

In the Matter Of:
PUBLIC HEARING-GIFT RULE

HEARING
September 09, 2025



ESQUIRE
DEPOSITION SOLUTIONS

800.211.DEPO (3376)
EsquireSolutions.com

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION

MEETING

September 9, 2025

9:29 a.m.

Hearing Room, 8th Floor
40 Fountain Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Agenda Item 8: Hearing and public comment on proposed
regulatory amendments to the Code of Ethics' gift rule
at 520-RICR-00-00-1.4.2, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws
36-14-9 and 42-35-2-8

Alec Ricker
Digital Reporter
Notary Commission Expires: October 18, 2030

APPEARANCES

LAUREN E. JONES, CHAIR

HOLLY J. SUSI, VICE CHAIR

MATTHEW D. STRAUSS, SECRETARY

DR. MICHAEL BROWNER, JR.

CHRISTOPHER P. CALLAHAN

FRANK J. CENERINI

EMMA L. PETERSON

SCOTT P. RABIDEAU

HUGO L. RICCI, JR.

Also Present:

Jason Gramitt, Esq., Executive Director/Chief Prosecutor

(The proceedings commenced at 9:29 a.m.)

CHAIR JONES: An agenda item, but we're here for a hearing and public comment on proposed regulatory amendments to the Gift Rule Act for a portion of the act.

And I just want to say a couple of things before we get going here. We have already received written public comment. We will not be detailing those or summarizing them today. They're available to anyone who wishes to look at them. If there are handouts this morning, we'll take your handouts as well.

I want to be clear before we start here, because the press has had this wrong, we have not proposed to change any rule. We have proposed to consider whether to change rules.

The fact that this is set up for a public hearing today does not mean at all that this commission has made any decision on any of the proposed amendments to rules and regulations.

I think that's important to say because there is not, as we sit here right now, a predilection to either side. That has not been discussed by our commission at all.

As far as time goes, I'll get the sign-up sheet and know how many people are up here, I don't

1 really want to put a limit on the amount of time people
2 can speak, but I will ask you to be aware that we have
3 nine folks up here who are busy people beyond what we do
4 here. It's a volunteer job.

5 Secondly, there are at least 10 or 15 people
6 here, which means five minutes each would get you into a
7 substantial period of time. But there are probably a
8 few people who don't want to speak more than a minute or
9 two.

10 So rather than put limits on it, I'd ask you
11 to be respectful of the time. Try to use the time
12 appropriately, try not to be totally repetitive,
13 although I know you have to say what you have to say,
14 and then let us go from there as we address what we have
15 to address in subsequent meetings.

16 It's already been noted we're recording this
17 session because we think we should or we're required to.

18 There's, I don't believe, anything else, at
19 this point, we need to do for the record, so I guess
20 I'll ask for the sign-up sheet, but I know -- I think I
21 know that Mr. Marion is to speak first. I would ask Mr.
22 Marion to come forward.

23 MR. GRAMITT: As you speak, you can either
24 take the podium or take the seat if you're more
25 comfortable seated.

1 CHAIR JONES: I have six people on the sign-up
2 sheet. Are there others who have not signed up who are
3 here to speak? All right.

4 JOHN MARION: Great, thank you, and I'll try
5 to keep it within the recommended limit.

6 I'm John Marion from Common Cause Rhode
7 Island, again. I want to thank you for taking our
8 testimony. We submitted written testimony that you have
9 in your packet.

10 I want to start by saying that we're
11 supporting one change and opposing one other proposed
12 change. I'm going to start with the change that we're
13 supporting.

14 Back in December, you received a letter from
15 us in the form of a petition to begin a rule-making
16 process because we believe we have discovered a loophole
17 in the Gift Rule of the Code of Ethics. That loophole
18 allows public officials and employees to take unlimited
19 gifts from lobbyists, lobbying firms, and those
20 employing lobbyists as well, as long as they don't meet
21 the definition of an interested person in the Code of
22 Ethics.

23 We, as an organization, believe that
24 lobbyists, lobbying firms, and those who employ
25 lobbyists are, by definition, interested persons and the

1 gifts they provide to public officials and employees
2 should be subject to the strict limits of the Gift Rule.

3 We believe that, in using public office or
4 employment for private gain, if someone takes a gift
5 from someone who is, by definition, being paid or is
6 paying someone to influence them, that's a conflict of
7 interest.

8 Why would someone hire a lobbyist if they
9 didn't have an interest in the outcome of a government
10 decision? Why would someone subject to the Code of
11 Ethics be receiving a gift from a lobbyist if not
12 because of their public position?

13 So as you know, we propose changing the
14 definition of an interested person to categorically
15 include lobbyists, lobbying firms, and people employed
16 lobbyists, as 22 states already do.

