A photograph of the Wisconsin State Capitol building in Madison, Wisconsin. The building is a large, white, neoclassical structure with a prominent dome. It is surrounded by lush green trees, and the sky is a clear, bright blue. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY

Guidelines for  
Incumbents  
and Staff

APRIL 2016  
STATE CAPITOL  
MADISON, WISCONSIN

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# INTRODUCTION

In any election year, questions arise regarding election laws and policies and how they may affect the day-to-day operation of a Representative's office during a re-election campaign.

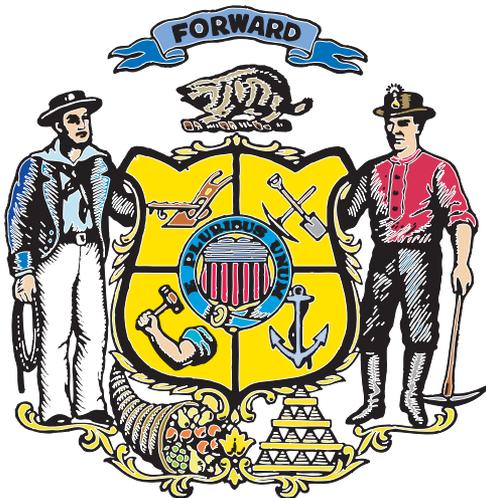
Wisconsin election laws are strict. It is important that incumbents, candidates and legislative employees alike are aware of the law.

One simple rule to remember: State offices and their supplies are not to be used for any campaign activity.

This manual includes JClo Rules, statutory references, and GAB and Ethics Board rulings to help guide legislative offices.

The purpose of this manual is to provide information in response to questions which incumbents up for re-election and their staff may have concerning Wisconsin's ethics and election laws.

Please be mindful that this past session, state law on campaign finance received its first major review in over 40 years. The new statute is being administered and implemented by the Government Accountability Board and, its successor, the Ethics Commission. As questions arise, do not hesitate to contact the Assembly Chief Clerk for additional guidance on any matters related to the laws and guidelines for staff and legislators during campaign season.



## **STATE EMPLOYEE ACTIVITY ON STATE TIME**

State law and Joint Committee on Legislative Organization policy prohibits employees and elected officials from conducting campaign activity on state time or using state resources. Legislative employees and elected officials may not use state-owned equipment, supplies, and resources to work on political campaigns. Additionally legislative employees and elected officials may not conduct campaign activity while working or on state time.

Wisconsin Statute 11.1207, and its predecessor, applies to state-owned office equipment as established by the Assembly policy. It has been interpreted to mean that no office equipment, such as computers, copy machines, fax machines, etc. may be used for personal business or political purposes.

In November 1977 the Assembly established a written policy clarifying that state equipment and supplies are strictly for conducting official state business, and are not to be used at all for political campaign activities.

General Rules:

1. Legislative employees may not engage in campaign activity in state offices or on state time or using state equipment or resources.
2. A legislator may not assign, authorize, or request an employee of the Legislature to engage in campaign activity to be performed while the employee is on state time, with the use of state resources or on state property.

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION PROHIBITION ON CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY**

On October 11, 2001, the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization adopted a motion establishing procedures relating to time reporting, campaign activities, employee protection and continuing education requirements.

JCLO policy states that “no staff member may engage in activities for private business or political purposes while on state time.”

Legislative employees are not to engage in campaign activity in state offices or on state time. In order to participate in campaign activities, a staff member must be outside the hours of employment claimed, on a “non-paid leave of absence” or use vacation time. Accumulated sick leave or accumulated comp time cannot be used to work on campaign activities.

If a legislative employee plans to use vacation time to conduct campaign activity the employee should notify the Chief Clerk prior to taking the vacation time and engaging in the campaign activity. The October 11, 2001 JCLO motion provides additional clarification on impermissible campaign activity and related matters. That policy is set out below:

#### Reporting Requirements

1. **Employees to submit reports:** Indicating the dates and hours the employee was engaged in employment for the Legislature and a statement attesting that the employee did not engage in campaign activities during the hours of employment claimed.
2. **Appointing authority to review and certify:** Countersigned, in the case of an employee appointed by the Chief Clerk, the Chief Clerk, in the case of an employee appointed by the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and in all other cases the appointing legislator certifying that the legislator, clerk, or sergeant did not assign campaign activity for any of the time claimed and that to the best of the appointing authority’s knowledge, information and belief the employee did not engage in campaign activity during the time claimed.
3. **Reports for compensated campaign activity:** Indicating the dates and hours the employee, apart from employment by the Legislature or either house thereof, was engaged in compensated campaign activity.

