

## Commonly-Used Gift Rule Exceptions

Nominal Value	Less than \$50	Gifts from Relatives	Personal Friendship
<p>1) May accept an item valued at less than \$10 (\$9.99 before tax) or a greeting card, baseball cap, or t-shirt regardless of the source.</p> <p>2) May not accept cash or cash equivalents, like gift cards</p> <p>3) May not accept food or beverages in a one-on-one setting</p> <p>4) Should be mindful of potential conflicts if you are repeatedly offered nominal value gifts from a single source, even if the gifts technically satisfy the requirements</p>	<p>1) May accept a gift worth less than \$50 (\$49.99 or less before tax) from someone who is not a registered federal lobbyist, foreign agent, or entity that employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent</p> <p>2) The cumulative value of gifts you may accept under this exception in a calendar year from a single source must be less than \$100 (\$99.99 or less before tax)</p> <p>3) A gift worth less than \$10 (\$9.99 before tax) does not count towards the cumulative limit</p> <p>4) You may not accept cash or cash equivalents, like gift cards</p> <p>5) You may not buy down the value of the gift to get the value below \$50</p>	<p>1) May accept anything that a relative offers you, if your relative is the source of the gift, and not merely passing along a gift from someone else</p> <p>2) Relatives include: Parent, Child, Sibling, Aunt or Uncle, Great Aunt or Great Uncle, First Cousin, Niece or Nephew, Spouse, Fiancé(e), Grandparent, Grandchild, Mother or Father-in-Law, Daughter or Son-in-Law, Sister or Brother-in-Law, Stepparent, Stepchild, Stepsibling, Half sibling, Grandparent of your spouse,</p> <p>3) Gifts from persons other than listed above, such as second cousins or godparents, may fall under other gift rule exceptions</p>	<p>1) To accept a gift under personal friendship, you must consider the circumstances of the offer, including, but not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the nature of your relationship with your friend, including any past exchange of gifts;</li> <li>- if your friend paid or will pay for the gift personally, or if your friend will seek a business reimbursement or tax deduction; and</li> <li>- if the same or similar gift was or will be offered to another Member, officer, or employee</li> </ul> <p>2) If the fair market value of the gift exceeds \$250, you must seek formal Committee approval to accept a gift offered because of personal friendship</p> <p>3) If the fair market value of a gift is \$250 or less, you may decide for yourself if the gift meets the requirements</p>

Widely-Attended Events	Receptions	Charity Events	Events Sponsored by Political Organizations
<p>1) Directly invited by event organizer - may not be invited by additional event sponsor who only provides financial assistance to event organizer.</p> <p>2) Reasonable expectation that 25+ <b>non-congressional</b> attendees of diverse professional backgrounds will also be in attendance</p> <p>3) Subject matter must be related to official duties</p> <p>4) Guest may be anyone if event organizer offers unsolicited second ticket</p> <p>4) “Free attendance” includes all or part of the cost of admission; local transportation to and from the event; and the food, refreshments, entertainment, and instructional materials provided to all event attendees</p>	<p>1) <b>Nominal value</b> food and drink only Examples: - light/medium appetizers or hor d’oeuvres - briefings over coffee &amp; bagels - briefings with snack such as cookies or chips</p> <p>2) <b>May not be meals</b>, even low cost meals such as pizza, hot dogs, or sandwiches.</p> <p>3) May not be one-on-one setting with registered lobbyists or foreign agents, or entity that employs registered lobbyist or foreign agent</p> <p>4) Guest may be anyone if event organizer offers unsolicited second ticket</p>	<p>1) Directly invited by the event organizer who is working to put on the event</p> <p>2) Primary purpose of event is to raise funds for organization qualified under §170(c) of Internal Revenue Code</p> <p>3) May accept unsolicited offer of free attendance for anyone</p> <p>4) “Free attendance” does not include entertainment collateral to the to the event or food and drink outside the group setting of the event, such as giveaways</p>	<p>1) Directly invited by event organizer</p> <p>2) This exception applies to “political organizations” as described in § 527(e) of the Internal Revenue Code</p> <p>3) “Free attendance” includes cost of admission, food, refreshments, entertainment, and other benefits provided by the political organization, including unsolicited invitations for guests</p> <p>4) You may accept an invitation to an event that is primarily entertainment, such as a golf outing or a sports game, if that event is a true fundraiser for the political organization</p> <p>5) A meeting with an individual who merely gives you a campaign contribution is not a true fundraiser or campaign event under this exception</p>