

# ANNUAL REPORT

## FISCAL YEAR 2024



State of Alabama  
**ETHICS COMMISSION**

# ANNUAL REPORT

## FISCAL YEAR 2024

FOR THE ALABAMA ETHICS COMMISSION  
PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR AND  
THE ALABAMA LEGISLATURE

IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 36-25-3(C), CODE OF ALABAMA, 1975

### ALABAMA ETHICS COMMISSION

RSA Union Building, Suite 104  
100 North Union Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104  
(334) 242-2997  
(334) 242-0248 Fax  
[www.ethics.alabama.gov](http://www.ethics.alabama.gov)



**COMMISSIONERS**

Brig Gen (R) Edward F. Crowell (USAF), Chair  
J. David Dodd, Vice-Chair  
Greg Pappas

STATE OF ALABAMA  
**ETHICS COMMISSION**

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P.O. BOX 4840  
MONTGOMERY, AL  
36103-4840

STREET ADDRESS  
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100 NORTH UNION STREET  
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Thomas B. Albritton  
Executive Director

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November 13, 2024

The Honorable Kay Ivey, Governor  
State of Alabama  
600 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Governor Ivey:

On behalf of the Alabama Ethics Commission and in compliance with Section 36-25-3(c), Code of Alabama, 1975, I respectfully present to you and the Alabama Legislature the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024. Our Commissioners and Staff are very proud of the accomplishments presented in this report, and we continue diligently working to fulfill the responsibilities with which we are charged.

The Commission continues to collect fines and fees more effectively, and administrative efforts have reduced technological support costs and leased office expenses over the past years. Again, this past year, we did more with less. Please let me know if you have any questions and thank you for your service to our State.

The Commission is dedicated to building public confidence in the integrity of government. We greatly appreciate your support of the Alabama Ethics Commission.

Sincerely,

Thomas B. Albritton  
Executive Director

# OVERVIEW

## HISTORY

The State of Alabama Ethics Commission was created by the Alabama Legislature in 1973 by Act No. 1056. The Code of Alabama §36-25-1 through §36-25-30 is also known as the Alabama ethics Law. This portion of the Code of Alabama established the ethics Commission and dictates the scope of work for the Commission. Changes to the Alabama ethics Law have been passed by the State Legislature at various times since the Commission's inception and are always a possibility in the future. Acts 75-130, 79-460, 79-698, 82-429, 86-321, 82-342, 95-194, 96-261, 97-651, 2000-797, 2001-474, 2010-462, 2010-763, 2010-764, 2011-259, 2011-632, 2011-674, 2012-433, 2012-509, 2013-172, 2014-71-, 2014-440, 2015-495, and 2016-128.

## MISSION

The mission of this Commission is to ensure that public officials are independent and impartial; those decisions and policies are made in the proper governmental channels; that public office is not used for private gain; and, most importantly, that there is public confidence in the integrity of government. See §36-25-2.