## Standards of Conduct

1. ***Campaign activity defined.*** The term “campaign activity” means activity that does not reasonably and primarily fulfill and raise from official duties and that contributes to, enhances, or furthers a person’s ability to run for, or chance of election or reelection to, public office. Illustrative activities include:
  - a. Arranging or assisting in arranging a campaign-related event or the raising of campaign contributions
  - b. Soliciting, receiving or acknowledging campaign contributions
  - c. Preparing or distributing television, radio, newspaper, or other forms of campaign advertisement
  - d. Preparing or designing campaign brochures, literature, nomination papers, or other campaign promotional materials
  - e. Distributing or arranging for the distribution of campaign materials
  - f. Directing, seeking or coordination of campaign volunteers
  - g. Preparing a campaign budget
  - h. Directing or participating in get-out-the vote drives
    - i. Creating, maintaining, editing, adding to, or deleting information from a list of a campaign contributors or supporters
    - j. Creating, maintaining, editing, adding to, or deleting information from a list or database of designed or intended for a campaign purpose
  - k. Preparing or coordinating polling operations for a campaign purpose
    - l. Transporting voters to pools or campaign rallies
  - m. Preparing campaign finance reports required by law
  - n. Directing or participating in candidate recruitment
  - o. Updating campaign websites and social media sites
2. A legislator or supervisor of legislative employees may not assign, authorize, or request an employee of the Legislature to engage in campaign activity to be performed while the employee is on State time, with the use of State resources or on state property. Employees who are asked to conduct campaign work during state time should report the incident immediately to the Assembly Chief Clerk.

3. An employee of the Legislature may not assign or authorize campaign activity to be performed on State time or in State offices. An employee of the Legislature may not use, or make available for use by another, State property or resources in connection with campaign activity except as the property or resources are normally available to anyone under similar circumstances. An employee of the Legislature may not engage in campaign activities during hours of employment claimed or while on any form of paid leave (including compensatory or "comp" time) other than vacation time and then only after having submitted to the Chief Clerk a request to use vacation time and a finding that the leave will not be contrary to the interest of that house or during regular hours of employment unless that employee has submitted to the Chief Clerk a request to work variant hours or for unpaid leave and a finding that such variant hours or unpaid leave will not be contrary to the interests of that house.

### Employee Protection

It shall be part of an employee's term of employment that no decision affecting an employee's continued employment, salary, benefits, or the terms, hours or other conditions of the individual's employment may be based, in any manner or to any degree on the employee's failure to participate in campaign activities or failing to make a political contribution.

### Continuing Education

Each house of the Legislature shall require the attendance of its employees at seminars conducted by the GAB on the standards of conduct and work rules:

1. In January of each odd-numbered year.
2. During the month of March or April of each even-numbered year.

Each house of the Legislature shall use its best efforts to provide resources to obtain the services of experts for faculty from a variety of entities, such as the GAB, University of Wisconsin, National Conference on State Legislatures, and individuals recognized as having special abilities or expertise to foster high standards of conduct for government officials and other employees. Each current employee shall attend a seminar with 12 months of adoption of this rule and each new employee will attend the first seminar offered after the commencement of his or her employment. Each employee shall thereafter attend a seminar at least once every four years. Alternative methods shall be developed for providing training on standards of conduct and work rules, to provide opportunities for attendance by those who may be unable to attend scheduled sessions. Failure to attend a seminar or use alternative training methods may result in withholding of compensation.

Violation of rule is prima facie evidence of violation of Wis. Stat. §19.45(5)

A legislator's or legislative employee's actions contrary to this Joint Committee on Legislative Organization's rule is prohibited and is an unlawful use of State resources.

