



The Voice of Ethics Podcast Transcript

Bonus Mini Episode

Free Gift Inside!

Nick: Hello ethical people. I'm Nick Rohrbaugh of the Ohio Ethics Commission bringing you the gift of a bonus mini episode on the topic on everyone's mind, especially this time of the year – gifts!

I bring you not one but TWO priceless gifts. And before you ask how to report double infinity on your Financial Disclosure Statement, I promise that the gift of ethics, while, yes, priceless, is in fact completely legal. Take a peek inside our show notes or do a quick search on our website to unwrap these.

First up is The Holidays and the Ohio Ethics Law chapter of our Gifts and Other Things of Value Factsheet (Surprise! Don't ask me how I knew you always wanted a Gifts Fact Sheet, I'm just super thoughtful). Prohibited gifts, gift exchanges, gifts from staff, to staff, holiday open houses, tips, gift baskets – these aren't lumps of coal they are nuggets of pure wisdom, reach in your stocking and grab em.

Next up is THE must-have gift of the season - Advisory Opinion 2001-03. Here the Ethics Commission lays out the naught and nice list of gifts when it comes to public service. Not to spoil the surprise, but us public servants can't accept substantial things of value from improper sources and 2001-03 gets into the silver and gold of what makes something like the gift of a golf outing from a vendor a handle with care situation (fra-gee-lay).

Oh and one more piece of advice from everybody's favorite elf: If you see gum on the street, leave it there. It isn't free candy.

Happy holidays, happy New Year, take care, be ethical. Bye bye.