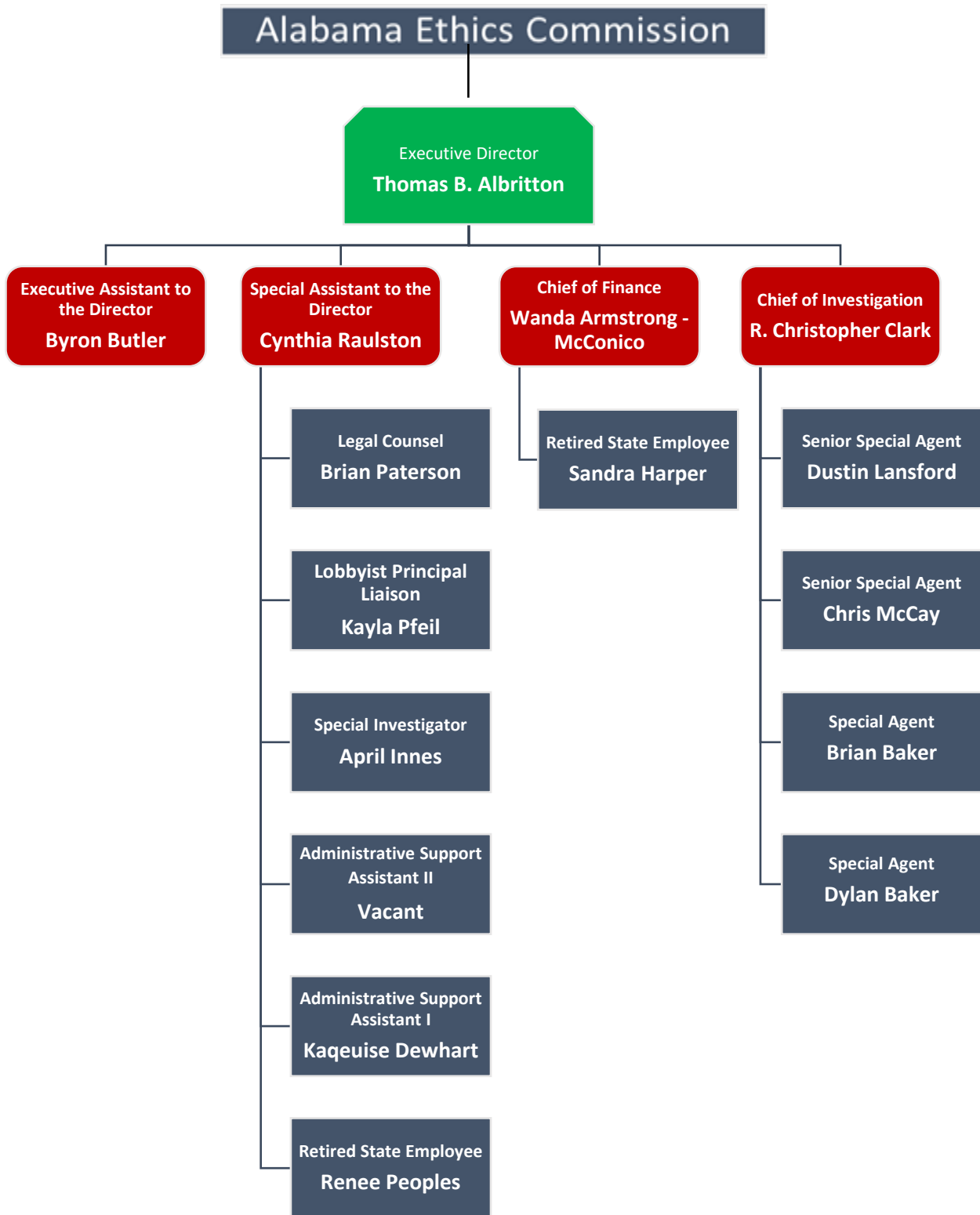
## COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Members of the Alabama Ethics Commission are appointed for five-year terms by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Speaker of the Alabama House of representatives on a rotating basis. Any member who vacates his or her position before their term has expired is replaced by the governor.

## DUTIES

The duties of the Ethics Commission include investigating complaints; issuing advisory opinions; pre-certifying the legality of activities; ethics training; collecting Statement of economic interests' forms; enforcing Statement of economic interests form requirements; maintaining lobbyist and principal registration and filings; and maintaining extraordinary filings.

# STAFF



**Alabama Ethics Commission  
Commissioners  
Fiscal Year 2024**



**Chairman  
Ed Crowell  
Montgomery  
Term Expires: 8/31/2025**



**Vice-Chairman  
J. David Dodd  
Ft. Payne  
Term Expires:8/31/2028**



**Gregg Pappas  
Montgomery  
Term Expires: 8/31/2027**

**Commission Meeting Dates:**

October 4, 2023

February 7, 2024

June 5, 2024

October 2, 2024

December 7, 2023

April 3, 2024

August 7, 2024

December 4, 2024

Commission meetings were held in the Public Service Commission Hearing Room on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor or Purchasing Auditorium on 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the RSA Union Building beginning at 9:30 a.m.

