



THE DNC 2024: SOME ETHICS FAQs

I'm a City employee. Can I attend the DNC as a delegate, guest, or volunteer?

Yes—the City's ethics laws do not prohibit any City employee or official from attending, but your attendance is considered "political activity" and cannot be done on City compensated time. (Note there are some exceptions: if you are performing the duties of your City employment, e.g. serving as security or staffing for the Mayor, you can be on City compensated time.)

I'm a City employee. Can I attend any receptions to which I'm invited?

It depends.

First, you must be invited by the reception's sponsor or host—if the invitation comes from an entity, such as a law firm or company, that is not the reception's sponsor or host, then you must pay your own way in order to attend.

Second, if you are a volunteer or delegate, you may attend any reception to which other delegates or volunteers are invited, again, as long as that invitation is extended by the reception's sponsor. But if you are not a delegate or volunteer, then you would need to pay your way.

I'm a City employee, and am volunteering for the DNC. If I am invited to a reception that is for other volunteers, must I report my attendance to the Board of Ethics?

No—because you are not attending in your official capacity as a City employee. But, remember that you cannot accept anything of value, such as an invitation to a reception, in return for giving advice or assistance concerning City business.

Can I attend the DNC or any reception in my official City capacity?

The answer is most likely no—unless the reception is for City employees or officials attending the DNC in their official City capacity, such as the Mayor. Because the DNC is a political event, it by definition is not going to be related to your official City responsibilities unless your City title allows for it, like the Mayor. Remember though—if you *are* attending any reception in your official City capacity, you must report your attendance to the Board of Ethics in writing (an email is fine) within 10 days of the event. The email can be addressed to our Executive Director at steve.berlin@cityofchicago.org, and must state who invited you, and when and where the reception was held.

If I do attend any reception, am I limited to \$50 worth of food or drink?

No. You may eat and drink as you wish.

If you have questions that are not answered here, please contact our office at 312-744-9660, or email us.

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