	Informal Opinions Approved in Calendar Year July 2026 - September 30, 2026*
	***Per Administrative Rule 340-X-1-.04, informal opinions are confidential. What follows is a basic summary of the most frequently asked questions and the general answers given. This summary is not to be relied upon or to be a summary of every informal we have given. Many informals we give are on the same issue and many requests involve issues under another agency's jurisdiction to which we refer the requestor.**
	Total Informal Opinions - 217
	Topic Summary
1.	The Revolving Door provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit former public employees from entering into contracts with their former public employer under certain circumstances.
2.	The "Revolving Door" provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit a former public employee from accepting employment with a business where they did not participate in the direct regulation, audit, or investigation of that business.
3.	A public employee may not interact with a business with which they are associated on behalf of their public employer and vice versa, and they may not use their position to benefit a business with which they are associated.
4.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from campaigning for a position as a public official or serving as a public official provided they conduct all activities related to their campaign on their own time and do not otherwise use their position, including any public equipment, facilities, time, materials, human labor, or other public property under their discretion or control, to benefit themselves or their campaign. Should they be elected, they may also not use their position on the school board to benefit themselves in their position with the city and vice-versa.
5.	A public employee may not interact with a business with which they are associated on behalf of their public employer and vice versa, and they may not use their position to benefit a business with which they are associated.
6.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from serving as a public official provided they conduct all activities related to their campaign on their own time and do not otherwise use their position, including any public equipment, facilities, time, materials, human labor, or other public property under their discretion or control, to benefit themselves or their campaign. They may also not use their position on the school board to benefit themselves in their position with the city and vice-versa.
7.	The FCPA only permits campaign funds to be used for certain purposes.
8.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.

9.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.
10.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official's business from delivering product to a private business working on a project for a public entity.
11.	There is nothing in the Ethics Act or Fair Campaign Practices Act that prohibits you from referencing God in political fliers.
12.	The Revolving Door provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit public employees from returning to their public employer after retirement.
13.	The Revolving Door provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit public employees from returning to their public employer.
14.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from receiving a gift from a person who is not a lobbyist or principal provided the gift is not received for the purpose of corruptly influencing an official action.
15.	The Revolving Door provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit former public employees from entering into contracts with their former public employer under certain circumstances.
16.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from serving in another office, but there may be restrictions outside of the Ethics Act that could be applicable.
17.	Employees of private corporations are not considered public employees as a result of the private corporation’s receipt of a grant or funding from the state or local government.
18.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from serving as a public official provided they conduct all activities related to their campaign on their own time and do not otherwise use their position, including any public equipment, facilities, time, materials, human labor, or other public property under their discretion or control, to benefit themselves or their campaign.
19.	A current public employee may hire a former public employee to work for them provided the former employee did not personally participate in the direct regulation, audit, or investigation of the business owned by the current public employee while in public service.
20.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from campaigning for a position as a public official or serving as a public official under certain circumstances.
21.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from receiving a gift from a person who is not a lobbyist or principal provided the gift is not received for the purpose of corruptly influencing an official action.
22.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from accepting employment with a private entity if they did not regulate, audit, or investigate that business.
23.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from secondary employment under certain circumstances.