## Statistical Comparison Fiscal Year 2024

	Fiscal Year 2022	Fiscal Year 2023	Fiscal Year 2024
Commission Meetings	8	6	8
Training Presentations	33	39	40
Statement of Economic Interests Forms Received	45440	46809	41089
Formal Advisory Opinions	2	3	6
Informal Advisory Opinions	647	704	620
Registered Lobbyists	466	619	545
Principals Represented by Lobbyists	906	921	1103
Complaints Filed	505	393	464
Complaints Closed After Preliminary Inquiry	273	268	361
Cases Presented to the Commissioners	115	60	88
Cases Handled Administratively	19	32	21
Cases Referred for Prosecution	13	10	3
Cases Prosecuted by Commission Staff	0	0	0
Cases Closed – No Probable Cause	16	18	11
Cases Dismissed By Commission	67	61	53
Administrative Penalties Assessed	40	31	21
Cases Continued	0	0	0
Fair Campaign Practices Act--Civil Appeals	77	26	65
Fines Collected	18,060.00	5,704.00	12,740.00
Restitution Collected	2,720.92	8,772.01	40.41
Lobbyists' Fees Collected	61,500.00	63,200.00	58,400.00
Miscellaneous Fees Collected	0	0	0
Other Fines	0	0	0
Refunds Against Disbursements	0	1,893.62	0
Prior Year Refunds	0	0	0
Prior Period Adjustment	0	0	0
Insurance Claims	0	0	2
General Fund Deposits	79,560.00	70,797.62	71,140.00
Staff Members on Sept. 30	15	15	15

## Ethics Training Fiscal Year 2024

<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Location</b>
10/5/23	Revenue Officers at The University of Alabama	Tuscaloosa, AL
10/12/23	Northeast Alabama Law Enforcement Academy	Anniston, AL
10/16/23	Lobbyist Training (4th Quarter)	Montgomery, AL
10/24/23	Montgomery Police Academy	Montgomery, AL
10/25/23	ASSEC Employees	Huntsville, AL
11/3/23	Association of Government Accountants (AGA) in Montgomery	Montgomery, AL
11/17/23	2023 Capital Crimes Seminar/Workshop	Selma, AL
12/14/23	Alabama City/County Management Association's Local Government Professional Management Certification Program	Auburn, AL
1/11/24	Alabama IAAO	Fairhope, AL
1/11/24	(Jefferson County S.O.) Law Enforcement Ethics and Professionalism	Birmingham, AL
1/17/24	Lobbyist Training (1st Quarter)	Montgomery, AL
1/19/24	(Wiregrass Law Enforcement Academy) Law Enforcement Ethics and Professionalism	Dothan, AL
1/30/24	(Tuscaloosa Academy) Law Enforcement Ethics and Professionalism	Tuscaloosa, AL
2/6/24	(Northeast Academy) Law Enforcement Ethics and Professionalism	Anniston, AL
2/29/24	(Montgomery Police Academy) Law Enforcement Ethics and Professionalism	Montgomery, AL
3/14/24	City of Anniston Employees and Officials	Anniston, AL
4/11/24	Revenue Officer Spring Training (Live/On-line participation)	Tuscaloosa, AL
4/17/24	Lobbyist Training (2nd Quarter)	Montgomery, AL
4/30/24	(Jefferson County S.O.) Law Enforcement Ethics and Professionalism	Fultondale, AL
5/3/24	2024 City & County Government Seminar	Orange Beach, AL
5/24/24	Internal Audit and Compliance & Privacy Departments (Auburn University)	Auburn, AL
5/30/24	Association of County Commissions of Alabama (ACCA)	Prattville, AL
6/11/24	(Northeast Academy) Law Enforcement Ethics and Professionalism	Anniston, AL
6/25/24	2024 AAEM/Disaster Preparedness Conference at the Gulf State Lodge	Gulf Shores, AL
7/10/24	Alabama Association of Municipal Clerks and Administrators Summer Conference	Point Clear, AL
7/17/24	Lobbyist Training (3rd Quarter)	Montgomery, AL
7/25/24	Alabama Association of Public Personnel Administrators Conference Speaking Engagement	Auburn, AL
7/31/24	Alabama Association of Assessing Officials (AAAO)	Orange Beach, AL
8/8/24	State Accountants Conference	Orange Beach, AL
8/8/24	2024 ASCPM Seminar	Montgomery, AL
8/21/24	ACCA Conference	Orange Beach, AL
8/26/24	Alabama Office of Minority Affairs	Montgomery, AL
8/30/24	Municipal Clerks Institute	Tuscaloosa, AL
9/3/24	(Tuscaloosa Academy) Law Enforcement Ethics and Professionalism	Tuscaloosa, AL
9/24/24	(Northeast Academy) Law Enforcement Ethics and Professionalism	Anniston, AL
9/27/24	Capital Crimes Seminar	Selma, AL



**Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2024  
October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024**

EXPENDITURE	Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriation	13th Accounting Period	Outstanding Purchase Orders	Rollover to FY 25	TOTAL Expenditures	Percent
*Personnel Costs	1,424,002.00	0.00	0.00	(44,060.86)	1,379,941.14	56.00%
Employee Benefits	759,999.00	0.00	0.00	(127,225.70)	632,773.30	25.68%
Travel In-State	20,000.00	500.00	0.00	(14,979.12)	5,020.88	0.20%
Travel Out-of-State	10,000.00	1,800.00	0.00	(4,298.78)	5,701.22	0.23%
Repairs and Maintenance	18,000.00	2,900.00	380.97	(11,175.45)	6,824.55	0.28%
Rentals and Leases	215,000.00	900.00	0.00	(63,203.55)	151,796.45	6.16%
Utilities and Communication	60,000.00	14,000.00	1,932.30	(18,055.02)	41,944.98	1.70%
Professional Services	201,000.00	31,500.00	10,598.53	(34,884.47)	166,115.53	6.74%
Supplies, Materials, and Operating Expenses	150,000.00	5,000.00	1,327.52	(92,885.79)	57,114.21	2.32%
Transportation Equipment Operations	23,000.00	2,000.00	862.53	(8,457.59)	14,542.41	0.59%
Transportation Equipment Purchases	5,000.00	500.00	0.00	(4,500.00)	500.00	0.02%
Other Equipment Purchases	3,552.00	500.00	0.00	(1,613.44)	1,938.56	0.08%
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
	<b>2,889,553.00</b>	<b>59,600.00</b>	<b>15,101.85</b>	<b>(425,339.77)</b>	<b>2,464,213.23</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

\*Pursuant to Section 36-25-3(c), Code of Alabama, this amount includes the Executive Director's salary of \$213,602.64

Original FY 24 Budget Appropriation	2,208,784.00
Rollover from FY 23	600,330.00
Other/Cola	80,439.00
Total FY 24 Appropriation	<u>2,889,553.00</u>
<b>Total FY 24 Expenditures</b>	<b>(2,464,213.23)</b>
Rollover to FY 25	<u>(425,339.77)</u>
<b>Remaining Balance</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**Advisory Opinions Approved in Fiscal Year 2024**  
**October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024**

Advisory Opinion No.  
Based on Fiscal Year

**Topic Summary**

Brian Jones  
District Attorney, 39th Judicial Circuit

2023-04      Revolving Door / Public Employee / Representing Clients Before Former Public Employer

The “Revolving Door” provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit former employees of a District Attorney’s Office from representing criminal defendants in cases prosecuted by the District Attorney’s Office that employed them within two years after they leave their public position.

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Jeremy Borden

Public Employee / Associated Business / Use of Position / Personal Gain

2023-05      The Ethics Act does not prohibit employees of ALDOT from contacting, discussing, or entering into business agreements with manufacturers, vendors, consultants, or contractors of ALDOT for the purpose of financial gain for their business provided they conduct all activities related to their private business on their own time and do not otherwise use their position, including any confidential information, or public equipment, facilities, time, materials, human labor, or other public property under their discretion or control, to benefit themselves or their private business, and provided they do not solicit or receive anything, including an opportunity for the private business, for the purpose of corruptly influencing their official action.

This opinion extends only to the restrictions found within the Ethics Act and only to the situation presented. Similar questions must be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

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Sheena Gamble  
Director of Communications, Alabama Democratic Party

Candidates / Statement of Economic Interest / Removal of Name from Ballot

2024-01      The term “ballot” in Ala. Code § 36-25-15(c) applies to the ballot of both the primary and the general election.

Ala. Code § 36-25-15(c) prevents a party from re-nominating a candidate for any office who has been removed from the ballot for failing to file a statement of economic interests.

