

State of Wisconsin \ Government Accountability Board

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JUDGE TIMOTHY L. VOCKE
Chairperson

KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY, 2013
TO: WISCONSIN LICENSED LOBBYISTS
FROM: GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD
SUBJECT: CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Licensed lobbyists are restricted from giving campaign contributions by *Wis. Stats. §13.265(1)(b)*. However, certain exceptions to this prohibition may apply.

A brief overview:

- 1) Contributions to either candidates for state partisan office or state partisan officeholders running for any office are NOT ACCEPTABLE, unless:
 - a. It is between June 1st and the date of the November general election in the year the candidate is up for election.
 - b. AND the legislature is not in special or extraordinary session.
- 2) Contributions to non-candidate committees (PACs and party committees, legislative campaign committees, independent expenditure committees) are acceptable at any time.
- 3) If the lobbyist is a candidate, contributions to his or her own campaign are acceptable at any time.
- 4) If the lobbyist is a member of the same household or a relative of the candidate (parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother, sister, parent-in-law, grandparent-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, spouse, or fiancé/e), contributions to that candidate's campaign are acceptable at any time. (*Wis. Stats. §13.265(6)*).

If a candidate holds a local or non-partisan state office, and runs for a state-level partisan office, or holds a state-level partisan office and runs for a local, national, or non-partisan state office, the limitation on contributions from lobbyists applies.

*The Government Accountability Board will be mailing letters during the week of May 20th, 2013 to lobbyists who appear to have made questionable 2012 campaign contributions. If you receive a letter and have questions for our staff, please call 608-261-2028.