24.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit an individual from being appointed to a public office when their family member works for a law firm that represents a public entity.
25.	Public employees are permitted to donate funds or needed items to their employer or task force of which they are a member.
26.	The Revolving Door provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit former public employees from entering into contracts with their former public employer under certain circumstances.
27.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from receiving a gift from a person who is not a lobbyist or principal provided the gift is not received for the purpose of corruptly influencing an official action.
28.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from serving in another office, but there may be restrictions outside of the Ethics Act that could be applicable.
29.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from voting or participating in a matter under certain circumstances.
30.	Advisory Opinion No. 2016-34 provides guidance for teachers and other public employees receiving gifts.
31.	Candidates may accept, solicit, or receive contributions for a period of 12 months before an election in which the person intends to be a candidate, including primary, special, and general elections.
32.	A legislator may direct discretionary funds to a scholarship board they are a member of provided neither the legislator nor a family member are a recipient of a scholarship award or compensated by the board awarded the discretionary funds.
33.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.
34.	The "Revolving Door" provisions of the Ethics Act prohibit a former public employee from engaging in certain activities until two years after they leave their public position.
35.	Provided there is a lawful employment agreement, regulated by agency policy, that a public employee may use public property under their discretion or control in a way that would materially affect their financial interest, the Ethics Act does not prohibit such use. The question should also be directed to the Department of Public Examiners for prohibitions outside the Ethics Act.
36.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public entity from selling items for a fundraiser for the public entity.
37.	The Ethics Act prohibits public employees from using their position for personal gain.
38.	Hospitality, meals, and other food and beverages may be provided to public officials and employees and their spouses at a widely attended event.
39.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from providing professional services that do not constitute lobbying.
40.	The "Revolving Door" provisions of the Ethics Act prohibit a former public employee from accepting employment with a business they have not regulated, audited, or investigated.

41.	There is nothing in the Ethics Act or the Fair Campaign Practices Act that prohibits a mayor from soliciting campaign contributions from businesses within or outside the city during the election cycle provided the mayor complies with the general rules governing the solicitation of campaign contributions
42.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from receiving a gift from a person who is not a lobbyist or principal provided the gift is not received for the purpose of corruptly influencing an official action.
43.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from supporting their family member's campaign for public office provided they do not solicit subordinates to work on the campaign or otherwise use public equipment, facilities, time, materials, human labor, or other public property under their discretion or control to benefit the campaign, and they adhere to the restrictions regarding the solicitation of campaign contributions per Ala. Code § 17-5-7. See Ethics Advisory Opinion No. 2016-28.
44.	The "Revolving Door" provisions of the Ethics Act prohibit a former public employee from accepting employment with a private entity under certain circumstances.
45.	The "Revolving Door" provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit a public entity from contracting with the former private employer of a public employee.
46.	Complainants are not subject to the grand jury secrecy restrictions of the Ethics Act.
47.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit an advertisement of an event being sent by a public employee to their professional contacts, including public employees, public agencies, principals, and lobbyists provided the email contains a disclaimer that nothing is being solicited from a lobbyist and neither the employee, their family member nor an associated business will benefit from the event advertised.
48.	The "Revolving Door" provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit a former public employee from returning to their public employer.
49.	A public official may not receive personal gain for work performed for the board they serve if they solicited that work. A family member of a public employee may perform work for the public employee's agency provided the family member did not solicit the work.
50.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from receiving a gift from a person who is not a lobbyist or principal provided the gift is not received for the purpose of corruptly influencing an official action.
51.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from campaigning for a position as a public official or serving as a public official conduct all activities related to their campaign on their own time and do not otherwise use public equipment, facilities, time, materials, human labor, or other public property under their discretion or control to benefit themselves or their campaign.
52.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from secondary employment under certain circumstances.
53.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.
54.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.