17 After I appeared before you in February, we
18 put forth specific language to effectuate this change
19 and that's the language you have before you. That
20 language reflects not only Common Cause Rhode Island's
21 desire to regulate these gifts, but the Commission's
22 desire to create a targeted change to the code. That's
23 why the proposed language does not simply close the
24 loophole and categorically include lobbyists, lobbying
25 firms, and those who employ lobbyists, the definition of

1 an interest in person, but it only includes them if
2 they're currently lobbying or paying someone to lobby
3 the person who is subject to the Code of Ethics. This
4 was an exception that you requested and we tried to
5 incorporate your feedback into the proposed change.

6 We also allowed for an exception for food and
7 drink consumed at an event that all members of the
8 general assembly or all statewide officeholders are
9 invited to. This preserves a common practice that
10 public events have become traditions for the nonprofit
11 community in the state.

12 We believe these changes strengthen the Gift
13 Rule significantly by tightening restrictions while also
14 appropriately targeting the new restrictions to focus on
15 when the relationships or gifts represent a conflict.

16 We note, in the packet that you received, it
17 appears no one has submitted testimony in opposition to
18 these changes, so far, although the period is open for
19 another week. That includes from the 600 registered
20 lobbyists in the state who received a notice by the
21 commission staff.

22 We also note that several pieces of testimony
23 came in from registered lobbyists in favor of the
24 change, and they're all registered lobbyists for
25 nonprofit organizations.

1 Additionally, we reached out to the Secretary
2 of State, asked them to weigh in. They chose not to. I
3 actually think that speaks to the fact that they likely
4 don't oppose this change, if they chose not to weigh in,
5 and they are the entity that is charged with regulating
6 lobbyists.

7 The next thing I want to speak to briefly is
8 the other proposed change here, which is the increase in
9 the maximum value of a regulated gift from \$25 to \$50
10 and the annual aggregate value of a regulated gift from
11 an interested person from \$75 to \$150. Common Cause
12 Rhode Island opposes this change.

13 We believe that the \$25 limit is the
14 appropriate limit for permissible gifts. This limit was
15 set two decades ago to allow for interested persons to
16 give government officials and employees de minimis gifts
17 without violating the Code of Ethics. That is reflected
18 in the colloquial name that I have always used for it,
19 which is the Cup of Coffee Rule. We feel that \$25 is
20 still sufficient amount to allow for incidental
21 purchases that will not unduly influence public
22 officials and employees while also protecting the
23 public's interest in a clean government.

24 We want to note that the origins of this
25 proposed increase in the amount of allowable gifts are

1 not people who are here to testify in front of you
2 today, but actually people subject to the Code of
3 Ethics, the people who want to receive larger gifts,
4 particularly a small group of legislators who want to
5 take gifts in excess of the current limits.

6 It's no surprise to us that the regulated
7 entity wants to see this relief from the regulation.
8 They -- one legislator went so far as to propose an
9 increase, a statutory increase to \$250 annually in the
10 aggregate amount.

11 It's also notable that, so far, you have
12 received no written testimony from any of the parties
13 that asked you to do this informally, despite the
14 legislature receiving the notice.

15 We think those legislators should remember the
16 old saying that there's no such thing as a free lunch.
17 There's no public demand for this change, just the
18 demand of a handful of legislators.

19 And it's worth noting that they can use their
20 campaign accounts, they can use their legislative
21 salaries. They have other means to buy themselves the
22 proverbial free lunch.

23 We finally will just note that the \$25, had it
24 been indexed for inflation, would only be \$42 today. So
25 the proposed change actually is a significant increase

1 in excess of the rate of inflation, which we think
2 defeats the purpose of a de minimis gift rule.

3 In closing, we believe that, if you adopt our
4 position on these two issues, you close the loophole and
5 you keep the gift limits at their current limits, that
6 this would be fulfilling your constitutional mandate to
7 protect the public interest.

8 We want to thank you for considering our
9 petition, and this process has taken months, and we want
10 to thank you for trying to strengthen the gift rule. We
11 also want to thank the staff, especially Director
12 Gramitt, who worked with us to come up with the
13 acceptable language that you have in front of you.

14 So we wish you good luck in your deliberations
15 at your next meeting.

16 CHAIR JONES: Thank you.

17 JOHN MARION: Thank.

18 CHAIR JONES: The next person to come forward
19 as H. Phillip West, Jr.

20 H. PHILLIP WEST, JR.: Thank you, Chairman
21 Jones and Members of the Commission. It's good to see
22 you. I know some of you from years ago.

23 I want to speak briefly but seriously this
24 morning. My name is H. Phillip West, Jr. I served 18
25 years as the director of Common Cause. And I remain

1 particularly grateful to your chairman because, in 1992,
2 he represented Common Cause pro bono before the Rhode
3 Island Supreme Court in a tremendously important case
4 that connects directly to the rule changes that are on
5 the table before you this morning.

6 Governor Bruce Sundlun had asked the Supreme
7 Court whether the state constitution granted the Ethics
8 Commission authority to adopt substantial ethics rules;
9 and second, Governor Sundlun had asked the high court
10 whether the rule that was adopted -- the rules that have
11 been adopted in the process were valid, whether the
12 ethics -- sorry, whether the amendment was valid under
13 the Rhode Island and United States constitutions.

