

Oklahoma Ethics Commission Rule Amendment 2025-01
Modification: Increasing cash contribution limit from \$50 to \$200

1 **AMENDATORY Ethics Rule 2.19 Cash Contributions is amended to read as follows:**

2 No contribution of more than ~~Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)~~ **Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00)** in cash
3 in the aggregate may be made to or accepted by a political party committee, a political
4 action committee or a candidate committee.

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

Oklahoma Ethics Commission Rule Amendment 2025-02 – **Option 2**

Modification: Adding provision for committees with funds remaining at the time of dissolution for exploratory activities and extending time limit to 1 year.

1 **AMENDATORY Ethics Rule 2.48 Candidate Committee Surplus Funds is amended to**
2 **read as follows:**

3 Surplus funds of a candidate committee are those funds not otherwise obligated following
4 the election at which the office for which the candidate committee was formed has been
5 determined which, in the candidate’s discretion, are not required to be used for campaign
6 expenses or officeholder expenses. Such surplus funds may be:

7 (A) Retained in any amount for use in a future campaign for the next succeeding term for
8 the same office;

9 (B) Retained for a future campaign for a different state elective office, excluding a judicial
10 office;

11 (C) Donated to a charitable organization as described in Section 501(c) (3) of Title 26 of the
12 United States Code as it currently exists or as it may be amended;

13 (D) Returned to any contributor, as long as the amount returned does not exceed the
14 contributor’s aggregate contribution during the immediately preceding primary, runoff
15 primary and general elections;

16 (E) Contributed to a political party committee in any amount not to exceed Twenty-five
17 Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) in the aggregate;

18 (F) Used to purchase item(s) for donation to a charitable organization as described in
19 Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code as it currently exists or as it may be
20 amended; provided:

21 1) the donated item(s) are sold by the charitable organization for fundraising purposes;

22 2) the purchase of the item(s) for donation is reported on a Contributions and Expenditures
23 Report which includes a description and cost of the item(s) purchased;

24 3) the donation of the item(s) is reported on a Contributions and Expenditures Report as an
25 in-kind expenditure to the charitable organization which includes a description and the
26 value of the item(s) donated; and

27 4) the donated item(s) may not be purchased or used by the candidate whose committee is
28 donating the item, any other candidate, a committee, or officer, board member or
29 employee of the charitable organization; ~~or~~

30 (G) Donated in accordance with the provisions of Title 60 O.S. § 381, et seq., to the State of
31 Oklahoma, or, to any county, city, town or school district within the State of Oklahoma; ~~or~~

Oklahoma Ethics Commission Rule Amendment 2025-02 – Option 2

Modification: Adding provision for committees with funds remaining at the time of dissolution for exploratory activities and extending time limit to 1 year.

32 (H) Retained by the Candidate for Exploratory Activities in accordance with Rule 2.78.

33 Any surplus funds remaining in the candidate committee’s possession within ~~ninety (90)~~
34 ~~days one (1) year~~ after the expiration of the term to which the candidate was elected or, for
35 candidates who were not elected, within ~~ninety (90) days one (1) year~~ after the second year
36 following the general election, shall be deposited in the general revenue fund of the state.

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

Oklahoma Ethics Commission Rule Amendment 2025-04 – **Option 2**

Modification: Adding provision for committees with funds remaining at the time of dissolution and extending time for dissolution to 1 year.

1 **AMENDATORY Ethics Rule 2.116 Dissolution of Candidate Committee is amended to**
2 **read as follows:**

3 A candidate committee may dissolve at any time by filing a Final Report of Contributions
4 and Expenditures that shows no funds remaining in the committee. A candidate
5 committee **without funds remaining in its campaign depository** shall dissolve **by the**
6 **mandatory dissolution date, being** no later than two (2) years after the general election for
7 an office with a two-year term, no later than four (4) years after the general election for an
8 office with a four-year term, and no later than six (6) years after the general election for an
9 office with a six-year term, if not required to dissolve sooner by law or these Rules.

10 **A candidate committee with funds remaining in its campaign depository on the specified**
11 **mandatory dissolution date set forth above, may no longer (1) receive contributions, (2)**
12 **contribute to other candidate committees, (3) make campaign expenditures, or (4) make**
13 **operating expenditures.**

14 **For no longer than one (1) year following the mandatory dissolution date as set forth above,**
15 **a candidate committee with funds remaining in its campaign depository on the specified**
16 **mandatory dissolution date, may (1) make expenditures for remaining officeholder**
17 **expenses for elected officers, and (2) distribute any surplus funds as provided for in Rule**
18 **2.48.**

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

Oklahoma Ethics Commission Rule Amendment 2025-05
Modification: Adding definitions for “traditional business expense” and “de minimis amounts.”

