Determining whether a legislator should attend an event if the costs are covered by a sponsoring organization

Is the value of the event $50 or more?

- **YES**
  - Does the activity place or appear to place you under an obligation?
    - **YES**
      - Does the activity clearly serve the public good?
        - **NO**
          - Could the activity be considered “lavish or extravagant”?
            - **YES**
              - Attendance likely violates state ethics laws
            - **NO**
              - Attendance likely does not violate state ethics laws
        - **YES**
          - Do you believe or would a reasonable person believe that costs are being covered primarily for the purpose of rewarding you for official action taken?
            - **YES**
              - Attendance likely violates state ethics laws
            - **NO**
              - Attendance likely does not violate state ethics laws
    - **NO**
      - Does acceptance of the activity costs tend to improperly influence a reasonable person in your position to depart from the faithful and impartial discharge of your public duties?
        - **YES**
          - Attendance likely violates state ethics laws
        - **NO**
          - Attendance likely does not violate state ethics laws
  - **NO**
    - Is the activity “educational”?
      - **YES**
        - Consider whether the majority of the agenda, speakers, and presentation topics assist you in representing your constituents or make you a more effective legislator.
      - **NO**
        - Does the activity place or appear to place you under an obligation?
          - **YES**
            - Does acceptance of the activity costs tend to improperly influence a reasonable person in your position to depart from the faithful and impartial discharge of your public duties?
              - **YES**
                - Attendance likely violates state ethics laws
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*Note: In addition to ethics laws, gifts also may be subject to campaign finance laws.*