

## MEMORANDUM

**FROM:** Betsy K. Dawson  
**DATE:** March 13, 1997  
**RE:** IO-97-26: acceptance of free tickets to political fund raisers

You inquired whether you could accept as a gift tickets to political fund raisers. Section 3-106 of the Anne Arundel County Ethics law prohibits county employees and officials from accepting gifts from certain "controlled donors". Controlled donors include people (or entities):

1. who are doing or seeking to do business of any kind with the county;
2. who are engaged in activities that are regulated or controlled by the county;
3. who have financial interests that may be substantially and materially affected, in a manner distinguishable from the public generally, by the performance or nonperformance of any official duty of the employee; or
4. who are lobbyists with respect to matters within the jurisdiction of the employee.

If the ticket is not from a controlled donor, it may be accepted. So, if the free ticket is a gift from a candidate or a candidate's organization, it may be accepted. A ticket offered by an employee's supervisor may also be accepted. Under these circumstances, the gift would not have to be reported.

If you have further questions, please call any time.