1 **AMENDATORY Ethics Rule 5.2 Definitions is amended to read as follows:**

2 As used in Rule 5:

3 1. “Agency” means any entity in the executive branch of state government created by the
4 Constitution or laws of the State of Oklahoma and supported in whole or in part by state
5 funds or entrusted with the expending of state funds or administering of state property or
6 otherwise exercising the sovereign power of the State of Oklahoma, including but not
7 limited to all such offices, departments, institutions, boards, bureaus, commissions,
8 agencies, authorities and instrumentalities of the State of Oklahoma. “Agency” shall not
9 mean any city, county, rural electric cooperative or tribal housing authority created under
10 the Oklahoma Housing Authorities Act nor any state entity that performs only advisory
11 functions and that cannot independently exercise the sovereign power of the State of
12 Oklahoma;

13 2. “Commission” shall mean the Oklahoma Ethics Commission;

14 3. “De minimis amounts” are expenditures of \$20.00 or less expended for Traditional
15 Business Expenses. If the yearly cumulative amount spent on the Governor, a legislator or
16 any employee of the Governor or the Legislature is greater than the de minimis amount, it
17 shall be reported and aggregated against the Traditional Business Expenses limit provided
18 to an individual recipient.

19 ~~3.4.~~ “Executive lobbying” means any oral or written communication with a state officer or
20 employee of an agency, excluding the Governor or a member of the Legislature or with an
21 employee of the Governor or the Legislature, on behalf of a lobbyist principal with regard to
22 the passage, defeat, formulation, modification, interpretation, amendment, adoption,
23 approval or veto of any legislation, rule, rate, regulation, executive order or any other
24 program, policy or position of state government. However, “executive lobbying” shall not
25 mean testimony given at, or submitted in writing to, a public hearing of the agency, nor a
26 speech, article, publication or other material that is widely distributed, published in
27 newspapers, magazines or similar publications or broadcast on radio or television;

28 ~~4.5.~~ “Executive lobbyist” means any individual who is employed or retained by another for
29 financial or other compensation to perform services that include executive lobbying, other
30 than an individual whose lobbying activities are only incidental to, and are not a significant
31 part of, the services provided by such individual to the client, except the following
32 individuals shall not be considered lobbyists:

Oklahoma Ethics Commission Rule Amendment 2025-05

Modification: Adding definitions for “traditional business expense” and “de minimis amounts.”

33 a. an individual appearing before a state officer or employee of an agency who receives no
34 compensation for his or her appearance other than reimbursement from the state for
35 expenses and who engages in no further lobbying;

36 b. a federal official acting in his or her official capacity;

37 c. any person exercising his or her constitutional right to petition the government who
38 receives no compensation or anything of value for lobbying;

39 ~~5.6.~~ “Family member” shall include spouse, children (including stepchildren), mother,
40 father, sister or brother;

41 ~~6.7.~~ “Legislative liaison” means any state officer or employee whose duties in fact include
42 legislative lobbying, regardless of the state officer or employee’s title and regardless of
43 whether or not legislative lobbying is included within the state officer or state employee’s
44 job description other than an individual whose lobbying activities are only incidental to,
45 and are not a significant part of, the services provided by such individual to the agency.
46 Each agency shall have at least one (1) legislative liaison, unless all officers and employees
47 of the agency provide information to the Governor or a legislator only at the request of the
48 Governor or a legislator or an employee of the Governor or the Legislature or as required by
49 law, and provided further that no officer or employee of the agency has requested
50 legislation, other than an appropriation for the agency, or other legislative action, or unless
51 the agency has a contract with a legislative lobbyist to provide legislative lobbying services;

52 ~~7.8.~~ “Legislative lobbying” means any oral or written communication with the Governor or
53 with a member of the Legislature or with an employee of the Governor or the Legislature on
54 behalf of a lobbyist principal with regard to the passage, defeat, formulation, modification,
55 interpretation, amendment, adoption, approval or veto of any legislation, rule, regulation,
56 executive order or any other program, policy or position of state government. As used in
57 this Rule, “employee of the Governor or the Legislature” includes any state officer or
58 employee who advises the Governor, a legislator or the Legislature on legislation other than
59 legislation that affects only his or her agency. However, “legislative lobbying” shall not
60 mean testimony given before, or submitted in writing to, a committee or subcommittee of
61 the Legislature, nor a speech, article, publication or other material that is widely
62 distributed, published in newspapers, magazines or similar publications or broadcast on
63 radio or television;

64 ~~8.9.~~ “Legislative lobbyist” means any individual who is employed or retained by another for
65 financial or other compensation to perform services that include legislative lobbying, other
66 than an individual whose lobbying activities are only incidental to, and are not a significant

Oklahoma Ethics Commission Rule Amendment 2025-05
Modification: Adding definitions for “traditional business expense” and “de minimis amounts.”

67 part of, the services provided by such individual to the client, except the following
68 individuals shall not be considered lobbyists:

69 a. an individual appearing before the Governor or a meeting of a legislative body who
70 receives no compensation for his or her appearance other than reimbursement from the
71 state for expenses and who engages in no further lobbying;

72 b. a federal official acting in his or her official capacity;

73 c. any person exercising his or her constitutional right to petition the government who
74 receives no compensation or anything of value for lobbying;

75 ~~9-10.~~ “Lobbyist principal” means any person or entity, including an agency, who employs or
76 retains another person for financial or other compensation to conduct executive or
77 legislative lobbying activities on behalf of the lobbyist principal; provided, however, it shall
78 not mean any individual members, partners, officers or shareholders of an agency, a
79 corporation, association, firm, joint venture, joint stock company, syndicate, business
80 trust, estate, trust, company, partnership, limited partnership, organization, committee or
81 club, or a group of persons who are voluntarily acting in concert.

