

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS



PERMISSIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS (GIFT EXCEPTIONS)

A **gift** includes anything of value a state employee or public official (including a legislator) directly and personally receives unless he or she provides consideration of equal or greater value (e.g., pays for the item). Generally, such gifts are not permissible if given by so-called “restricted donors.”*

There are certain exceptions to this definition of gift. Items noted in these exceptions are permissible and may be accepted from restricted as well as non-restricted sources.

Among these exceptions are two that pertain to political contributions:

- A political contribution otherwise reported as required by law or a donation or payment as described in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-601a (b) (9) or (10); and
- Volunteer services to aid or promote the success or defeat of any political party, any candidate(s) for public office or the position of convention delegate, town committee member or any referendum question.

PROHIBITIONS/CONSIDERATIONS

- It is not permissible to give a public official, state employee or candidate for public office (or such candidate’s family member or associated business) anything of value, including a political contribution, with the understanding that a vote, official action or judgment of the recipient would be (or had been) influenced by the contribution.
- It is not permissible for a public official, state employee or candidate for public office to solicit or accept anything of value, including a political contribution, with the understanding that a vote, official action or judgment of the recipient would be (or had been) influenced by the contribution.
- The State Treasurer may neither pay nor enter into a contract with an investment services firm if a political committee established by the firm or a principal of the firm has made a contribution to (or solicited a contribution for) an exploratory or candidate committee established by the State Treasurer as a candidate for nomination or election to the Office of State Treasurer.

*For more detailed information on the gift provisions contained in the Code of Ethics, please review the appropriate plain-language guide, available on the OSE’s Web site.

Please direct any questions to:
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