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**Advisory Opinions Approved in Fiscal Year 2024**  
**October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024**

Advisory Opinion No.  
Based on Fiscal Year

**Topic Summary**

Daniel King  
Vice-President, Facilities Management  
Auburn University

Revolving Door / Former Public Employee / Employment / Contracting / Representation

2024-02

A former public employee may not solicit or accept employment with a business where they personally participated in the direct regulation, audit, or investigation of that business until two years after such participation concluded or two years after they leave their public position.

A former public employee may not represent any client or private employer before their former public employer until two years after they leave their public position.

A former public employee who participated in the negotiation or approval of contracts may not solicit, negotiate, or enter into a contract with their former public employer until two years after they leave their public position.

A former public employee may perform services on a contract basis for clients who had contracts with the former public employee's public

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Andrew Sorrell  
State Auditor

Fair Campaign Practices Act (FCPA) / Political Action Committee (PAC) / Political Campaign Committee (PCC) / Use of Campaign Funds / Investment of Campaign Funds

2024-03

The FCPA prohibits PACs and PCCs from converting funds to personal use.

PCCs may only use campaign funds for the specific purposes described in Ala. Code § 17-5-7.

The FCPA is silent regarding the investment of funds provided the above restrictions are maintained.

There is no limit provided in the FCPA on the amount of money or the length of time that a PAC or PCC could purchase a CD.

There is no requirement that part or all of the money be insured by the FDIC.

In the event that the loaned money was lost, there is not an obligation on the part of the candidate or Chairman of the PAC to repay the money.

**Advisory Opinions Approved in Fiscal Year 2024**  
**October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024**

**Advisory Opinion No.**  
**Based on Fiscal Year**

**Topic Summary**

There is no prohibition on the money being loaned to an entity other than a bank.

2024-03  
cont.

There is no prohibition on which banks or private companies a PAC or PCC could loan to outside of the restriction against the comingling of funds or conversion of funds to personal use.

There are no restrictions on the types of investments a PAC or PCC could participate in beyond buying a bank CD or loaning money to earn interest.

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Captain Tammy Waddell  
Jail Administrator, Limestone County Sheriff's Office

Public Employee / Outside Employment / Use of Office for Personal Gain

2024-04

A public employee who works as a jail administrator may provide paid consulting services for a private business provided they avoid using their position, including confidential information obtained from their position and equipment, facilities, time, materials, human labor, or other public property under their discretion or control, to obtain the outside employment or to benefit themselves or the business employing them, and they do not interact with their public employer on behalf of their private employer.

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**Informal Opinions Approved the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of Fiscal Year 2024**  
**July 1 - September 30, 2024\***

Informal Opinion No.	Topic Summary
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**\*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.**

- 1 Neither the Ethics Act nor the FCPA prohibit public officials from running PACs in support of legislation. The requestor should contact the AG for guidance outside of the Ethics Act and FCPA.

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- 2 The Ethics Act does not prohibit public employees from having secondary employment under certain circumstances (those being that they do not use public resources, including time in the furtherance of it).

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- 3 A principal can host an event for public officials and employees under certain circumstances.

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- 4 The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from secondary employment under certain circumstances (those being that they do not use public resources, including time in the furtherance of it).

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- 5 The Ethics Act does not prohibit a business with which a public official is associated doing business with the city the public official serves under certain circumstance, but the requestor should check with the League of Municipalities about restrictions outside of the Ethics Act that may apply.

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- 6 The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from secondary employment under certain circumstances (those being that they do not use public resources, including time in the furtherance of it).

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- 7 The Ethics Act does not prohibit public officials from voting to provide benefits to public employees and future public officials.

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- 8 A public official may not use their position to obtain personal gain for a business with which they are associated.

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- 9 The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from secondary employment under certain circumstances (those being that they do not use public resources, including time in the furtherance of it).

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- 10 The Revolving Door provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit public employees from returning to their public employer after retirement.

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- 11 The Ethics Act does not prohibit a municipality from engaging in business with a public official or employee of the municipality under certain circumstances, but the requestor should check with the League of Municipalities about restrictions outside of the Ethics Act that may apply.

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- 12 The Ethics Act does not prohibit public entities from transferring staff members from one division to another.

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- 13 The Revolving Door provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit public employees from returning to their public employer after retirement.

