

# 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 2026**

## **Q & A: Campaign Communications and Use of State Funds**

### **May a legislator state in a legislative newsletter or official social media their plans for running for another term or for another office?**

No. Including a statement such as, “I have filed for a new term as your State Representative/Senator” is campaigning and in violation of the use of state resources for a campaign purpose in that the legislator would be expressly advocating for the legislator’s re-election and it provides a private benefit to the legislator. See [Complaint Decision H 10-01](#)

### **May a legislator communicate with constituents about voting options in a local municipal or state election using state resources?**

Yes. Community resource and program type information including election procedural information may be provided to constituents using state resources as a part of legislative outreach and contact with constituents. The communication must be strictly informational, campaign messaging is prohibited.

### **May a legislator include a notice in a legislative newsletter that election workers are needed for an upcoming election?**

Yes. There is no ethics concern in posting such a notice. This is a nonpartisan notice of an activity in the community. Posting a similar notice on a legislative Facebook page or other social media is also allowed. The communication must be strictly informational, campaign messaging is prohibited.

### **May a legislator take a position on a local municipal ballot proposition?**

Yes, a legislator may take a position on a local ballot proposition. The legislator may provide information on the issue as well. A legislative communication may not include a link to the informational site if the site is set up to solicit for contributions. See [Advisory Opinion 97-02](#).

### **May a legislative newsletter be sent only to a particular group of voters?**

Yes, a legislative newsletter may target a particular constituent group, such as seniors or super voters. However, a legislative newsletter may not be sent to constituents of one political mailing. That would be considered a political mailing and thus it would be prohibited.

## **Campaign Fundraising Prohibited in Session**

Remember to check for and remove donation language and payment buttons from campaign websites during session.

Contact the Ethics Office at [Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov](mailto:Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov) or 907-269-0150 for more information.

## **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

## **In This Issue**

[Campaign Communications and Use of State Funds](#)

[2026 Election Calendar](#)

[Ethics Act and Campaign Laws](#)

[Disclosure Notes](#)

# 2026 Election Calendar

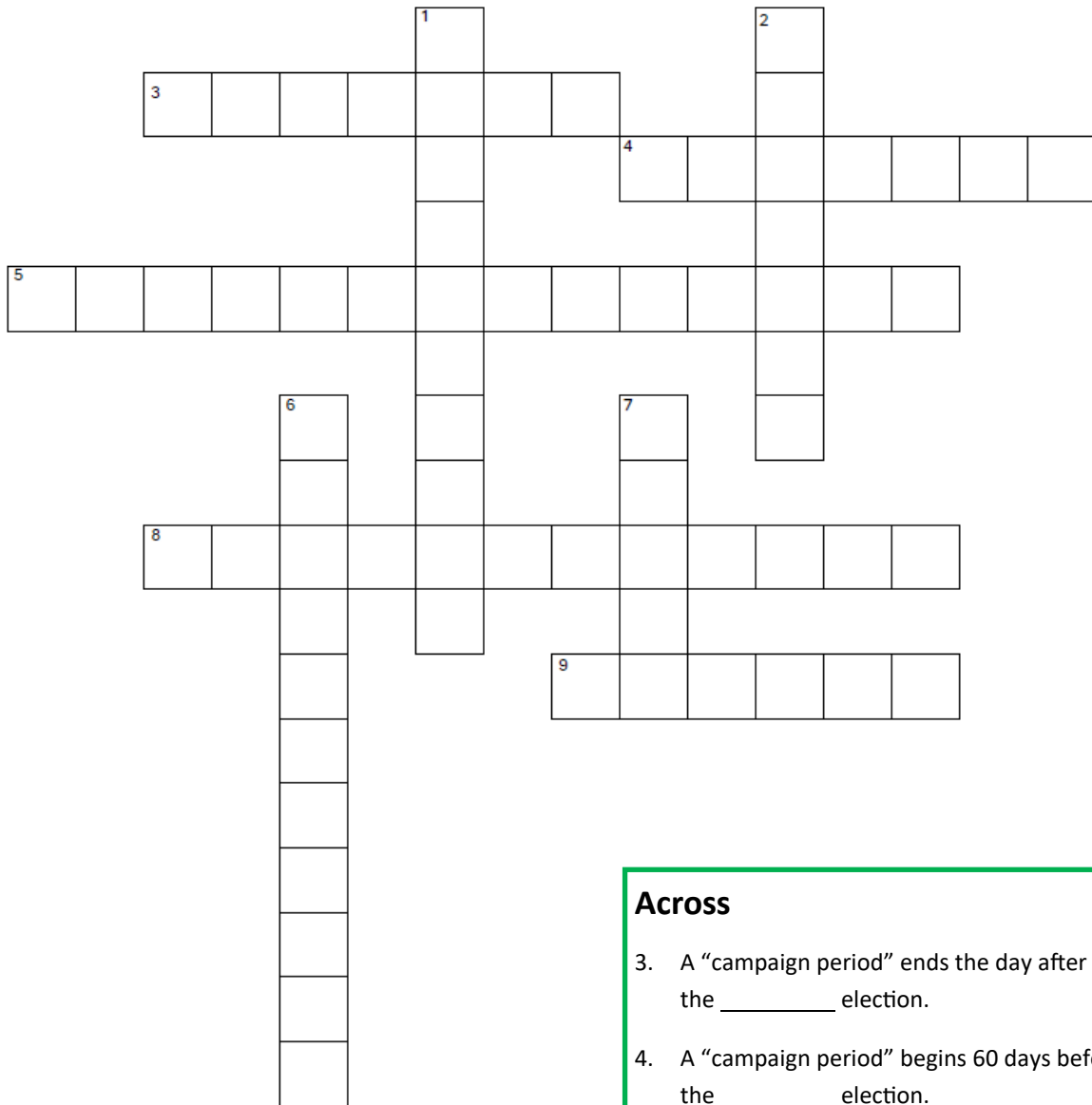
Contact the Ethics Office at 907-269-0150 for more information