## **CALENDARS, APPOINTMENTS AND PHONE CALLS – ETHICS BOARD GUIDANCE**

### **SCHEDULING NONGOVERNMENTAL EVENTS ON GOVERNMENT CALENDAR**

Wisconsin's Code of Ethics for State Public Officials and the Legislature's rules expressly forbid legislative staff to engage in campaign activities while they are on "state time". Those statutes and rules also limit legislative staff's engaging in other non-state business while on "state time".

## **MAKING APPOINTMENTS**

A legislator should not ask staff to, and staff should not, arrange a legislator's personal appointments, including campaign events. If legislative staff receives an inquiry about whether a legislator will attend a campaign event, staff may indicate whether the legislator has a conflicting engagement but should refer the requester to the legislator or to the legislator's campaign spokesperson or scheduler to confirm a date or attendance. If a staff member is also working on the legislator's campaign, the staff member may make campaign arrangements on a legislator's behalf only when the employee is not on state time, should not use a state office or a state telephone to arrange a legislator's attendance at a campaign event.

## **RECORDING APPOINTMENTS**

A legislator should not ask staff to, and staff should not, arrange. Because a legislator's staff has a legitimate need to know when the legislator is and is not available for state business, a legislator may inform staff of, and legislative staff may record, appointments on a office calendar, including a legislator's medical appointments, social engagements, family and civic activities and campaign events. A legislator may direct a representative of the legislator's campaign committee to convey information about scheduled campaign events directly to the legislator's legislative staff. Representatives of a legislator's campaign committee should not direct other campaign communications, apart from scheduling matters, to the capitol office.

## **PROVIDING CALENDAR INFORMATION**

To the extent that a legislator's calendar is a record available for inspection by any member of the public, staff may make the calendar available to the legislator's campaign in the same way that it makes the calendar or calendar information available to anyone who requests it. Staff should refer to the legislator or the legislator's campaign representative any request for information about a campaign event.

## **HANDLING TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS**

If a legislator is scheduled to attend an event that is not related to state business, a legislator should not ask legislative staff to, and staff should not, make travel arrangements. In the exceptional and infrequent circumstance that travel arrangements for a non-state business event must be changed because of exigent circumstances, and the legislator or campaign staff is not available, legislative staff may, as a personal courtesy, make changes to travel arrangements.

## **TAKING MESSAGES**

A legislator should not ask staff to, and staff should not, arrange. The best practice is for the campaign to call the legislator directly on the legislator's personal phone rather than to leave messages about campaign activities at a government office.

## **INCONSEQUENTIAL MATTERS**

In the past, the state Ethics Board/GAB stated it expects legislative employees to be guided by and adhere to the practices that this publication describes. The Board intends to rigorously enforce legislative employees' separation of government responsibilities and campaign activities. Without inviting or authorizing any departure from the courses of conduct recommended, the Ethics Board nevertheless recognizes that the law does not and should not address conduct that is of such small moment and so infrequent that a fair-minded person would say that the activity is inconsequential.

## **TELEPHONE CALLS**

The state will pay for all telephone calls made from a Representative's office to conduct official state business.

Telephone calls made from a Representative's office for personal reasons are to be paid by the individual making the call.

The Assembly Chief Clerk should be reimbursed for all personal telephone calls.

Along with the Assembly policy, the state Government Accountability Board (GAB) has ruled that phone calls made to a candidate's campaign headquarters may be charged to the state if the phone call arises due "to the official's performance of his or her public responsibilities."

According to the board, it does not matter to whom the telephone call was made. The factor that determines if a call may be billed to the state is whether or not the call was placed for state business. (GAB-1234)

***EXAMPLE: The Assembly staff places a call to the representative at the campaign headquarters concerning legislative affairs.***

***The state will pay for these calls.***

The GAB advises offices to maintain a log of calls made to campaign headquarters or other calls to possible campaign-related locations. Having such a record could help prevent any misunderstandings with the public and/or the media, or any inadvertent violations of state law.

## **LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTERS AND STATE PUBLICATIONS**

The publication and distribution of newsletters and state publications by legislators and their offices has been restricted by state statute, commonly known as the "50 Piece Rule". Distribution of 50 or more of substantially identical materials during certain time periods may violate state law.

