

Minnesota Gift Law Presentation

Gift Law

Minn. Stat. 471.895: “An ***interested person*** may not make a ***gift*** to a ***local official***, and a ***local official*** may not accept a ***gift*** from an ***interested person***”

The Gift Law prohibits gifts to city officials, not to . . .

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Minn. Stat. 471.895: "An ***interested person*** may not make a ***gift*** to a ***local official***, and a ***local official*** may not accept a ***gift*** from an ***interested person***"

- **Interested person:** "a person or a representative of a person or association that has a direct financial interest in a decision that a local official is authorized to make"



- **Local official:** includes elected and

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Gift: includes money, real or personal property, a service, a loan, forgiveness of a loan, or a promise of future employment without consideration of equal or greater value.



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Exceptions to the gift law:

- o Campaign contributions
- o Services to assist the local official in the performance of official duties, such as providing advice, consultation, information and communication in connection with legislation, and services to constituents
- o Services of insignificant monetary value
- o Plaques trinkets or mementos



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Exceptions to the gift law:

- Food or a beverage given at a reception, meal, or meeting if the local official is making a speech or answering questions as part of a program located away from the recipient's place of work.
- Gifts given because the recipient is a member of a group, a majority of whose members are not local officials, if also given to all other members
- Gifts given by a family member
- Food or a beverage given at a reception or meal to attendees at a conference sponsored by a national or multistate organization

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- **Practical Advice**

- If a person is giving you something because you are a council member, the gift is most likely governed by the Gift Law

- Just say no!