55.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from receiving a gift from a person who is not a lobbyist or principal provided the gift is not received for the purpose of corruptly influencing an official action.
56.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from receiving a gift from a person who is not a lobbyist or principal provided the gift is not received for the purpose of corruptly influencing an official action.
57.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from receiving a gift from a person who is not a lobbyist or principal provided the gift is not received for the purpose of corruptly influencing an official action.
58.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from receiving a gift from a person who is not a lobbyist or principal provided the gift is not received for the purpose of corruptly influencing an official action.
59.	The Ethics Act requires public officials and public employees to disclose contracts that their associated businesses enter into which are to be paid in whole or in part with state, county, or municipal funds.
60.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from serving as a public official provided they conduct all activities related to their campaign on their own time and do not otherwise use their position, including any public equipment, facilities, time, materials, human labor, or other public property under their discretion or control, to benefit themselves or their campaign. They may also not use their position on the school board to benefit themselves in their position with the city and vice-versa.
61.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.
62.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from voting on issues relating to their public employer provided you will not uniquely benefit from the issue
63.	Candidates may accept, solicit, or receive contributions for a period of 12 months before an election in which the person intends to be a candidate, including primary, special, and general elections.
64.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from receiving a gift from a person who is not a lobbyist or principal provided the gift is not received for the purpose of corruptly influencing an official action.
65.	The "Revolving Door" provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit a former public employee from returning to their public employer.
66.	A public employee may serve on the board of a non-profit organization that receives funding from their public employer provided the public employee is not compensated for their services on that board and will not otherwise personally benefit.
67.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from receiving a gift from a person who is not a lobbyist or principal provided the gift is not received for the purpose of corruptly influencing an official action.
68.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from campaigning for a position as a public official or serving as a public official conduct all activities related to their campaign on their own time and do not otherwise use public equipment, facilities, time, materials, human labor, or other public property under their discretion or control to benefit themselves or their campaign.

69.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.
70.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from voting or participating in a matter under certain circumstances.
71.	The "Revolving Door" provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit a former public official from applying to work at their former public agency.
72.	The "Revolving Door" provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit a former public official from applying to work at their former public agency.
73.	An agency may implement a lawful employment agreement regulated by agency policy that permits the use of equipment, facilities, time, materials, or other public property under their discretion or control consistent with AO 2018-08.
74.	There is nothing in the Ethics Act that would prohibit the school from purchasing a gift card for the outgoing PTO president.
75.	A public employee may volunteer to lead a webinar provided they did not use their position for personal gain and were not corruptly influenced.
76.	The Revolving Door provisions of the Ethics Act prohibit former public employees from representing their private employer before their previous public agency. It does not prohibit a former public employee from providing professional services on behalf of their previous agency.
77.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.
78.	The FCPA only permits campaign funds to be used for certain purposes.
79.	The "Revolving Door" provisions of the Ethics Act prohibit a former public employee from representing a private employer before their previous public agency until two years after they leave their public position.
80.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.
81.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from campaigning for a position as a public official or serving as a public official provided they conduct all activities related to their campaign on their own time and do not otherwise use their position, including any public equipment, facilities, time, materials, human labor, or other public property under their discretion or control, to benefit themselves or their campaign. Should they be elected, they may also not use their position on the school board to benefit themselves in their position with the city and vice-versa.
82.	The "Revolving Door" provisions of the Ethics Act prohibit a former public employee from engaging in certain activities until two years after they leave their public position.
83.	A former public employee may not act as an attorney or otherwise aid, counsel, advise, consult or assist in representing another person in connection with any judicial proceeding in which the state is a party in which the former public employee participated personally and substantially.
84.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.

85.	The "Revolving Door" provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit a former public employee from accepting employment with a business they did not regulate, audit, or investigate.
86.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from requesting reimbursement for their legal expenses.
87.	The Ethics Act prohibits a public official from voting or participating in a matter under certain circumstances.
88.	The "Revolving Door" provisions of the Ethics Act prohibit a former public employee from engaging in certain activities until two years after they leave their public position.
89.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.
90.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.
91.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.
92.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit an individual from serving as a public official provided they do not use their position to benefit a business with which they are associated.
93.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.
94.	The FCPA permits campaign funds to be used for purposes reasonably related to performing the duties of the position held.
95.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit an individual from serving as a public official while receiving a pension from their former position as a public employee.
96.	The FCPA permits campaign funds to be used for purposes reasonably related to performing the duties of the position held.
97.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.
98.	Employees of a 501(c)(3) are not public employees.
99.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.
100.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.
101.	Neither the Ethics Act nor the FCPA prohibit high school students from volunteering to support a campaign.
102.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from voting to appoint someone who is not a family member of the public official.
103.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.
104.	The FCPA permits campaign funds to be used for purposes reasonably related to performing the duties of the position held.
105.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.