14 The justices quoted your chairman's brief
15 extensively in affirming both points. In other words,
16 that you have the authority to adopt a code of ethics
17 for all public officials and that that authority is
18 valid. In our judgment, that makes this the strongest
19 ethics commission in the United States, bar none.

20 I testify this morning as a private citizen,
21 not on behalf of Common Cause, but I strongly affirm the
22 Common Cause proposal to close this lobbyist loophole
23 that allows public officials to accept large public
24 gifts from certain groups of lobbyists.

25 I retired from Common Cause 19 years ago,

1 after a cancer diagnosis. Thankfully, that was
2 resolved. And I have been back, over a number of years,
3 at the State House as a volunteer lobbyist for the
4 Village Common of Rhode Island, which is an organization
5 that we started 10 years ago that helps older adults
6 stay safely in their homes.

7 And in working, in lobbying on behalf of the
8 Village Common, I had a chance to meet, again, a whole
9 group of lobbyists, former legislators, who I had known
10 when they were legislators. I knew Representative
11 Rabideau. And I got a chance to look at them and I
12 couldn't look, in preparation for today, I couldn't look
13 at the whole 606 lobbyists, so I picked out 14, all of
14 the former legislators who are currently working as
15 lobbyists.

16 And here's the problem that I think that the
17 Common Cause proposal seeks to address, and that really
18 is a practical problem for legislators at the State
19 House. It's very difficult for legislators to tell who
20 is an interested person. In fact, it's almost
21 impossible. Lobbyists have a simple lobbyist badge that
22 has their name and a number and nothing else. There's
23 no indication as to whom, when I'm lobbying, who I'm
24 lobbying for. And unless I tell legislators, they have
25 no way of knowing.

1 Now, all of this plays into the process of the
2 way hearings work at the State House. Committees hear
3 many, many bills, and they often have to restrict the
4 amount of time that anybody can testify on any
5 particular bill, and so, typically, they'll say three
6 minutes.

7 I appreciate your flexibility this morning,
8 Mr. Chairman, but this is a very important point because
9 volunteer lobbyists for nonprofits and advocacy groups
10 and environmental groups and civil groups, and so on,
11 get their three minutes, and most of them put in a
12 written statement, also, because they want to make sure
13 that they're on the record, which everything -- with
14 everything that is important.

15 Now, there's a whole group of lobbyists that
16 doesn't do that and that's the former legislators and
17 some of the other professional lobbyists. I searched
18 diligently to find any written record of the positions
19 of these professional lobbyists. I used ChatGPT, I used
20 Gemini, I went through lots of the individual files, and
21 I couldn't find any, not one.

22 Now, there may be some, but I couldn't find
23 any, of written testimony from any of those 14 lobbyists
24 on any particular bill that they were trying to
25 influence. And I think that that's really significant

1 because there's a lot of money at stake.

2 You have the record there. I created a
3 spreadsheet and you have it, and you have it
4 electronically. So you can -- I invite you to
5 double-check what I have compiled and see if you agree
6 with these lists of what lobbyists have reported.

7 But the point is that these lobbyists are
8 making a lot of money, a lot of money. By my tabulation
9 of what they made in the spring of 2025, these 14, by
10 themselves, brought in over \$3.5 million. \$3.5 million
11 to 14 lobbyists. Now, that's only the ones who were
12 former legislators.

13 Those 14 reported in their lobbyist disclosure
14 reports making more than \$84,000 worth of campaign
15 contributions. And anybody who's a lobbyist at the
16 State House gets deluged with invitations to campaign
17 fundraisers, and most of the nonprofit lobbyists, like
18 myself, can't afford to go to them. I'm a volunteer.
19 But these paid lobbyists go and they give generously.

20 Now, I'm making a connection here because what
21 happens is they get something back. They have access to
22 those legislators, the current legislators, and I think
23 it makes a difference. I really think it makes a
24 difference. That's when they talk to them and that's
25 when they get things done.

1 I would propose to say one final thing to you.
2 These former legislators are skilled at public speaking,
3 and as I watch them at the State House, they mingle
4 cordially with legislators on the floor of the House, of
5 the Senate, and in the hallways. They meet legislators
6 often privately in their legislative offices. They
7 attend these common -- these frequent fundraisers, and
8 they guide their clients in submitting written
9 testimony.

10 But here's the important point. They largely
11 conceal what they are lobbying for from the press and
12 from the public, and that makes it very difficult for
13 other organizations to even know what they are trying to
14 accomplish.

15 And I would give just one example and that
16 would be the Liquor Dealers Association that has, year
17 after year after year, successfully killed a bottle bill
18 that would stop the dropping of these little nips that
19 fill the waterways. And I'm not going to get into that
20 argument at all, it's not important.