Wis. Stat. §11.1205 states:

(1)(a) No person elected to state or local office who becomes a candidate for national, state, or local office may use public funds for the cost of materials or distribution for 50 or more pieces of substantially identical material distributed after:

1. In the case of a candidate who is nominated by nomination papers, the first day authorized by law for circulation of nomination papers as a candidate.
2. In the case of a candidate who is nominated at a primary election by write-in votes, the day the board of canvassers issues its determination that the person is nominated.
3. In the case of a candidate who is nominated at a caucus, the date of the caucus.
4. In the case of any other candidate who is nominated solely by filing a declaration of candidacy, the first day of the month preceding the month which includes the last day for filing the declaration.

(b) This subsection applies until after the date of the election or after the date of the primary election if the person appears as a candidate on a primary election ballot and is not nominated at the primary election.

(2) This section does not apply to use of public funds for the costs of the following:

- (a) Answers to communications of constituents.
- (b) Actions taken by a state or local government administrative officer pursuant to a specific law, ordinance or resolution which authorizes or directs the actions to be taken.
- (c) Communications between members of the legislature regarding the legislative or deliberative process while the legislature is in session.
- (d) Communications not exceeding 500 pieces by members of the legislature relating solely to the subject matter of a special session or extraordinary session, made during the period between the date that the session is called or scheduled and 14 days after adjournment of the session.

In other words, Representatives who are candidates for re-election or seeking another office may not send or distribute 50 or more substantially identical materials which are paid for by the state beginning the first day that nomination papers are allowed to be circulated, April 15 for fall elections, December 1 for spring elections.

## **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS AND POSTS**

Electronic copies of documents count as a single copy for the purpose of determining the total distributed. A copy of a document posted to a member's web page or a social media account is counted once in determining the 50 piece limit, while a document attached to an email is counted once for each individual to whom the email is sent.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSLETTERS**

Effective April 15 it is illegal for state Representatives up for election or their offices to send out 50 or more pieces of identical mail to constituents. A NOTE OF WARNING: Replies to solicited responses to request materials of 50 or more pieces are also prohibited during this time period. This means that a newsletter should not include an offer to constituents to reply and receive a map, Blue Book or any other printed material from the Representative's office after April 15.

## **PURCHASE OF MATERIALS FOR DISTRIBUTION**

It is against Assembly policy for offices to purchase materials for distribution effective the first day nomination papers may be circulated. This means offices cannot use office funds to purchase additional state highway maps, brochures, etc. for distribution.

## **LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTERS AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS**

It is against Assembly policy and in violation of previous GAB/Ethics Board rulings for an office to use campaign funds to pay for any of the costs toward a legislative newsletter.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS CARDS**

Business cards used by representatives must be distributed carefully. The Elections Boards has ruled that if the cards are distributed as part of a legislator's duties, the cards are not subject to statutory campaign finance identification requirements. However, legislators and staff must be mindful that the 50-piece limit applies during the time periods specified in s. 11.12015. Cards should not be distributed at random (such as at parades or at county fairs) to individuals "who are without normal cause to have business" with the legislator.

## **GUIDELINES REGARDING LEGISLATOR AND STAFF USE OF STATE-SUPPORTED WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

This guidance is provided by the Government Accountability Board in its October 11, 2012 letter to the Assembly Chief Clerk. It is designed to address frequently asked questions surrounding the use of state-supported websites and social media. The entire guidance document is available at:

[http://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/acc/media/1096/social\\_media.pdf](http://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/acc/media/1096/social_media.pdf)

### **GENERAL USE**

Legislators and their staff may use state resources to create, post information to, and maintain state-supported websites, herein referred to as legislator homepages, to communicate for legislative purposes. Each legislator is responsible for the content of his or her legislator homepage.

Legislators and their staff may use state resources to use social networking technology, such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, FourSquare, Google+, etc.; to communicate for legislative purposes.

Legislators and their staff may not use state resources to create, post information to, or maintain campaign or business websites.

