

Wisconsin Ethics Commission

Tickets And Access To Skyboxes And Other Premium Areas

1. *For state and local government officials*

Neither a state public official nor a local public official should accept or purchase a ticket or admission to an event or access to a loge, skybox, or other premium area unless the official can clearly and convincingly demonstrate that:

- The transaction is not prohibited under sections 2, 3, or 4 below; AND
- The ticket, admission, or access cannot reasonably be expected to influence the official's vote, official actions or judgment, and can not reasonably be considered as a reward for any official action or inaction on the part of the official; AND EITHER
- The ticket, admission, or access is offered for a reason unrelated to the official's holding or having held a public office; OR
- The ticket, admission, or access is available to the general public on the same terms and conditions. [§§19.45(2); 19.59(1)(a)]

2. *Additional restriction in situation involving a state official and an organization that employs a lobbyist*

An organization that employs a lobbyist should not give, furnish, or even sell, or arrange for another to give, furnish, or sell to an elected state official, legislative employee, candidate for state office, or agency official a ticket or admission to an event or access to a loge, skybox, or other premium area unless the ticket, admission, or access is available to the general public on the same terms and conditions. [§13.625(2)]

An elected state official, legislative employee, candidate for state office, or agency official should not accept or even purchase from an organization that employs a lobbyist a ticket or admission to an event or access to a loge, skybox, or other premium area unless the ticket, admission, or access is available to the general public on the same terms and conditions. [§13.625(3)]

3. *Additional restriction in situation involving a state official and a lobbyist*

A lobbyist should not give, furnish, or even sell, or arrange for another to give, furnish, or sell to an elected state official, legislative employee, candidate for state office, or agency official a ticket, or admission to an event or access to a loge, skybox, or other premium area. [§13.625(1)(b)]

An elected state official, legislative employee, candidate for state office, or agency official should not accept or even purchase from a lobbyist a ticket or admission to an event or access to a loge, skybox, or other premium area. [§13.625(3)]

4. *Additional restriction for University of Wisconsin System athletic events*

A complimentary or reduced price ticket must be permitted by rules of intercollegiate athletic conferences of the institution participating in the event and approved by the chancellor.[§36.39]

This is a guide. For authoritative information consult Wisconsin Statutes.

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Website: <http://ethics.wi.gov> Revised 10/16. Visit the Commission's website to ensure you have the most current version of this Guideline.

ETH-1220

Limited exceptions to the preceding restrictions

Substantive or ceremonial governmental responsibilities. An individual or organization may provide admission to or accommodation at an event and a state or local public official may attend an event without payment or on terms not available to the general public to the extent that the official's participation in the event is clearly and convincingly for the benefit primarily of the state or a local government as demonstrated by the official's furtherance of a substantial, well-articulated governmental purpose or prominent, public ceremonial activity appropriate to the official's government office and any private benefit is merely incidental to the government purpose. [§19.56(3)(c)]

Ticket of no pecuniary value. In the unusual circumstance in which a ticket, admission, or access is without pecuniary value, a government official may accept it and a lobbyist and an organization that employs a lobbyist may furnish it.

Restriction concerning admission to certain stadiums

An individual serving in one of the following positions should not accept a discount (including a discount on the use of a skybox or private luxury box) on the price of admission or parking charged to members of the general public at Miller Park in Milwaukee or Lambeau Field in Green Bay: for the United States, the offices of president, vice president, senator, and representative in Congress; for the state of Wisconsin, the offices of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, attorney general, justice of the supreme court, court of appeals judge, circuit court judge, state senator, state representative to the Assembly, and district attorney; for Wisconsin's local governments, any elected office.* [§19.451]

Reporting receipt of ticket or admission

An official, when filing a Statement of Economic Interests with the Wisconsin Ethics Commission, must identify in the Statement each organization or individual (other than a family member) that gave the official a ticket or admission valued at more than \$50 during the prior year. Unless the official returned the ticket or admission unused to the donor, the official should identify the donor on the Statement even if the official has redirected the ticket or admission to another person, organization, or office or agency or has applied it to the benefit of the state or a local government.

* This restraint applies to any professional sports stadium exempt from general property taxes under §70.11(36), *Wisconsin Statutes*.