



Wisconsin Ethics Commission

Campaign Finance | Lobbying | Ethics
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DATE: August 27, 2020

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

FROM: Wisconsin Ethics Commission

SUBJECT: Closure of “Window” for Personal Contributions by Lobbyists to Candidates for Legislative Office

On August 24, 2020, Governor Evers issued [Executive Order #84](#) convening a Special Session of the Wisconsin Legislature at 12:00 p.m. on August 31, 2020.

[WIS. STAT. § 13.625\(1m\)\(b\)](#) provides in relevant part:

13.625 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 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.*

Pursuant to [WIS. STAT. § 13.625\(1m\)\(b\)1.](#), lobbyists are not permitted to make personal contributions to candidates for legislative office while the Legislature is in special session. Therefore, the window for personal contributions from lobbyists closes at 12:00 p.m. on August 31, 2020. The window will remain closed until the Special Session is adjourned. Prohibited contributions during this period include lobbyists directly giving personal contributions to the candidate and personal contributions made through a conduit. Once the Special Session is adjourned, the Ethics Commission will send notification that the “window” has reopened.

Lobbyists and conduits should take special care not to make or deliver lobbyists’ personal contributions to candidates while the window is closed. Additionally, candidate committees should take special care to not accept such contributions while the window is closed.

If you have any questions, please contact the Ethics Commission.