Each substantially identical posting created with state resources to a legislator homepage or social networking website counts as one of the 50 pieces as specified in s. 11.1205, Wisconsin Statutes. However, messages sent directly to individuals using social networking technology count as one piece per recipient. The distinction is that with posts to a legislator homepage or social networking website individuals elect to visit the website or receive notices that the social networking systems themselves distribute. Thus, creating a post is like issuing a single press release to the media, which in turn may distribute it to any number of people. Whereas with direct messages, the sender has to select the recipients which is similar to sending email or postal mail.

Legislators and their staff may add links on their legislator homepages to any content or website used to communicate for legislative purposes, including links to their legislative social networking websites. However, legislator homepages must not contain links to websites containing campaign or business content.

## **USE OF LEGISLATIVE SOCIAL NETWORKING WEBSITES**

Legislators and their staff may use state resources to create, post information to, and maintain legislative social networking websites defined as social networking websites which exclusively contain material used to communicate for legislative purposes.

Each legislator is responsible for the content of his or her legislative social networking websites. If legislative social networking websites are used, the legislative office should either 1) prohibit others from posting material on them or 2) regularly review the websites to remove inappropriate material. This is no different than policing the materials on a state-paid bulletin board.

Legislators and their staff may add links on their legislative social networking websites to any content or website used to communicate for legislative purposes, except they should not contain links to websites containing campaign or business content.

## **USE OF MIXED-CONTENT SOCIAL NETWORKING WEBSITES**

Legislators and their staff may post content to websites that contain a mix of legislative, personal, business, and campaign materials, as long as they adhere to the following:

1. State resources should not be used to create the mixed-content websites,
2. Legislative staff may publish legislative content to mixed-content websites, while using state resources, as long as that legislative content is also distributed more broadly to the press and public,
3. Legislative staff may publish personal, business, or campaign material to mixed-content websites only on personal time and without using state resources, and
4. Legislators may post any type of content to any website at any time as long as they do not use state resources to post campaign or business content.

A State legislative website may not link to a personal, business or campaign website. In addition, although it is generally permissible for a personal, business or campaign website to link to a state legislative website, it should be clear that the state legislative website is unaffiliated to the personal, business or campaign website.

## **CAMPAIGN FINANCE – RELEVANT STATUTES**

On January 1, 2016, Wisconsin Act 117 took effect. Act 117 provided a complete rewrite of Wis. Stat. Chap. 11 to update state law to reflect recent court decisions and make other changes. This manual provides excerpts of relevant statutes, but was not designed to detail the intricacies of the campaign finance laws. However, this brief summary may be useful to avoid violations of state law. Be sure to check for updated guidance as the Ethics Commission promulgates administrative rules and provides formal and informal opinions.

## **POLITICAL SOLICITATION**

11.1207 Political solicitation involving public officials and employees restricted.

(1) (a) Except as provided in par. (b), no person may solicit or receive from any state officer or employee or from any officer or employee of the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority any contribution during established hours of employment or while the officer or employee is engaged in his or her official duties.

(b) Paragraph (a) does not apply to communications about a referendum.

(2) No person may solicit or receive from any officer or employee of a political subdivision of this state any contribution during established hours of employment or while the officer or employee is engaged in his or her official duties.

(3) Every person who has charge or control in a building, office, or room occupied for any purpose by this state, by any political subdivision thereof, or by the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority shall prohibit the entry of any person into that building, office, or room for the purpose of making or receiving a contribution.

(4) No person may enter or remain in any building, office, or room occupied for any purpose by the state, by any political subdivision thereof or by the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority or send or direct a letter or other notice thereto for the purpose of requesting or collecting a contribution.

(5) This section does not apply to a response by a legal custodian or subordinate of the custodian to a request to locate, reproduce, or inspect a record under s. 19.35 if the request is processed in the same manner as the custodian or subordinate responds to other requests to locate, reproduce, or inspect a record under s. 19.35.

## **LIMITATIONS ON CONTRIBUTIONS**

11.1101 Contribution limits. (Excerpts for state legislative offices)

- (1) Individual limits. An individual may contribute to a candidate committee no more than the following amounts specified for the candidate whose nomination or election the individual supports:

(c) Candidates for representative to the assembly, \$1,000...

