

GIFT GUIDE FOR CITY OFFICIALS

January 2021

This is a general overview of City and state laws that govern whether City officials may accept gifts from certain sources. Other restrictions or exceptions may apply, such as for travel or fundraisers. For additional guidance, please call the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or visit ethics.lacity.org.

CAN I ACCEPT THIS GIFT?

Start here.



Is the gift giver a registered lobbyist or lobbying firm that lobbies your agency?¹

No

Is the gift giver a restricted source?

A restricted source is a person who:

- Has entered into, performs under, or seeks a contract with your agency²;
- Has attempted to influence you in the past year in a City matter that would have a direct financial effect on the gift giver; or
- Has had a license, permit, or other entitlement for use pending in the last year before you or a body of which you are a voting member.

No

Is the gift giver a disclosable source (a person described in your agency's conflict of interests code as a source of income for your disclosure category)?

No

You may accept the gift.

Special rules may apply in certain situations. Please ask for advice.

Do you have to report the gift?
No.

Yes

You may NOT accept a gift of any value from a lobbyist or lobbying firm.¹

Yes

You may accept a gift or combination of gifts that are cumulatively valued at up to \$100 per calendar year from that gift giver. However, you may never solicit a gift from a restricted source.

Do you have to report the gifts³?

Yes, if the gift giver is a source of income described in your disclosure category in your agency's conflict of interests code, you must report the gift on your Form 700. If you are a Form 60 filer, you will have to report the gift on your next filing.

Yes

You may accept a gift or combination of gifts that are cumulatively valued at up to \$520 per calendar year from that gift giver.

Do you have to report the gifts³?
Yes.

Don't forget the fine print.

¹For elected officials, this applies to a lobbyist or lobbying firm that lobbies any City agency.

²For elected officials, this definition applies to any City agency.

³Gifts must be reported on your statement of economic interests if the total value of all the gifts you receive from a single disclosable source during the calendar year is at least \$50. Exceptions may apply; please ask for advice.