21 But the point is, here is the Liquor Dealers
22 Association, there are many other associations, which
23 are technically nonprofits, and that those lobbyists are
24 able to evade this Gift Rule because of the structure.

25 So I would urge you to adopt the proposal that

1 Common Cause has offered to you that all registered
2 lobbyists, and all the entities that pay them, be
3 recognized as interested persons under the law.

4 And I, secondly, I would urge that you reject
5 the increase. I don't think this matters quite so much,
6 but I would reject that increase. They don't need any
7 more opportunities to be closeted with legislators.

8 So thank you very much for your time, and I
9 hope you'll get a chance to look at this.

10 Mr. Chairman?

11 CHAIR JONES: I just want to comment, I think,
12 other Commissioners may care to weigh in.

13 I'm not clear if what you're talking about are
14 campaign contributions by lobbyists because those are
15 not within our jurisdiction.

16 H. PHILLIP WEST, JR.: Absolutely not. And I
17 agree with you 100 percent. Those are completely
18 independent.

19 What we're talking about is the lunch, the
20 soccer game, the baseball game, those private occasions
21 when the lobbyists sit down with the legislator
22 privately or meet in an office privately.

23 My point is these lobbyists, for the most
24 part, are not saying to legislators publicly, in public
25 hearings or in writing, here's what I want you to do.

1 They're doing that in private. And you don't need to
2 give them more opportunities.

3 Glad to answer any questions. Thank you.

4 CHAIR JONES: Thank you.

5 The next person on the list, again, names are
6 hard for me, but I believe this is Kathleen Odean.

7 KATHLEEN ODEAN: I'm Kathleen Odean. I'm from
8 North Kingstown. I will be one of the one-minute
9 speakers.

10 And I'm just speaking because I feel strongly
11 about this, which is the only reason, since I'm retired,
12 that I actually drove up from North Kingstown this
13 morning in a remarkable amount of traffic to speak to
14 you.

15 And I just want to say I hope you will extend
16 the rule that you already have for lobbyists that public
17 officials cannot take unlimited gifts from any
18 lobbyists. I can't think of any reason that they should
19 be able to. I can't think of why public officials
20 should have personal gain from their jobs through these
21 gifts that might influence their decisions, leave them
22 with a sense of obligation.

23 I was a public librarian for four years in
24 California. No one gave me any gifts, and I did my job
25 as well as I could.

1 So you have the power to strengthen this rule,
2 change it, make it stronger, to strengthen good
3 government in Rhode Island, and I hope you'll do that.

4 CHAIR JONES: Thank you.

5 KATHLEEN ODEAN: Slightly under one minute.
6 Thank you.

7 CHAIR JONES: We'll forgive you.

8 The next name on the list is Patrick Lavery.

9 PATRICK LAVERTY: I'll also be quick for you.
10 So good morning. My name is Patrick Lavery. I live in
11 Lincoln. Thank you so much for doing this.

12 I'm also in support of the changes that Common
13 Cause is putting forward, and let me tell you why.

14 For my job, I frequently travel around the
15 country. I'm an IT security consultant. And
16 frequently, when I tell people I'm from Rhode Island,
17 all too often the response is, oh, isn't that where you
18 had that corrupt mayor? And I have to tell them, yeah,
19 but he's done.

20 So for me, this is all about perception, that
21 the whole changes here are going to be good for
22 perception and giving that we are ethical in Rhode
23 Island with our politics.

24 So the second reason that I have now is ask
25 any public school teacher what is the limit of gift that

1 they can accept? And you're going to hear it somewhere
2 between \$10 and \$25 because imagine if the students came
3 in and gave huge gifts to teachers, what perception that
4 is going to give, that is the expectation in return,
5 even if none is stated. So shouldn't our public
6 officials have the same ethical requirements as public
7 school teachers who can't take gifts over \$10 to \$25
8 anyway.

9 So by limiting the gift limit from all
10 lobbyists, interested and otherwise, our Ethics
11 Commission and Rhode Island can do the right thing to
12 ensure proper ethics from our elected leaders.

13 Thank you so much.

14 CHAIR JONES: Thank you, sir.

15 The next name on the list is Jessie Kingston.

16 JESSIE KINGSTON: Good morning. My name is
17 Jessie Kingston. I'm from Providence and a member of
18 Common Cause, Rhode Island.

19 I'm retired and therefore able to spend some
20 time at the State House advocating for a number of
21 issues I care about, both personal and for the good of
22 all Rhode Islanders. The amendment I'm addressing today
23 is one of these issues.

24 From time to time, at the State House, I
25 noticed a specific question would arise that was

1 referred to the Ethics Commission for a ruling. The
2 questions I recall all had to do with potential
3 conflicts of interest. I was glad to learn Rhode Island
4 had an Ethics Commission. Conflict of interest is at
5 the heart of the proposed amendment I'm testifying in
6 support of today.