- (2) Candidate committees. A candidate committee may contribute to another candidate committee no more than the following amounts specified for the candidate whose nomination or election the committee supports:

(c) Candidates for representative to the assembly, \$1,000...

- (3) Political action committees. A political action committee may contribute to a candidate committee no more than the following amounts specified for the candidate whose nomination or election the committee supports:

(f) Candidates for representative to the assembly, \$1,000...

- (4) Other persons. A person, other than a person subject to sub. (1), (2), or (3) or s. 11.1112, may contribute to a candidate committee no more than the following amounts specified for the candidate whose nomination or election the committee supports:

(f) Candidates for representative to the assembly, \$1,000...

## **EXCEPTIONS TO CONTRIBUTION LIMITS**

11.1104 Exceptions. Except as provided in subs. (3) (b) and (4) (b) and s. 11.1112, the following contributions may be made in unlimited amounts:

- (1) Contributions to a political action committee.
- (2) Contributions transferred between political action committees.

- (3) (a) Except as provided in par. (b), contributions to a legislative campaign committee.  
  
(b) A political action committee or a person subject to the limits under s. 11.1101 (4) may contribute no more than \$12,000 in any calendar year to a legislative campaign committee.
- (4) (a) Except as provided in par. (b), contributions to a political party.  
  
(b) A political action committee or a person subject to the limits under s. 11.1101 (4) may contribute no more than \$12,000 in any calendar year to a political party.
- (5) Contributions made by a political party or legislative campaign committee to a candidate committee.
- (6) Contributions paid to a segregated fund established and administered by a political party or legislative campaign committee for purposes other than making contributions to a candidate committee or making disbursements for express advocacy, except that a political action committee or a person subject to s. 11.1101 (4) may contribute no more than \$12,000 in any calendar year to such a fund.
- (7) Contributions that a candidate makes to his or her candidate committee from the candidate's personal funds or property or the personal funds or property that are owned jointly or as marital property with the candidate's spouse.
- (8) Contributions transferred between the candidates for governor and lieutenant governor of the same political party.
- (9) Contributions used to pay legal fees and other expenses incurred as a result of a recount under s. 9.01.
- (10) Contributions used to pay legal fees and other expenses incurred in connection with or in response to circulating, offering to file, or filing a petition to recall an office holder prior to the time that a recall primary or election is ordered, or after that time if incurred to contest or defend the order.

- (11) Contributions to a recall committee.
- (12) Contributions to a referendum committee.
- (13) Contributions to an independent expenditure committee.

## **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

11.1103 Applicable periods.

- (1) For an individual who is a candidate for an office that the individual holds, the limits under s. 11.1101 (1) to (3) apply during the term of that office.

11.1107 Limitation on cash contributions. Every contribution of money exceeding \$100 shall be made by negotiable instrument or evidenced by an itemized credit card receipt bearing on the face the name of the remitter. No committee required to report under this chapter may accept a contribution made in violation of this section. The committee shall promptly return the contribution, or donate it to the common school fund or to a charitable organization in the event that the donor cannot be identified.

## **LOBBYIST CONTRIBUTIONS**

13.625 Prohibited practices.

13.625 (1m)

(b) A lobbyist may make a personal contribution to a partisan elective state official or candidate for partisan elective state office or to the candidate committee of the official or candidate between the first day authorized by law for the circulation of nomination papers as a candidate at a general election or special election and the day of the general election or special election, except that:

1. A contribution to a candidate for legislative office may be made during that period only if the legislature has concluded its final floorperiod, and is not in special or extraordinary session.
2. A contribution by a lobbyist to the lobbyist's candidate committee for partisan elective state office may be made at any time.

## **CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING DURING BIENNIAL BUDGET PROCESS**

The Committee on Assembly Organization approved on February 14, 2013, a policy change that members of the Assembly and their personal campaign committees, cannot:

Soliciting or knowingly accepting any contribution in Dane County for the purpose of promoting the member's nomination or re-election to the state Assembly during the period beginning on the day the biennial budget bill is introduced and ending on the date the biennial budget bill is presented to the Governor. This prohibition does not apply to a fund-raising social event of a current member of the assembly who represents a district that contains part of Dane County.

