



Perks of Office Restrictions on Gifts

The Basic Rule

A public servant or candidate for City Office may not accept a gift when it is reasonably foreseeable that the public servant or candidate could be influenced by the gift in the performance of an official act.

Local Restrictions

A public servant or candidate for City Office who is required to file a statement of economic interests [Form 700] may not accept more than \$250 in reportable gifts from the same source within the same calendar year.

Reporting Requirements

- Gifts from the same source that have an aggregate value of **\$50 or more** are reportable on your Statement of Economic Interests [Form 700], which must be filed before April 1 of each year.
- The reportable value of a gift is generally equal to its **fair market or face value**. If the fair market value of a gift cannot be readily determined, the official must make a reasonable approximation, taking into account the price of similar items.

Restricted Source

A public servant may not solicit or accept any gift or loan valued at more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) cumulatively in a calendar year from a person who the public servant knows or has reason to know is a restricted source .

A restricted source is defined as:

- A person doing business with or seeking to do business with the department of the public servant
- A person who during the prior twelve (12) months knowingly attempted to influence the public servant in any legislative or administrative action.

Under the law, there are a variety of items that are not considered gifts. These include, for example, gifts from family members, certain informational material, and personalized plaques and trophies worth less than \$250. Also, items that are returned (unused) to the donor within 30 days of receipt or donated (unused) to a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, are not considered reportable gifts.

Contact the Public Ethics Commission for advice and assistance in complying with the law.