

Alaska State Legislature

Select Committee on Legislative Ethics

716 W. 4th, Suite 230
Anchorage AK
(907) 269-0150
FAX: 269-0152

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 101468
Anchorage, AK.
99510 - 1468

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE COMPLAINT H 07-09

DETERMINATION OF PROBABLE CAUSE

The House Subcommittee hereby finds there is probable cause to believe that Representative John Harris violated the Ethics Code.

The House Subcommittee investigated allegations contained in complaint H 07-09 and determined that:

1. The House Subcommittee received a properly filed complaint against Representative John Harris dated September 28, 2007. The complaint fell within the two-year statute of limitations.
2. The complaint alleged the following:
 - That Representative John Harris issued a press release on September 19, 2007, "Speaker Calls on Ben Stevens to Resign National Committeeman Position," using government resources for involvement in or support of partisan political activity in violation of AS 24.60.030(a)(2).

SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION:

The House Subcommittee met on the following dates: September 28, 2007 and December 12, 2007.

- On September 28, 2007, the subcommittee adopted a Scope of Investigation focusing on AS 24.60.030(a)(2), prohibitions related to the use of public funds, facilities, equipment, services, or another government asset or resource for involvement in partisan political activity.

AS 24.60.030(a)(2) A legislator or legislative employee may not use public funds, facilities, equipment, services, or another government asset or resource for ... involvement in or support of or opposition to partisan political activity,;

The subcommittee reviewed and analyzed the following:

- AS 24.60.030(a)(2)
- Press release issued on September 19, 2007
- Letter from Representative Harris dated October 11, 2007
- Interview with Representative Harris on October 15, 2007

DETERMINATION OF PROBABLE CAUSE

The House Subcommittee finds the actions of Representative John Harris violated AS 24.60.030(a)(2) in that Representative Harris used state resources (staff, equipment and legislative letterhead), to prepare and issue a press release focused solely on partisan political activity.

RECOMMENDATION:

As a result of the complaint, Representative Harris has initiated office policy addressing statutory prohibitions on the use of state resources in relation to partisan political activity. In light of this action, the subcommittee determined no further corrective action was required.

Adopted this 12th day of December 2007
by a majority of the House Subcommittee

Signature redacted for privacy

Herman G. Walker, Jr., Chair

Members Participating

Herman G. Walker, Jr., Chair
Dennis "Skip" Cook
H. Conner Thomas
Gary J. Turner
Representative Bob Roses
Representative Berta Gardner