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**Informal Opinions Approved the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of Fiscal Year 2024  
July 1 - September 30, 2024\***

Informal Opinion No.	Topic Summary
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**\*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.**

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| 14 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from serving on a municipal board under certain circumstances (those being that the public official not engage in activity that would constitute a conflict of interest).   |
| 15 | The Ethics Act does not require public officials to file copies of contracts that are not paid in whole or in part with state, county, or municipal funds.   |
| 16 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit the family member of a public official from accepting employment with a private entity when there is no conflict of interest for the public official and the official did not use their position to create the opportunity.   |
| 17 | The provision of travel costs under certain circumstances does not constitute a "Thing of Value." The Ethics Act may require that the cost of travel be reported by a person or business that is not a principal if the cost exceeds \$250 and the person or business engages in certain activities with the public official or public employee. |
| 18 | The Revolving Door provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit public employees from returning to their public employer after retirement.   |
| 19 | The Revolving Door provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit public employees from returning to their public employer after retirement.   |
| 20 | The FCPA does not prohibit a public official from using existing campaign funds to attend a political party's national convention. However, they may not raise additional state campaign funds outside of the contexts permitted by the FCPA.  |
| 21 | The Ethics Act prohibits public officials from voting or participating in a matter in which there is a conflict of interest.   |
| 22 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from voting or participating in a matter under certain circumstances in which there is no conflict of interest.   |
| 23 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from accepting employment with a private entity under certain circumstances (those being that they did not audit, regulate or investigate the private entity within two years).   |
| 24 | Independent candidates have five days to file a Statement of Economic Interest after they comply with the requirements of Alabama Code § 17-9-3, and the Commission may allow an additional five days to file for good cause shown.  |
| 25 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit public employees from receiving a door prize under certain circumstances (that being when the drawing is random).   |
| 26 | The Revolving Door provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit public employees from returning to their public employer after retirement.   |

**Informal Opinions Approved the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of Fiscal Year 2024  
July 1 - September 30, 2024\***

Informal Opinion No.	Topic Summary
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| 27 | 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 (that being that they do not represent the interests of a private employer before the public employer for two years).   |
| 28 | The Revolving Door provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit public employees from returning to their public employer after retirement.   |
| 29 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from secondary employment under certain circumstances (those being that they do not use public resources, including time in the furtherance of it).   |
| 30 | The Ethics Act prohibits a public employee from receiving a referral fee under certain circumstances.  |
| 31 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a municipality from authorizing the use of public facilities and equipment by a private entity under certain circumstances (if the City Council approves it and there is a written agreement between the City and the private entity and it does not result in personal gain to the public official or employee). |
| 32 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from secondary employment under certain circumstances (those being that they do not use public resources, including time in the furtherance of it).   |
| 33 | The FCPA does not prohibit a candidate from making a loan to their PCC prior to the 12 months before an election under certain circumstances in accordance with AO 2017-05.  |
| 34 | 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.   |
| 35 | The "Revolving Door" provisions of the Ethics Act prohibit a former public employee from engaging in certain activities for two years after they retire from their public position.  |
| 36 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a municipality from hiring the family member of a public official provided the public official didn't use their position to create the opportunity and doesn't use their position to benefit their family member.   |
| 37 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a municipality from providing employees with the option to donate funds to other public employees in need under certain circumstances (provided that no official/employee is soliciting funds from a subordinate for themselves, a family member, or a business with which they are associated).                  |
| 38 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from accepting employment with a private entity under certain circumstances (those being that they did not audit, regulate or investigate the private entity within two years).   |
| 39 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a private entity from donating property to a public entity.   |
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**Informal Opinions Approved the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of Fiscal Year 2024  
July 1 - September 30, 2024\***

Informal Opinion No.	Topic Summary
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**\*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.**