7 In order to close the type of thing that has
8 been shown in a recent, rather public, example in Rhode
9 Island to be a serious and dangerous loophole in the
10 Gift Rule as currently written, the language in this
11 rule must be amended so as to be explicit that gifts are
12 limited from all lobbyists and those who employ them,
13 regardless of whether the lobbyists or the lobbyists'
14 clients' interests are financially or policy based.

15 One has only to look to current events at the
16 federal level to see how dangerous and disastrous
17 unlimited gifts and monetary contributions are to good
18 government and a properly functioning democracy.

19 While it's my understanding that the
20 commission has not exercised its power to make new rules
21 in several years, I have to wonder if not now, then
22 when?

23 Rhode Island can think globally while acting
24 locally and join other states who have already made this
25 important ruling. I respectfully urge you to rectify

1 this loophole and pass the proposed amendment.

2 Thank you for considering my comments.

3 CHAIR JONES: The next person on the list is
4 Kate McGovern.

5 KATE MCGOVERN: Good morning. I'm Kate
6 McGovern and I live in Providence. And this isn't my
7 testimony, it's just a prop.

8 I had submitted written testimony, but I
9 wanted to just step up and reiterate it with a couple of
10 comments. And I noted, when I finally read this book,
11 after being a bit puzzled by the legislative system in
12 Rhode Island and how much it differed from my experience
13 when I lived in New Hampshire, and so I wanted to give a
14 shout out to Mr. West again for documenting this and
15 also point out the connection between what he pointed
16 out in this book and how remarkable the existence of
17 this commission is.

18 As he noted this morning, it is a remarkable
19 achievement and the opportunity to continue to give
20 ethical guidance on so many levels to the state is
21 critical to our democracy, as previous speakers have
22 noted.

23 So a couple of quick points here. I mentioned
24 my experience in New Hampshire. The legislature there
25 votes on every bill. You're a rep, you introduce a

1 bill, it's going to get a committee vote. The committee
2 recommends whether or not it ought to pass, not ought to
3 pass, be further studied, and they do real studies.
4 They don't do this sort of hold for study and no one
5 studies it. And then it goes to the full chamber, and
6 the chamber has the opportunity to overturn the
7 committee's recommendation. So it's incredibly
8 transparent.

9 We got here and it's like, what do you mean
10 there hasn't been a vote on payday lending in a dozen
11 years? How could that be? It's opaque. The power is
12 concentrated in the leadership, and the decision of
13 whether or not something gets a vote in a committee
14 isn't made by the chair of the committee.

15 And I learned something, again, from Mr. West,
16 this morning, about how the lobbyists who used to be
17 legislators don't speak on the record on these matters,
18 and that's part of what contributes to it being opaque,
19 which brings us to the question of who's an interested
20 person.

21 And using two quick examples, an interested
22 person would be a lobbyist who successfully defends that
23 loophole year after year and says, you want to renew my
24 contract so I can do that again, right?

25 An interested person is also someone like our

1 friend John Marion, who, if he were able to say, we
2 finally got a vote on same-day voter registration being
3 sent to the voters to approve whether or not they would
4 vote for that as a change to the constitution, that
5 would enhance John's reputation. It might help Common
6 Cause's fundraising, and that, all of that qualifies as
7 being an interested person. The outcome of the lobbying
8 is extremely relevant to what happens at the State House
9 and who's an interested person.

10 So again, that was why I wanted to appear
11 today to underscore the previous written testimony I
12 submitted and ask you to support closing the lobbyist
13 loophole. And thank you for your work.

14 CHAIR JONES: Thank you.

15 That is the last of the names on the list, but
16 I'd like to make sure, if there's anybody present in the
17 room, anybody else would like to come forward and speak,
18 it's an open podium now.

19 Seeing none, I guess I will close the public
20 hearing.

21 (The proceedings concluded at 10:00 a.m.)
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE OF DIGITAL REPORTER

I, Alec Ricker, a Digital Reporter and Notary Public, within and for the State of Massachusetts, do hereby certify that on September 9, 2025, I digitally reported the proceedings had and the evidence given, together with the objections of counsel and the rulings of the Court thereto, and that said testimony was accurately captured with annotations by me during the proceeding, taken at said time and place.

I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of September 2025.

Alec Ricker

Alec Ricker, Digital Reporter
Notary Commission Expires: October 18, 2030

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST

I, NANCY KRAKOWER, Legal Transcriptionist, do
hereby certify:

That the foregoing is a complete and true
transcription of the original digital audio recording of
the testimony and proceedings captured in the above-
entitled matter. As the transcriptionist, I have
reviewed and transcribed the entirety of the original
digital audio recording of the proceeding to ensure a
verbatim record to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am neither attorney
for nor a relative or employee of any of the parties to
the action; further, that I am not a relative or
employee of any attorney employed by the parties hereto,
nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome
of this matter.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my
hand this 19th day of September 2025.

