

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 2026

Ethics Committee Public Member Update

Public Member Deb Fancher

Deb Fancher was recently reappointed to the Ethics Committee. She has been a public member of the committee since 2017.

Deb is a long-time Alaskan, she grew up in Gakona and now lives in Anchorage. An educator by profession, she has worked in public, private, and charter schools. She is an avid traveler who also enjoys hiking and reading.

Welcome back to the committee, Deb!



Alternate Public Member Chase Berenson

Chase Berenson is a resident of Girdwood, Alaska, and works as a business leader within Alaska Native corporations supporting business growth in remote Alaska to benefit Alaska Native shareholders.



Mr. Berenson holds a Master of Business Administration from Louisiana State University and has served on several boards and commissions focused on governance and organizational oversight. He and his wife are active in the Girdwood community, where he enjoys snowboarding and hiking. Welcome to the committee, Chase!

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

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Endorsing Municipal Candidates During Session

A legislator or legislative employee may endorse a candidate for municipal or state office at any time, however, [AS 24.60.031](#) prohibits endorsements that are part of a solicitation for a contribution.

◆ Example of a 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 a prohibited activity:

Hosting or co-hosting a fundraiser for a municipal candidate or being listed on an invitation to a fundraiser.

For more information, contact Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov or 907-269-0150.

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Prohibited: Use of State Resources for Campaigning

AS 24.60.030 prohibits a legislator or legislative employee from using government assets for, among other activities, political fundraising or campaigning. Government assets include state funds, facilities, equipment, services, or any other government asset or resource.

AS 24.60.030 allows for minimal use if the use does not interfere with the performance of state work, is applied infrequently, and the use is considered nominal or limited, or if the legislator or employee reimburses the state for cost of the use.

Incidental political campaign activities while on government time are permissible if the activities are part of the normal legislative duties of the employee. See the *Model Office Policy* below for more details.

An employee who engages in political campaign activities other than of an incidental nature is required to take leave for the time spent on campaign work.

The committee has strictly interpreted this section of the Ethics Act. Those covered by the Ethics Act should use caution when the line between campaigning and performing legislative duties becomes less than clear.

MODEL OFFICE POLICY

Incidental Political Campaign Related Activities

Incidental political campaign activities while on government time are permissible if the activities are part of the normal legislative duties of the employee. A legislative employee who engages in political campaign activities on government time, other than activities of an incidental nature, is required to take leave for that time.

Legislative employees should respond to inquiries and requests in the following manner. *Providing the candidate's home or campaign contact information helps prevent future contact with the legislative office.*

- **If a campaign related call is received**, take the caller's name and phone number. Leave the message for the legislator. Let the caller know that in the future they should call the legislator at home or on their personal cell phone or campaign phone as campaign related discussions are not appropriate in a legislative office.
- **If campaign material is received in the mail**, give the correspondence directly to the legislator. Do not respond to the correspondence as it is not legislative-related.
- **If campaign-related email is received in a legislative office**, forward it to the legislator's home or campaign email address. Do not respond to the campaign-related correspondence as it is not legislative-related. Let the sender know the campaign email was forwarded and provide the appropriate email address to use in future correspondence. Delete the email from the legislator's legislative email account.
- **If someone drops off a campaign check for the legislator**, leave the check for the legislator and politely let the person know that in the future checks should be sent directly to the legislator's home or campaign address. Do not take any other action. It is the legislator's responsibility to take appropriate action as necessary or needed.
- **If someone stops in and asks a campaign related question**, tell the person that campaign questions should be directed to the legislator and provide contact information. A legislative office is not the proper forum for these types of questions.
- **If someone stops in to drop off campaign material** (e.g., campaign flier or campaign fundraising notice), inform the person that a legislative office is not the proper forum for receiving campaign-related materials. Provide appropriate contact information and inform the person the campaign material should be sent directly to the legislator's home or campaign address.

For more information, contact Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov or 907-269-0150.

Disclosure Notes

What Do You Know About Required Ethics Disclosures?

1. *Do I need to file a disclosure if I rent a room to another legislative employee?*
2. *Is a disclosure required for my spouse's service on a board of directors?*
3. *Do I need to file a disclosure if my spouse is a public official?*
4. *Do I need to file a close economic association disclosure for campaign work I do for a legislator on my own time?*
5. *Does a legislator have to file a disclosure with the committee if the legislator contracts for services unrelated to legislative work from another legislator?*

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 if you need more information.

Answers to Disclosure Questions

1. A close economic association disclosure is required only if one of you supervises the other or one of you is a public official as defined in [AS 39.50](#).
2. No disclosure is required for a spouse's service on a board of directors.
3. Yes, a close economic association disclosure is required if your spouse is a public official. [AS 24.60.070](#)
4. Yes, if the value of the service provided is \$250 or more in a calendar year. [AS 24.60.070](#)
5. Yes, if the value of the services amounts to \$250 or more in a calendar year. A close economic disclosure would be required from both legislators under [AS 24.60.070](#).

Contact the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics

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