

As ALEC becomes more known for our success, this will also generate tough questions from the press and from state legislative committees. The following information is designed to help you navigate away from those tough questions and get back to talking about policy. If you are asked any of these questions, acceptable responses are provided, but please then direct the conversation back to the policy to which you want to discuss.

NOTE: There are multiple questions with only one response. These are actual questions that have been asked. The questions are really the same, but asked in a variety of ways from the friendly to the aggressive. If you have any questions, please contact Raegan.

---

### **Who is ALEC?**

- With over 1,800 legislative members, ALEC is the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership association of state legislators. ALEC is one of America's most dynamic public-private partnerships with nearly 300 foundations, businesses, non-profits, associations and individuals representing all sectors of the American economy. ALEC provides its public and private sector members with a unique opportunity to work together to develop policies and programs that effectively promote the Jeffersonian principles of free markets, limited government, federalism, and individual liberty.

### **ALEC policy development questions:**

- Legislation across the states (or in one state) regarding \_\_\_\_\_ initiative is said to have been written by ALEC. Is this ALEC legislation?
- Who writes ALEC legislation?
- What is ALEC model legislation and how does it come about?
- Explain to me how this became ALEC model legislation. Did you all write this and then convince legislators to pass it throughout the country? When does the legislation get voted on?
- How does ALEC "adopt policy"?
- Didn't ALEC actually write this legislation in conjunction with private corporations and then convince state legislators to pass it throughout the country?
- Who actually writes/brings legislation to ALEC and how does it become policy?

### **ALEC Response to ANY of the above questions:**

ALEC task force members can bring legislation before their task force for consideration; usually this is our legislative members. After debate and deliberation, the task force then votes it up or down by a majority vote for the Board's consideration. The Board, which is only made of public sector or legislative members, vote on whether to adopt it as ALEC policy or not. The Board has 30 days to approve. This process happens at each ALEC meeting; we have 3 a year. If it is adopted as policy, it becomes one of the nearly 1,000 pieces of legislation in our library for our members.

### **Private Sector member questions:**

- Isn't this just a front for big corporations to push their legislative policies on policy makers?
- Isn't this just another way for big corporations to lobby behind closed doors?
- Can the private sector propose legislation?
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Insert member name – Koch, Wal-Mart, etc.) is one of the many big corporate members you have. Aren't they really paying for this legislation to be carried out in the states? Aren't they the ones really pushing the agendas?
- How much does \_\_\_\_\_ contribute to ALEC? I've seen figures in the hundreds of thousands. Reports suggest \$ \_\_\_\_\_ have been contributed to ALEC.

- Isn't it true that Koch (or insert other members' names) provided ALEC over \$500,000 in funding over the past few years?
- Your corporate members are the real ones pushing the issues and controlling ALEC, aren't they? They do give the most money.

**ALEC Response:**

Since ALEC is a legislative organization our state legislators take the lead on proposing legislation and only the public sector votes to adopt legislation as ALEC policy. We are a private organization and don't discuss our members' contributions.

ALEC is not controlled by any one entity. With over 1,800 legislative members, I'd say that they definitely have the biggest voice.

**Lobbying questions:**

- Hasn't ALEC worked to push \_\_\_\_\_ legislation throughout the states?
- What groups has ALEC worked with to get your legislation passed?
- Has the \_\_\_\_\_ corporation provided you funding to get this legislation passed?
- Aren't you just a front for backdoor lobbying? Your meetings and your visits to the states?
- Do you have any offices or staff positioned in the states?
- Did any staff come visit the state to help get the legislation passed?

**ALEC Response:**

ALEC legislative members propose legislation in their states and work to pass their own bills. ALEC only has a staff of 27 people and resides in Washington, D.C. with no satellite offices needed. ALEC staff is often asked to testify before state legislative committees as policy experts and meet with legislators in their home states regarding ALEC initiatives.

ALEC meetings are designed for legislative members to learn from each other as well as policy experts representing a variety of current issue areas that affect our citizens and our economy. Legislators cannot make decisions blindly and under the principles of limited government, free markets and federalism, ALEC believes they should have the best information possible when making policy decisions. The alternative would be the government dictating to its citizens.

**Membership questions:**

- How much is it to become a member?
- I see the huge cost for private companies and the minimal cost for legislators. Why the difference and doesn't this just prove that big corporations run ALEC?
- Isn't ALEC just made up of the biggest corporations in order to seek out state legislative members?

**ALEC Response:**

ALEC first and foremost is an individual membership organization consisting of over 1,800 legislators. ALEC is also supported by foundations, businesses, non-profits, associations and individuals representing all sectors of the American economy. We are a privately funded, non-profit organization that respects the privacy of our donors.

**Board Membership Questions:**

- How does somebody become a member of the Public Sector Board? Of the Private Enterprise Board?
- What is the role of the Private Enterprise Board?

**ALEC Response:**

Just like other non-profit organizations, ALEC Board members are nominated and selected by other Board members for their good service and upholding the principles of the organization. The Private Enterprise Board is simply advisory on ALEC's organizational direction.

**ALEC Staff Questions:**

- Are any of your staff registered lobbyists?
- Doesn't ALEC staff work at the grass roots level with other organizations to pass legislation in the states?
- Does ALEC participate in the Koch Associates program?

**ALEC Response:**

No, ALEC staff does not lobby. Our team is policy experts that provide information and data on legislation. ALEC does not engage in expressed advocacy; meaning we do not advocate to vote for or against any legislation. We may support other groups' positions on policy that share our principles.

Yes, we participate in this program that helps new graduates get their first jobs in the workforce and contribute to the economy.