106.	A public employee may volunteer to speak to other public employees provided the speech is on their own time and they did not use their position for personal gain because they are not compensated.
107.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from serving as a public official provided they conduct all activities related to their campaign on their own time and do not otherwise use their position, including any public equipment, facilities, time, materials, human labor, or other public property under their discretion or control, to benefit themselves or their campaign. They may also not use their position on the school board to benefit themselves in their position with the city and vice-versa.
108.	The exceptions to the definition of a thing of value are recognized as a "safe harbor" for things provided to public officials and employees by those individuals or businesses that are not principals, lobbyists, or subordinates of lobbyists provided the things provided are not intended to corruptly influence official action.
109.	A legislator may direct discretionary funds to a scholarship board they are a member of provided neither the legislator nor a family member are a recipient of a scholarship award or compensated by the board awarded the discretionary funds.
110.	Lobbyists and principals can provide public officials with the following at an economic development function: Payment of or reimbursement for actual and necessary transportation and lodging expenses to facilitate a public official's or public employee's participation in an economic development function.
111.	The "Revolving Door" provisions of the Ethics Act prohibit a former public employee from representing clients or their private employer before their former agency for two years.
112.	A public employee who held a position of authority may seek re-employment with the governmental agency that previously employed them provided they did not create the position for themselves or otherwise use their former public position for personal gain.
113.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.
114.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from serving in another office, but there may be restrictions outside of the Ethics Act that could be applicable.
115.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from serving as a public official provided they conduct all activities related to their campaign on their own time and do not otherwise use their position, including any public equipment, facilities, time, materials, human labor, or other public property under their discretion or control, to benefit themselves or their campaign. They may also not use their position on the school board to benefit themselves in their position with the city and vice-versa.
116.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.
117.	The Revolving Door provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit public employees from returning to their public employer after retirement.
118.	(a) Any paid political advertisement or electioneering communication appearing in any print media or broadcast on any electronic media shall clearly and distinctly identify the entity responsible for paying for the advertisement or electioneering communication. Ala. Code § 17-5-12

119.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a retired public employee from using pictures taken in their former public position for their campaign advertisement.
120.	A public employee may not interact with a business with which they are associated on behalf of their public employer and vice versa, and they may not use their position to benefit a business with which they are associated.
121.	Ala Code 36-25-5.1 prohibits a principal (entity that employs a lobbyist) or a lobbyist from offering a "thing of value" to a public employee. An offer of employment is within the Code's definition of "thing of value." Ala Code 36-25-23(c) prohibits a lobbyist from being solicited for anything, whether a thing of value or not, except for a campaign contribution.
122.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from receiving a gift from a person who is not a lobbyist or principal provided the gift is not received for the purpose of corruptly influencing an official action.
123.	The FCPA permits campaign funds to be donated to a 501(c)(3).
124.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from performing their job duties and preparing materials for consideration that could affect the employee personally.
125.	A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.
126.	A council member may distribute the letter that was sent to him or his counsel by the Ethics Commission because that letter conveys only the disposition of the matter.
127.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit the publication of the names of qualified candidates.
128.	The FCPA requires all expenditures be made through the campaign's banking account.
129.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a candidate who is a public employee from volunteering for the public entity that employs them.
130.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from performing their duties when they are in a relationship with a candidate.
131.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from performing their duties when they are related to a candidate.
132.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a candidate from speaking at an event.
133.	Tax and tips are not required to be included in the calculation for meals provided to a public employee or a public official per Ala. Code 36-25-1(34)(b)(4) and (16).
134.	In Ala. Code § 36-25-1(9), "day" is defined as "calendar day."
135.	The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public entity from doing business with a company whose owner separately contracts with the public entity.