

United States Senate

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Events Honoring Members at the National Party Conventions

What has changed? Under the new rules, lobbyists or private entities that retain or employ them may no longer pay for parties honoring Senators at the national party conventions.

Specifically, Senate Rule 35.1(d) (5) states that, “[d]uring the dates of the national party convention for the political party to which a Member belongs, a Member may not participate in an event honoring that Member, . . . if such event is directly paid for by a registered lobbyist or a private entity that retains or employs a registered lobbyist.”

During the dates of the national party convention means those calendar dates in which the national party convention is in session, which includes the entire calendar date on which the convention convenes through the entire calendar date on which it adjourns.

Events Honoring a Member include

1. Events where a specific Member or Members are identified by name or title.
2. Events honoring a group composed solely of Members of Congress.

Under this rule, an event honoring the “Nevada Congressional Delegation” would be prohibited, but one honoring “Nevada Republican Officials” or “Nevada Delegates” would be permissible. However, being honored as a Member does not include being a *featured speaker* at an event at a national party convention.

Directly paid for by lobbyists or private entities employing lobbyists includes situations where

1. A lobbyist or entity pays for an event directly.
2. A lobbyist or entity donates money to a non-lobbyist entity (*e.g.*, the host committee, a non-profit, etc.) and earmarks the funds to be spent in connection with an event honoring a Member.

The prohibition would not apply in cases where a lobbyist or entity gives funds to a non-lobbyist entity *without* earmarking the funds to honor a Member.