Nancy E. Krakower

Nancy Krakower, Transcriptionist

	12:13	affirming	bar	cancer
\$		11:15	11:19	12:1
	A	afford	baseball	care
\$10		14:18	16:20	16:12
19:2,7	a.m.	agree	based	19:21
\$25	23:21	14:5	20:14	case
19:2,7	Absolutely	16:17	behalf	11:3
\$3.5	16:16	amended	11:21	Cause's
14:10	accept	20:11	12:7	23:6
\$84,000	11:23	amendment	bill	chair
14:14	19:1	11:12	13:5,24	10:16,18
	acceptable	19:22	15:17	16:11
1	10:13	20:5 21:1	21:25	17:4
	access	amount	22:1	18:4,7
10	14:21	13:4	bills	19:14
12:5	accomplish	17:13	13:3	21:3
100	15:14	approve	bit	22:14
16:17	achievement	23:3	21:11	23:14
10:00	21:19	argument	bono	chairman
23:21	acting	15:20	11:2	10:20
14	20:23	arise	book	11:1 13:8
12:13	address	19:25	21:10,16	16:10
13:23	12:17	Association	bottle	chairman's
14:9,11,13	addressing	15:16,22	15:17	11:14
18	19:22	association	briefly	chamber
10:24	adopt	s	10:23	22:5,6
19	10:3	15:22	brings	chance
11:25	11:8,16	attend	22:19	12:8,11
1992	15:25	15:7	brought	16:9
11:1	adopted	authority	14:10	change
	11:10,11	11:8,16,17	Bruce	18:2 23:4
2	adults		11:6	Chatgpt
	12:5	B	C	13:19
2025	advocacy			citizen
14:9	13:9	back	California	11:20
	advocating	12:2	17:24	civil
6	19:20	14:21	campaign	13:10
	affirm	badge	14:14,16	clear
606	11:21	12:21	16:14	16:13
				clients

15:8	18:12	contributio	deliberatio	
clients'	19:18	ns	ns	E
20:14	23:5	14:15	10:14	
close	compiled	16:14	deluged	elected
10:4	14:5	20:17	14:16	19:12
11:22	completely	cordially	democracy	electronica
20:7	16:17	15:4	20:18	lly
23:19	conceal	corrupt	21:21	14:4
closeted	15:11	18:18	diagnosis	employ
16:7	concentrate	country	12:1	20:12
closing	d	18:15	differed	enhance
10:3	22:12	couple	21:12	23:5
23:12	concluded	21:9,23	difference	ensure
code	23:21	court	14:23,24	19:12
11:16	Conflict	11:3,7,9	difficult	entities
comment	20:4	created	12:19	16:2
16:11	conflicts	14:2	15:12	environment
comments	20:3	critical	diligently	al
21:2,10	connection	21:21	13:18	13:10
commission	14:20	current	directly	ethical
10:21	21:15	10:5	11:4	18:22
11:8,19	connects	14:22	director	19:6
19:11	11:4	20:15	10:11,25	21:20
20:1,4,20	constitutio		disastrous	ethics
21:17	n	D	20:16	11:7,8,
Commissione	11:7 23:4	dangerous	disclosure	12,16,19
rs	constitutio	20:9,16	14:13	19:10,12
16:12	nal	de	documenting	20:1,4
committee	10:6	10:2	21:14	evade
22:1,13,	constitutio	Dealers	double-	15:24
14	ns	15:16,21	check	events
committee's	11:13	decision	14:5	20:15
22:7	consultant	22:12	dozen	examples
Committees	18:15	decisions	22:10	22:21
13:2	continue	17:21	dropping	excess
common	21:19	defeats	15:18	10:1
10:25	contract	10:2	drove	exercised
11:2,21,	22:24	defends	17:12	20:20
22,25	contributes	22:22		existence
12:4,8,17	22:18			21:16
15:7 16:1				

HEARING
PUBLIC HEARING-GIFT RULE

September 09, 2025
Index: expectation..interest

expectation 19:4	forgive 18:7	gift 10:2,5,10 15:24 18:25 19:9 20:10	13:15	18:3
experience 21:12,24	forward 10:18 18:13 23:17		groups 11:24 13:9,10	House 12:3,19 13:2 14:16
explicit 20:11		gifts 11:24 17:17,21, 24 19:3,7 20:11,17	guess 23:19	15:3,4 19:20,24 23:8
extend 17:15	frequent 15:7		guidance 21:20	
extensively 11:15	frequently 18:14,16		guide 15:8	huge 19:3
extremely 23:8	friend 23:1	give 14:19 15:15 17:2 19:4 21:13,19	<hr/> H <hr/>	<hr/> I <hr/>
<hr/> F <hr/>	front 10:13		hallways 15:5	imagine 19:2
fact 12:20	fulfilling 10:6	giving 18:22	Hampshire 21:13,24	important 11:3 13:8,14 15:10,20 20:25
federal 20:16	full 22:5	glad 17:3 20:3	hard 17:6	
feel 17:10	functioning 20:18	globally 20:23	hear 13:2 19:1	impossible 12:21
files 13:20	fundraisers 14:17 15:7	good 10:14,21 18:2,10, 21 19:16, 21 20:17 21:5	hearing 23:20	increase 16:5,6
fill 15:19	fundraising 23:6		hearings 13:2 16:25	incredibly 22:7
final 15:1	<hr/> G <hr/>	government 18:3 20:18	heart 20:5	independent 16:18
finally 21:10 23:2	gain 17:20	Governor 11:6,9	helps 12:5	indication 12:23
financially 20:14	game 16:20	Gramitt 10:12	high 11:9	individual 13:20
find 13:18,21, 22	gave 17:24 19:3	granted 11:7	hold 22:4	inflation 10:1
flexibility 13:7	Gemini 13:20	grateful 11:1	homes 12:6	influence 13:25 17:21
floor 15:4	generously 14:19	group 12:9	hope 16:9 17:15	interest 10:7 20:3,4

