



Wisconsin Ethics Commission

Campaign Finance | Lobbying | Ethics
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DATE: May 14, 2020

TO: Lobbyists, Candidate Committees, and Members of the Public

FROM: Wisconsin Ethics Commission

SUBJECT: Lobbyist Personal Contributions to Candidates for Partisan Office
“Allowable Contribution Window”

Yesterday, May 13, 2020, the Legislature concluded its final floor period of the 2019-20 Legislative Session, pursuant to [2019 Senate Joint Resolution 1](#).

[WIS. STAT. § 13.625\(1m\)\(b\)](#) states:

Prohibited Practices

(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 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.*

Therefore, lobbyists are now permitted to make personal contributions to candidates for legislative and candidates for all other partisan offices. The “window” will close on November 3, 2020.

Please note that, if the Legislature convenes for a special or extraordinary session between now and the General Election, the “window” will close during that special or extraordinary session. Lobbyists would not be permitted to make personal contributions to candidates for legislative office for the duration of the special or extraordinary session. The Ethics Commission will send notification as soon as we are aware that a special or extraordinary session has been called.

Lobbyists and candidate committees should take special care to ensure that all contributions are sent and reported received in a timely manner so that campaign reports are as accurate as possible.

For questions, please contact the Ethics Commission.

Sincerely,

Wisconsin Ethics Commission