative concern under the Ethics Act, despite an express decision by Legislative Council not to intervene in the matter.
6. A matter addressing the responsibilities and proper role of the houses of the Legislature to judge the "election and qualification" of their members under art. II, sec. 12 of the Alaska Constitution is a matter of legislative concern.
7. The result in a specific matter does not determine whether the matter is a matter of legislative concern.
8. The exception in AS 24.60.080(c)(8) does not apply to a legislator accepting cash gifts to cover the cost of legal action both while a matter of legislative concern is proceeding and after conclusion of the matter.

### Endorsing Municipal Candidates During Legislative Session

AS 24.60.031 does not prohibit a legislator or legislative employee from endorsing a candidate for state or municipal office at any time, unless the endorsement is part of a solicitation for a contribution.

#### ◆ Example of permitted activity:

Legislator or legislative employee endorses a municipal candidate in an ad or campaign flier **that does not include a solicitation for campaign contributions.**

#### ◆ Example of prohibited activity:

Hosting or co-hosting a fundraiser for a municipal candidate; or having your name listed on the invitation for the fundraiser.

For more information, contact [Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov](mailto:Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov) or 907-269-0150.

### Committee Members

Skip Cook, Chair  
Deb Fancher  
Jerry McBeath  
Conner Thomas  
Joyce M. Anderson  
Sen Gary Stevens  
Sen Löki Tobin  
Rep DeLena Johnson  
Rep Sara Hannan

### Staff

Jerry D. Anderson, Administrator  
907-269-0150  
  
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### In This Issue

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### DISCLAIMER

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

**Contact Ethics Committee Administrator Jerry Anderson (The Ethics Guy) at 907-269-0150 or 907-201-0125 to make sure your intended action complies with the Ethics Act AS 24.60.**

# Disclosure Notes

## Remember: New Associations = New Disclosures

### *Have you begun a new association or accepted a gift that requires disclosure?*

- ⇒ **Board memberships** (within 30 days of the beginning of the association).
- ⇒ **Close economic associations** (both parties must file a disclosure within 30 days of the beginning of the association).
- ⇒ **State Benefit and Loan Programs** (within 30 days of the start date).
- ⇒ **State Contracts, Leases, and Grants** (within 30 days of the beginning of the association).
- ⇒ **Representation of a client for pay before a state agency** (within 30 days of the beginning of the association).
- ⇒ **Gift of travel/hospitality for obtaining information on a matter of legislative concern or sanctioned charity event** (within 60 days of the beginning of travel).
- ⇒ **Gift of travel/hospitality for family members or sanctioned charity event** (within 60 days of the beginning of travel).
- ⇒ **Gift unrelated to legislative status** (within 30 days of the date of the gift).
- ⇒ **Gift of legal services for legislative matters** (within 30 days of the beginning of the association).

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

1. Go to <http://intranet.akleg.gov/> & scroll down to click on **Login** in the **File an Ethics Disclosure** section.
2. Enter the filer's computer login (not email address) and password. NOTE: If the filer is a legislator, use the legislator's computer login and password.
3. Click on **Sign in**.
4. Choose on the type of disclosure you want to file.
5. Complete the form using drop down menus when available. (Remember, **gifts of travel are for the purpose of obtaining information about matters of legislative concern**. Provide complete information about the donor, a one or two sentence narrative that addresses how the information obtained is a matter of legislative concern, and **attach a copy of the agenda**.)
6. Check your completed disclosure and click "Proceed."
7. Review your disclosure and if correct, press "Submit."

### When filing travel and/or hospitality disclosures, provide adequate information so the public will understand.

- Avoid the use of acronyms, such as NCSL
- Complete information about the donor.
- A description of the topics discussed, forums attended, or other pertinent agenda items.
- Attach a copy of the event agenda.

### 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/>