HEARING
PUBLIC HEARING-GIFT RULE

September 09, 2025
Index: interested..made

interested 12:20 16:3 19:10 22:19,21, 25 23:7,9	John's 23:5 join 20:24 Jones 10:16,18, 21 16:11 17:4 18:4,7 19:14 21:3 23:14 Jr 10:19,20, 24 16:16 judgment 11:18 jurisdictio n 16:15 justices 11:14 <hr/> K <hr/> Kate 21:4,5 Kathleen 17:6,7 18:5 killed 15:17 Kingston 19:15,16, 17 Kingstown 17:8,12 knew 12:10 knowing	12:25 <hr/> L <hr/> language 10:13 20:10 large 11:23 largely 15:10 Laverty 18:8,9,10 law 16:3 leaders 19:12 leadership 22:12 learn 20:3 learned 22:15 leave 17:21 legislative 15:6 21:11 legislator 16:21 legislators 12:9,10, 14,18,19, 24 13:16 14:12,22 15:2,4,5 16:7,24 22:17 legislature 21:24	lending 22:10 level 20:16 levels 21:20 librarian 17:23 limit 18:25 19:9 limited 20:12 limiting 19:9 limits 10:5 Lincoln 18:11 Liquor 15:16,21 list 17:5 18:8 19:15 21:3 23:15 lists 14:6 live 18:10 21:6 lived 21:13 lobbying 12:7,23, 24 15:11 23:7 lobbyist 11:22 12:3,21	14:13,15 22:22 23:12 lobbyists 11:24 12:9,13, 15,21 13:9,15, 17,19,23 14:6,7, 11,17,19 15:23 16:2,14, 21,23 17:16,18 19:10 20:12,13 22:16 lobbyists' 20:13 locally 20:24 loophole 10:4 11:22 20:9 21:1 22:23 23:13 lot 14:1,8 lots 13:20 luck 10:14 lunch 16:19 <hr/> M <hr/> made 14:9 20:24
interests 20:14				
introduce 21:25				
invitations 14:16				
invite 14:4				
Island 11:3,13 12:4 18:3,16, 23 19:11, 18 20:3, 9,23 21:12				
Islanders 19:22				
issues 10:4 19:21,23				
<hr/> J <hr/>				
Jessie 19:15,16, 17				
job 17:24 18:14				
jobs 17:20				
John 10:17 23:1				

HEARING
PUBLIC HEARING-GIFT RULE

September 09, 2025
Index: make..power

22:14	minimis	19:25	organizatio	personal
make	10:2	number	n	17:20
13:12	minute	12:2,22	12:4	19:21
18:2	18:5	19:20	organizatio	persons
20:20	minutes		ns	16:3
23:16	13:6,11	O	15:13	petition
makes	monetary		outcome	10:9
11:18	20:17	obligation	23:7	Phillip
14:23	money	17:22	overturn	10:19,20,
15:12	14:1,8	occasions	22:6	24 16:16
making	months	16:20		picked
14:8,14,	10:9	Odean	P	12:13
20		17:6,7		plays
mandate	morning	18:5	paid	13:1
10:6	10:24	offered	14:19	podium
Marion	11:5,20	16:1	part	23:18
10:17	13:7	office	16:24	point
23:1	17:13	16:22	22:18	13:8 14:7
matters	18:10	offices	pass	15:10,21
16:5	19:16	15:6	21:1	16:23
22:17	21:5,18	officials	22:2,3	21:15
mayor	22:16	11:17,23	Patrick	pointed
18:18	N	17:17,19	18:8,9,10	21:15
Mcgovern	names	19:6	pay	points
21:4,5,6	17:5	older	16:2	11:15
meet	23:15	12:5	payday	21:23
12:8 15:5	nips	one-minute	22:10	policy
16:22	15:18	17:8	people	20:14
meeting	nonprofit	opaque	18:16	politics
10:15	14:17	22:11,18	percent	18:23
member	nonprofits	open	16:17	position
19:17	13:9	23:18	perception	10:4
Members	15:23	opportuniti	18:20,22	positions
10:21	North	es	19:3	13:18
mentioned	17:8,12	16:7 17:2	person	potential
21:23	noted	opportunity	10:18	20:2
million	21:10,18,	21:19	12:20	power
14:10	22	22:6	17:5 21:3	18:1
mingle	noticed	order	22:20,22,	20:20
15:3		20:7	25 23:7,9	22:11