Date	Significance	Statute/Authority
Sunday, April 19, 2026	90th day of session	AS 24.05.150(b)
Tuesday, May 19, 2026	120 <sup>th</sup> day of session	Alaska State Constitution Art II, Sec 8
Thursday, June 19, 2026	<b>Last day to use state resources to print or distribute political mass communication to individuals eligible to vote for candidates for the State of Alaska regular primary election.</b> <i>AS 24.60.030 Prohibited conduct and conflicts of interest. (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, ... (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.</i>	AS 24.60.030(c)(2)
Friday, June 20, 2026	<b>Campaign period begins for the State of Alaska regular primary and general election.</b> <i>AS 24.60.030 Prohibited conduct and conflicts of interest.(c)(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 ...</i>	AS 24.60.030(c)(1)(A)
Saturday, July 4, 2026	<b>Complaint moratorium begins (45 days before the primary).</b> <i>AS 24.60.170 Proceedings before the committee; limitations. (q) A campaign period under this section begins on the later of 45 days before a primary election in which the legislator or legislative employee is a candidate for state office or the day on which the individual files as a candidate for state office and ends at the close of election day for the general or special election in which the individual is a candidate or on the day that the candidate withdraws from the election, if earlier. For a candidate who loses in the primary election, the campaign period ends on the day that results of the primary election showing that another individual won the election are certified.</i>	AS 24.60.170(q)
<b>Tuesday, August 18, 2026</b>	<b>Regular primary election</b>	AS 15.25.020
<b>Tuesday, November 3, 2026</b>	<b>General election</b>	AS 15.15.020
Wednesday, November 4, 2026	<b>Campaign period ends. OK to use state resources to print or distribute political mass communication.</b>  <b>Complaint moratorium ends.</b>	AS 24.60.030(c)(1)(B)  AS 24.60.170(q)

## Test Your Knowledge

# Ethics Act and Campaign Laws

Hint: All answers can be found in AS 24.60.030



### Down

1. Soliciting or accepting a campaign contribution during a legislative session is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A mass \_\_\_\_\_ is considered political if it is from or about a candidate for election or re-election.
6. A legislative employee may not on government time assist in political party or candidate activities, \_\_\_\_\_, or fund raising.
7. A legislative employee must take \_\_\_\_\_ when working on campaign-related activities during their normal workday.

### Across

3. A "campaign period" ends the day after the \_\_\_\_\_ election.
4. A "campaign period" begins 60 days before the \_\_\_\_\_ election.
5. Legislators and legislative employees may not use public funds, facilities, equipment, services, or another government asset or resource for a \_\_\_\_\_ purpose.
8. A legislator or legislative employee may not solicit, agree to accept, or accept a benefit other than official \_\_\_\_\_ for the performance of public duties.
9. Sending a legislative newsletter expressly advocating the election or \_\_\_\_\_ of a candidate is prohibited.

# Disclosure Notes

## ***Wondering Whether to Accept that Gift of Travel?***

### **Consider the Legislative Purpose Test**

AS 24.60.080(c)(4) allows legislators and legislative employees to accept certain gifts of travel and hospitality with a value of \$250 or more **when the purpose is to obtain information related to legislative concerns**. This is one of the exceptions to the general gift restrictions in AS 24.60.080(a)(1).

#### **Before accepting a gift of travel, consider:**

- Will it help me perform my legislative duties?
- Will it inform my decision making in the future?
- Does the gift comply with the requirement to have a legislative purpose?
- Will attendance benefit the legislature?
- Might it appear to be a reward or inducement to influence my official actions?

When filing a gift of travel and hospitality disclosure to include:

- A one or two sentence statement explaining how the trip had a legislative purpose, and
- An agenda or similar documentation that supports the statement.

If the legislative purpose is not clear, you may be required to repay the donor the value of the gift.

Remember: **the appearance of impropriety matters**. As the Ethics Committee stated in Advisory Opinion 88-03, the committee has consistently taken a conservative approach, recognizing that avoiding the appearance of a conflict can be just as important as avoiding an actual conflict.

If you're still uncertain about accepting a gift of travel or hospitality, the Ethics Office is here to help.

Contact us at 907-269-0150 or [Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov](mailto:Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov) **before** you accept the gift.

## **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.**

## **Contact the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics**

#### **Mailing Address:**

PO Box 90251  
Anchorage, AK 99509-0251

#### **Physical Location:**

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1500 W Benson Blvd Suite 220  
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