It is recognized that under the limited circumstance of a member running as a publicly declared candidate for an elective office other than state Assembly, soliciting and accepting campaign contributions during the budget period in Dane County is not contrary to the foregoing policy and that a member in this circumstance may solicit and accept campaign contributions for offices other than state Assembly during the budget period.

### **ASSEMBLY RULE 98. CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE ACTIVITY**

2001 Assembly Resolution 3 created Assembly Rule 98, which provides additional limitations on campaign committee activity:

- (1) A member may not schedule, hold, attend, or contribute money for or at a fund-raising social event in Dane County during a floor period of the legislature or during a special or extraordinary session if the event is for a member; is sponsored by the member's personal campaign committee, as defined in section 11.01 of the statutes (now section 11.0101); or is sponsored by a legislative campaign committee, as defined in section 11.01 of the statutes (now 11.0101).

- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a fund-raising social event of a legislative campaign committee held during the period between the first day authorized for filing nomination papers for any special election to the assembly and the date of the special election.
- (3) Subsection (1) does not apply to a fund-raising social event of a current member of the assembly or his or her personal campaign committee held during the period between the first day authorized for filing nomination papers for any office for which the current member of the assembly is a candidate and the date of the election for that office, if the event is held within the boundaries of the jurisdiction or district served by the office for which the current member of the assembly is a candidate.
- (4) Subsection (1) does not apply to a fund-raising social event of a current member of the assembly or his or her personal campaign committee held during the period between the first day authorized for filing nomination papers for any office, other than representative to the assembly, for which the current member of the assembly is a candidate and the date of the election for that other office.
- (5) Subsection (1) does not apply to a fund-raising social event of a current member of the assembly who represents a district that contains part of Dane County, or his or her personal campaign committee, if:
  - (a) The event is held within the boundaries of the jurisdiction or district represented by the current member of the assembly;
  - (b) The event is held during a special or extraordinary session; and
  - (c) The invitations to attend the event are sent before the special or extraordinary session is called.

# **TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS**

## **IN-DISTRICT TRAVEL**

Assembly policy provides: “Representatives may be reimbursed actual and necessary expenses for representing this state in their district or within any county which may be a part of their district.”

No Representative may be reimbursed under this policy for expenses on any day for which a claim is made for per diem under s. 13.123(1).

A Representative may not be reimbursed for in-district travel after the date a candidate may circulate nomination papers for the office to which a Representative may be seeking election or re-election.

## **STAFF TRAVEL – CAMPAIGN SEASON**

Staff travel reimbursement for mileage will not be allowed after the first day authorized by law for circulation of nomination papers as a candidate for legislative office. This will be in effect until after the November election of that year.

## **LAME DUCK LEGISLATOR OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL**

State law limits out-of-state travel for legislators retiring from the legislature. A legislator choosing not to seek re-election, may not be reimbursed for out-of-state travel after the September primary.

A legislator defeated in the primary election may not be reimbursed for out-of-state travel after the September primary. A legislator defeated in the general election may not be reimbursed for out-of-state travel after the general election s. 13.123(3)(b)1(a)(b).

# APPENDIX I – OTHER RELEVANT STATUTES

11.1112 Corporations, cooperative and tribes.

No foreign or domestic corporation, no association organized under ch 185 or 193, no labor organization, and no federally recognized American Indian Tribe may make a contribution to a committee, other than an independent expenditure committee or referendum committee, but may make a contribution to a segregated fund as provided under s. 11.1104(6) in amounts not to exceed \$12,000 in the aggregate in a calendar year.

12.11 Election bribery.

12.11 (1) In this section, “anything of value” includes any amount of money, or any object which has utility independent of any political message it contains and the value of which exceeds \$1.

The prohibitions of this section apply to the distribution of material printed at public expense and available for free distribution if such materials are accompanied by a political message.

