



Title: Expenses and Contributions to Political Functions	Policy No.: 36-01
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Legislation Reference:	Alberta Elections Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act.
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Purpose:	To set clear and uniform parameters regarding political contributions and expenses for participation in political functions for the interaction with Federal and Provincial registered parties, constituency associations and candidates.
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Policy Statement and Guidelines:

1. OBJECTIVE:

- 1.1 Smoky Lake County recognizes that there is legislation that restricts the County from funding Political campaigns or contributing to political fundraisers.
- 1.2 Smoky Lake County also recognizes that attendance by Councillors and senior Administration at Federal and Provincial political events and fundraisers is part of local government duties and benefits the County.
- 1.3 Smoky Lake County will review and approve all requests for attendance of and support for political party or candidate – related events.

2. STATEMENT:

- 2.1 The interaction with officials of various governments and political parties is to insure the promotion of Smoky Lake County’s interests. It is customary business practice to maintain cordial, harmonious relations with official governments and political parties at various levels. Although the County encourages such relations, it is absolutely essential to comply with legislation and preserve the integrity and the appearance of integrity of both Smoky Lake County and its representatives as well as the officials of governments and political parties.
- 2.2 This policy is intended to provide guidance in determining what expenses incurred in attending Federal and Provincial political events will be costs reimbursed by the County and what are to be personal expenses that will not be reimbursed by the County.

3. RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

3.1 Federal Political Events:

The *Federal Elections Act*, as amended, provides that no person or entity other than an individual who is a citizen or permanent resident shall make a contribution to a registered party, a registered association, a candidate, a leadership contestant, or a nomination contestant.

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Policy Statement and Guidelines:

A municipality, being a corporation, is an ineligible contributor and cannot make contributions. Accordingly, any tickets, registration fees or donations to any federal registered party, registered association, a candidate, a leadership contestant or a nomination contestant are personal expenses of a member of Council.

3.2 Provincial Political Events:

The *Provincial Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*, as amended, provides that a municipality is a prohibited corporation and may not make any contributions to a registered party, registered constituency association or registered candidate.

A “contribution” means any money or real or personal property that is provided:

3.2.1 to a political party, constituency association or candidate, or

3.2.2 for the benefit of a political party, constituency association or candidate with it’s or the candidate’s consent,

without compensation from that political party, constituency association or candidate.

4. PROCEDURES:

Smoky Lake County officials may attend political function and be compensated for expenses incurred therefore in accordance with applicable legislation.

4.1 Business Meetings:

Meetings with the Prime Minister, MP’s, Premier, Federal or Provincial Cabinet Ministers, or MLA’s, call by or arranged by either the politician or the County, wherein governance matters relating to the County, either directly or indirectly, are discussed:

4.1.1 In such instances the costs of the meeting, hall rental, registrations, meals, etc. shall be treated as business expenses of the meeting and are reimbursable in accordance with County expenses protocol.

Example: Luncheon Meetings with Minister, MLA Breakfast, etc.

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Policy Statement and Guidelines:	
4.2	<p><u>Fundraisers:</u></p> <p>A “Fund-Raising function” includes any social function held for the purpose of raising funds for a registered party, registered constituency association or registered candidate by whom or on whose behalf the function is held. Any contribution to a registered party, registered constituency association or registered candidate as determined below is a personal expense of a Councillor. Any amount deemed to be allowed for expenses as determined below may be reimbursed in accordance with County expenses protocol.</p> <p>If an individual is charged by the sale of tickets or otherwise charged for attending a fund-raising function held by or on behalf of a registered party, registered constituency association or registered candidate, then for the purpose of complying with legislation.</p> <p>4.2.1 If the individual charge is \$50.00 or less, it shall not be considered as a contribution unless the person who pays the charge specifically requests that the charge be considered as a contribution, in which case one-half (½) of the amount shall be allowed for expenses and one-half (½) of the amount shall be considered as a contribution to the registered party, registered constituency association or registered candidate, as the case may be.</p> <p>4.2.2 If the individual charge is more than \$50.00, <u>\$25.00</u> shall be allowed for expenses and the balance shall be considered as a contribution to the registered party, registered constituency association or registered candidate, as the case may be.</p> <p>Examples: Premier’s Dinners, Constituency Golf Tournaments, Constituency Bar-B-Q (not held for charity) etc.</p> <p>4.3 The County shall not reimburse for annual membership fees for a political part or a constituency association of that party, or for a general collection of money solicited at a meeting held on behalf or in relation to the affairs of a registered candidate, registered party or registered constituency association.</p>

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	March 17, 2011	# 406-11 - Page # 9672
Amended		
Amended		