82 **11. “Traditional Business Expenses” means expenditures for meals, any individual or team**
83 **sports, athletic contests or events, conferences, lectures, performances, seminars, or**
84 **similar events held within the boundaries of the State of Oklahoma.**

85

86

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

94

95

1 **AMENDATORY Ethics Rule 5.6 Prohibition on Things of Value Provided to or Accepted**
2 **by Governor, Legislative Officers and Employees is amended to read as follows:**

3 Except as provided in these Rules, a legislative liaison, a legislative lobbyist or a lobbyist
4 principal by whom the legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist is employed or retained shall
5 provide no gift to the Governor, a legislator or any employee of the Governor or the
6 Legislature.

7 The Governor, a legislator or any employee of the Governor or the Legislature shall not
8 knowingly accept anything of value from a legislative liaison, a legislative lobbyist or a
9 lobbyist principal by whom the legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist is employed or
10 retained except **for expenditures expended as traditional business expenses as defined in**
11 **Rule 5.2** or as permitted by these Rules. Except as provided in these Rules, an executive
12 lobbyist or a lobbyist principal by whom the executive lobbyist is employed or retained
13 shall provide nothing of value to any officer or employee of an agency that is the subject of
14 the executive lobbyist's lobbying activities. No officer or employee of an agency that is
15 subject to an executive lobbyist's lobbying activities shall knowingly accept anything of
16 value from an executive lobbyist or a lobbyist principal by whom an executive lobbyist is
17 employed except as permitted by these Rules. In no event shall a legislative liaison, a
18 legislative lobbyist, an executive lobbyist or a lobbyist principal indirectly provide anything
19 of value to any state officer or employee by providing a thing of value to a family member of
20 the state officer or employee, other than as permitted by these Rules. In no event shall the
21 costs of a thing of value provided by a legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist to the
22 Governor, a legislator or any employee of the Governor or the Legislature permitted by
23 these Rules be divided or shared with other legislative liaisons or legislative lobbyists in
24 filing a report required by these Rules unless otherwise provided by these Rules. Agencies
25 may provide two (2) tickets or admissions to any conference, seminar, lecture or similar
26 event held within the boundaries of the State of Oklahoma and sponsored in whole or in
27 part by the agency to the Governor, any legislator or any employee of the Governor or
28 Legislature, provided the tickets or admissions are used by the recipient and a family
29 member of the recipient.

30

31

32

33

Oklahoma Ethics Commission Rule Amendment 2025-09
Repealing Rule 5.8 in its entirety.

1 **AMENDATORY Ethics Rule ~~5.8 Gift Limits for Legislative Liaison or Legislative Lobbyist~~**
2 **is repealed in its entirety:**

3 ~~A legislative liaison or a legislative lobbyist may make a gift to the Governor or any legislator~~
4 ~~or any employee of the Governor or the Legislature in recognition of infrequently occurring~~
5 ~~occasions of personal significance. The gift shall be given and received~~
6 ~~contemporaneously with the occasion or at times when such gifts are traditionally given.~~
7 ~~Such gifts may be made to a family member of the Governor or any legislator or any~~
8 ~~employee of the Governor or the Legislature, provided such family member is a party to a~~
9 ~~marriage, serious illness, birth or adoption of a child or retirement. Such gifts to any~~
10 ~~individual recipient may not exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) in the aggregate in any~~
11 ~~calendar year from any legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist. Any such gifts shall be~~
12 ~~reported to the Commission and aggregated with meals, and the aggregate total of meals~~
13 ~~and other gifts provided to an individual recipient by a legislative liaison or legislative~~
14 ~~lobbyist may not exceed Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$750.00):~~

15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

Oklahoma Ethics Commission Rule Amendment 2025-10
Modification: Adding provision for Lobbyist Principals to provide food and beverage for legislative sessions.

1 **AMENDATORY Ethics Rule 5.16 Food and Beverage Provided by a Lobbyist Principal to**
2 **either House of the Legislature, a Legislative Committee or Subcommittee is amended**
3 **to read as follows:**

4 A lobbyist principal that employs or retains a legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist may
5 provide food and beverage for any event **or legislative session** held within the Capitol
6 building to which all members of **either House of the Legislature**, a committee or
7 subcommittee of either House of the Legislature identified in the Rules or Journal of the
8 respective House are invited and which is attended by a majority of members of the **House**
9 **of the Legislature**, committee or subcommittee no more than once per calendar year for
10 any such **House of the Legislature**, committee or subcommittee, provided the event is
11 reported as provided by these Rules. More than one lobbyist principal may provide food
12 and beverage for such an event, but no lobbyist principal shall participate in more than one
13 such event per calendar year for any committee or subcommittee. The reporting provision
14 of this section shall not include legislators who are not members of the committee or
15 subcommittee, nor shall it include legislative staff members who do not officially or
16 regularly provide staff services for the committee or subcommittee.

17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29