12.11 (1m) Any person who does any of the following violates this chapter:

- (a) Offer, gives, lends or promises to give or lend, or endeavors to procure, anything of value, or any office or employment or any privilege or immunity to, or for, any elector, or to or for any other person, in order to induce any elector to:
  1. Go to or refrain from going to the polls.
  2. Vote or refrain from voting.
  3. Vote or refrain from voting for or against a particular person.
  4. Vote or refrain from voting for or against a particular referendum; or on account of any elector having done any of the above.

- (b) Receives, agrees or contracts to receive or accept any money, gift, loan, valuable consideration, office or employment personally or for any other person, in consideration that the person or any elector will, so act or has so acted.
  - (c) Advances, pays or causes to be paid any money to or for the use of any person with the intent that such money or any part thereof will be used to bribe electors at any election.
- (2) This section applies to any convention or meeting held for the purpose of nominating any candidate for any election, and to the signing of any nomination paper.
- (3) (a) This section does not prohibit a candidate from publicly state his or her preference for or support of any other candidate for any office to be voted for at the same election. A candidate for an office in which the person elected is charged with the duty of participating in the election or nomination of any person as a candidate for office is not prohibited from publicly stating or pledging his or her preference for or support of any person for such office or nomination.
- (b) This section does not apply to money paid or agreed to be paid for or on account of authorized legal expenses which were legitimately incurred at or concerning any election.
  - (d) This section does not prohibit any person from using his or her own vehicle to transport electors to or from the polls with charge.
  - (e) This section does not apply to any promise by a candidate to reduce public expenditures or taxes.

***History: 1973 c. 334; 1975 c. 93; 1983 a. 484; 1991 a. 316; 1993 a. 213.***

***There are constitutional limits on the state's power to prohibit candidates from making promises in the course of an election campaign. Some promises are universally acknowledged as legitimate, indeed indispensable to decision making in a democracy. Brown v. Harlage, 456 U.S. 45 (1982).***

13.625 Prohibited Practices.

13.625 (1) No lobbyist may:

- (a) Instigate legislative or administrative action for the purpose of obtaining employment in support or opposition thereto.
- (b) ) Give to any agency official or legislative employee of the state or to any elective state official or candidate for an elective state office, or to the candidate committee of the official, employee, or candidate:
  - 1. Lodging.
  - 2. Transportation.
  - 3. Food, meals, beverages, money or any other thing of pecuniary value, except that a lobbyist may deliver a contribution or make a personal contribution to a partisan elective state official or candidate for national, state or local office or to the candidate committee of the official or candidate; but a lobbyist may make a personal contribution to which sub. (1m) applies only as authorized in sub. (1m)
- (d) ) Contract to receive or receive compensation dependent in any manner upon the success or failure of any legislative or administrative action.

(1m)

- (a) Except as provided in par. (b), a lobbyist may not do any of the following:
1. Make a personal contribution to a partisan elective state office for the purpose of promoting the official's election to any national, state, or local office.
  2. Make a personal contribution to a candidate for a partisan elective state office to be filled at the general election or a special election.
  3. Make a personal contribution to the candidate committee of a partisan elective state official or candidate for partisan state elective office.
- (b) A lobbyist may make a personal contribution to a partisan elective state official or candidate for partisan elective state office or to the candidate committee of the official or candidate between the first day authorized by law for the circulation of nomination papers as a candidate at a general election or special election and the day of the general election or special election, except that:
1. A contribution to a candidate for legislative office may be made during that period only if the legislature has concluded its final floor period, and is not in special or extraordinary session.
  2. A contribution by a lobbyist to the lobbyist's candidate committee for partisan elective state office may be made at any time.

(2) No principal may engage in the practices prohibited under subs. (1) (b) and (1m). This subsection does not apply to the furnishing of transportation, lodging, food, meals beverages, or any other thing of pecuniary value which is also made available to the general public.

(3) No candidate for an elective state office, elective state official, agency official, or legislative employee of the state may solicit or accept anything of pecuniary value from a lobbyist or principal, except as permitted under subs. (1)(b) 3., (1m), (2), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8) and (9). No candidate committee of a candidate for state office may accept anything or pecuniary value from a lobbyist or principal, except as permitted for such a candidate under subs. (1)(b)3., (1m), (2), and (6).

# NOTES



**PATRICK E. FULLER**  
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