

State of Colorado



April Jones, *Chair*
Jo Ann Sorensen, *Vice-Chair*
Elizabeth Espinosa Krupa, *Commissioner*
William Leone, *Commissioner*
Matt Smith, *Commissioner*

Independent Ethics Commission
1300 Broadway, Suite 240
Denver CO 80203
Phone: (720) 625-5697
www.colorado.gov/iec

Dino Ioannides, *Executive Director*

Position Statement 19-01 (Adjustment of the Gift Ban Dollar Limit)

Summary: The gift ban dollar limit of Article XXIX §3(2) is adjusted to \$65.00.

I. Introduction

The Colorado Constitution authorizes the Independent Ethics Commission (“IEC” or “Commission”) to give advice and guidance on ethics issues arising under Article XXIX of the Colorado Constitution and any other standards of conduct and reporting requirements as provided by law. The Commission may, in its discretion, issue position statements. IEC Rule 6. A Position Statement is “a generally applicable written statement addressing ethics issues, which provides guidance for public officers, members of the General Assembly, local government officials, government employees, and members of the public...” IEC Rule 3.A.15.

The Commission issues this Position Statement to inform public officers, members of the General Assembly, local government officials, government employees, and members of the public that the gift ban dollar limit is adjusted to \$65.00 for the next four years.

II. Discussion

Subject to limited exceptions, public officers, members of the general assembly, local government officials, and government employees are prohibited from soliciting, accepting, or receiving any gift or other thing of value having either a fair market value or aggregate actual cost greater than fifty dollars (\$50) in any calendar year. Colo. Const. Art. XXIX § 3(2). The Commission is periodically required to adjust the gift ban dollar limit, as follows:

The fifty-dollar (\$50) limit set forth in subsection (2) of this section shall be adjusted by an amount based upon the percentage change over a four-year period in the United States bureau of labor statistics consumer price index for Denver-Boulder-Greeley, all items, all consumers, or its successor index, rounded to the nearest lowest dollar. The first adjustment shall be done in the first quarter of 2011 and then every four years thereafter.

Colo. Const. Art. XXIX § 3(6).

The Commission consulted with the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (the “BLS”). Staff of the BLS confirmed that, as a result of occasional geographic adjustments made by the BLS, the Denver-Boulder-Greeley consumer price index has been succeeded by the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood consumer price index. From the beginning of 2015, the date of the last adjustment, to the end of 2018, the consumer price index for the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood area, for all items and all consumers, increased by 10.4%. Therefore the \$59.00 gift ban dollar limit must be increased by 10.4% and rounded to the next lowest dollar. As such, the Commission announces the gift ban limit to be \$65.00, until the first quarter of 2023 when the limit shall be readjusted.

The Independent Ethics Commission

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Jo Ann Sorensen, *Vice-Chair*
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Dated: February 11, 2019