

Ethics



Billing the County for a Service Club's Cause

Q. The county government pays for the county manager's membership and monthly meeting expenses to participate in a popular service club. The networking opportunities with business leaders in the club are valued, so this practice has been in place for many years. Recently, the county manager received a letter from the service club enclosing two raffle tickets. The proceeds from the raffle ticket sales would benefit a well-regarded charity. How should the county manager handle this?

A. While it is a usual business practice for local government to pay dues and meeting expenses to participate in service clubs and other organizations, it would not be appropriate to use public funds for the raffle tickets. The county manager should write a personal check for any charities she wishes to support.