

From: [Bill Becker](#)
Subject: conflict of interest
Date: Friday, March 14, 2014 5:23:59 PM

Members,

Regarding council member Cox's statement on campaign contributions and their relationship to conflict of interest.

Here is the way the law treats legislators.

The general conflict of interest statute for legislators is Minnesota Statutes section 10A.07. A conflict of interest arises under that section only if the action the legislator will take involves financial interest of the legislator or an "associated business". Associated business is defined in 10A.01, subdivision 5. Looking at that statute you will find that an entity does not become an associated business based on a campaign contribution.

So under Chapter 10A, there is never a conflict of interest resulting from campaign contributions.

One might also look to House Rule (2.05) that reads "A member who has an immediate interest in a question must not vote on it." Here too interest is generally interpreted to mean a business interest. Again campaign contributions are not business interests.

If you have questions call or write

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