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|----|--|
| 40 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from accepting employment with a private entity under certain circumstances (those being that they did not audit, regulate or investigate the private entity within two years).   |
| 41 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a municipality from paying for the legal fees of a public official under certain circumstances (that being if they found a public purpose).   |
| 42 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from secondary employment under certain circumstances (those being that they do not use public resources, including time in the furtherance of it).   |
| 43 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a private entity from representing a public employee individually and interacting with the public employee in their public position under certain circumstances (because under the facts presented there is no conflict of interest).   |
| 44 | A public official 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. A public official may sign checks to a business with which they are associated when it is merely a ministerial act. |
| 45 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from creating a scholarship fund under certain circumstances (provided there is no personal gain).  |
| 46 | A candidate is not required to re-file a Statement of Economic Interest if they already have a current one on file with the Commission.  |
| 47 | The "Revolving Door" provisions of the Ethics Act prohibit a former public employee from accepting employment with a private entity under certain circumstances (that being that they do not represent the interests of a private employer before the public employer for two years).  |
| 48 | The "Revolving Door" provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit a former public employee from interacting with their previous public employer under certain circumstances (that being that they do not represent the interests of a private employer before the public employer for two years).  |
| 49 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from serving as a public official under certain circumstances, but the requestor should check with the Alabama Attorney General's office to verify nothing outside of the Ethics Act prohibits it.  |
| 50 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from secondary employment provided they do not use public resources, including time in the furtherance of it.   |
| 51 | The Ethics Act does not require that a public official recuse themselves from a matter when there is no conflict of interest.  |
| 52 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit the family member of a public official from accepting employment with a private entity when there is no conflict of interest.   |



**Informal Opinions Approved the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of Fiscal Year 2024  
July 1 - September 30, 2024\***

Informal Opinion No.	Topic Summary
-------------------------	---------------

**\*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.**

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|----|---|
| 53 | The FCPA only permits campaign funds to be used for certain purposes that are clearly set out in Alabama Code § 17-5-7.   |
| 54 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from bidding on surplus property provided the official does not use their position to influence bid specifications or selection or otherwise use their position for personal gain.   |
| 55 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from secondary employment provided they do not use public resources, including time in the furtherance of it.  |
| 56 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from secondary employment provided they do not use public resources, including time in the furtherance of it.  |
| 57 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from secondary employment provided they do not use public resources, including time in the furtherance of it.  |
| 58 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from interacting with their previous public employer on behalf of a new public employer. See Ethics Advisory Opinion No. 2016-26.  |
| 59 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from simultaneously serving as a public official but the requestor should check with the Alabama Attorney General's office to verify nothing outside of the Ethics Act prohibits it. |
| 60 | The Revolving Door provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit public employees from returning to their public employer after retirement.  |
| 61 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from secondary employment provided they do not use public resources, including time in the furtherance of it.  |
| 62 | Public employees who are required to file a Statement of Economic Interest are required to receive training in the Ethics Act.  |
| 63 | The Ethics Act prohibits public officials from accepting a "Thing of Value" from a principal.   |
| 64 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from secondary employment when they do not use public resources, including time in the furtherance of it.  |
| 65 | The Revolving Door provisions of the Ethics Act do not prohibit public employees from returning to their public employer after retirement.  |

**Informal Opinions Approved the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of Fiscal Year 2024  
July 1 - September 30, 2024\***

Informal Opinion No.	Topic Summary
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**\*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.**

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| 66 | The "Revolving Door" provisions of the Ethics Act prohibit a former public employee from interacting with their former public employer on behalf of a client or private employer until two years after they leave their public positions.   |
| 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 "Revolving Door" provisions of the Ethics Act prohibit a former public employee from interacting with their former public employer on behalf of a client or private employer until two years after they leave their public positions.   |
| 69 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit lobbyists from donating to a nonprofit under certain circumstances.  |
| 70 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from campaigning for a position as a public official or serving as a public official but the requestor should contact the Alabama Secretary of State's office regarding general campaign laws.   |
| 71 | Candidates are required to file a Statement of Economic Interest within five days of filing their qualifying papers.  |
| 72 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a business with which a public official is associated from purchasing property owned by a public entity provided the public official doesn't use their official position for the benefit of the business.  |
| 73 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public official from campaigning for another position as a public official or serving as a public official in another position but the requestor should check with the Alabama Attorney General's office to verify nothing outside of the Ethics Act prohibits it and the Alabama Secretary of State's office regarding general campaign laws. |
| 74 | The FCPA does not prohibit PACs from accepting contributions from an out-of-state candidate's campaign account under certain circumstances.   |
| 75 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a public employee from being appointed to a municipal board under certain circumstances.   |
| 76 | The Ethics Act does not prohibit a councilmember from voting for themselves to fill a vacancy in the office of the mayor.   |