practical 12:18	15:25	quick 18:9	registered 16:1	response 18:17
preparation 12:12	propose 15:1	21:23	registratio n	restrict 13:3
present 23:16	proposed 20:5 21:1	quoted 11:14	23:2	retired 11:25
press 15:11	protect 10:7	<hr/>	reiterate 21:9	17:11
previous 21:21	Providence 19:17	R <hr/>	reject 16:4,6	19:19
23:11	21:6	Rabideau 12:11	relevant 23:8	return 19:4
private 11:20	public 10:7	rate 10:1	remain 10:25	Rhode 11:2,13
16:20	11:17,23	read 21:10	remarkable 17:13	12:4
17:1	15:2,12	real 22:3	21:16,18	18:3,16,
privately 15:6	16:24	reason 17:11,18	renew 22:23	22 19:11,
16:22	17:16,19,	18:24	rep 21:25	18,22
pro 11:2	23 18:25	recall 20:2	reported 14:6,13	20:3,8,23
problem 12:16,18	19:5,6	recent 20:8	reports 14:14	21:12
proceedings 23:21	20:8	recognized 16:3	Representat ive	room 23:17
process 10:9	23:19	recommendat ion	12:10	rule 10:2,10
11:11	publicly 16:24	recommends 22:2	reputation 23:5	11:4,10
13:1	purpose 10:2	record 13:13,18	requirement s	15:24
professiona l	put 13:11	14:2	19:6	17:16
13:17,19	putting 18:13	rectify 20:25	resolved 12:2	18:1
prop 21:7	puzzled 21:11	referred 20:1	respectfull y	20:10,11
proper 19:12	<hr/>		20:25	rules 11:8,10
properly 20:18	Q <hr/>			20:20
proposal 11:22	qualifies 23:6			ruling 20:1,25
12:17	question 19:25			<hr/>
	22:19			S <hr/>
	questions 17:3 20:2			safely 12:6
				same-day 23:2
				school 18:25

19:7	speakers	stop	Supreme	time
searched	17:9	15:18	11:3,6	13:4 16:8
13:17	21:21	strengthen	system	19:20,24
security	speaking	10:10	21:11	today
18:15	15:2	18:1,2		12:12
seeks	17:10	stronger	T	19:22
12:17	specific	18:2		20:6
Senate	19:25	strongest	table	23:11
15:5	spend	11:18	11:5	traffic
sense	19:19	strongly	tabulation	17:13
17:22	spreadsheet	11:21	14:8	transparent
served	14:3	17:10	talk	22:8
10:24	spring	structure	14:24	travel
shout	14:9	15:24	talking	18:14
21:14	staff	students	16:13,19	tremendousl
shown	10:11	19:2	teacher	y
20:8	stake	studied	18:25	11:3
significant	14:1	22:3	teachers	type
13:25	started	studies	19:3,7	20:7
simple	12:5	22:3,5	technically	typically
12:21	state	study	15:23	13:5
sir	11:7	22:4	testify	U
19:14	12:3,18	submitted	11:20	
sit	13:2	21:8	13:4	underscore
16:21	14:16	23:12	testifying	23:11
skilled	15:3	submitting	20:5	understandi
15:2	19:20,24	15:8	testimony	ng
Slightly	21:20	substantial	13:23	20:19
18:5	23:8	11:8	15:9	United
soccer	stated	successfull	21:7,8	11:13,19
16:20	19:5	y	23:11	unlimited
sort	statement	15:17	Thankfully	17:17
22:4	13:12	22:22	12:1	20:17
speak	states	Sundlun	thing	urge
10:23	11:13,19	11:6,9	15:1	15:25
17:13	20:24	support	19:11	16:4
22:17	stay	18:12	20:7	20:25
23:17	12:6	20:6	things	
	step	23:12	14:25	
	21:9			

	13:2
v	23:13
	worked
valid	10:12
11:11,12, 18	working
	12:7,14
Village	worth
12:4,8	14:14
volunteer	writing
12:3 13:9 14:18	16:25
vote	written
22:1,10, 13 23:2,4	13:12,18, 23 15:8 20:10
voter	21:8
23:2	23:11
voters	
23:3	y
votes	
21:25	year
	15:16,17 22:23
w	
	years
wanted	10:22,25 11:25 12:2,5 17:23
21:9,13 23:10	watch
	20:21 22:11
waterways	
15:19	
weigh	
16:12	
West	
10:19,20, 24 16:16 21:14 22:15	
words	
11:15	
work	