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DFL senators want ethics probe of Newman for email

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Some DFLers in the underlined state Senate have asked for an ethics investigation into Republican Sen. Scott Newman's conduct, after an email from his office said he would not meet with a constituent because her organization had supported his opponent.

Newman has said the email was a mistake and does not reflect his policies. The Hutchinson legiislator said he took responsibility for the email but noted it came from a new aide.

Still, the ethics request means the ethics subcommittee has 30 days to consider the complaint.

Sen. Sandy Pappas, a DFLer from St. Paul who was among those filing the complaint, said in a statement:

> "Requesting an ethics hearing is a very serious matter, and we spent considerable time reviewing the facts and public comments made by Sen. Newman. We still have many questions regarding this incident, and we hope that a complete and full investigation by the Senate ethics subcommittee will provide Minnesotans with some much-needed answers.
>
> The facts are clear: Sen. Newman's staff sent an e-mail stating the Senator would not meet with individuals or groups who contributed to or supported his opponent during his most recent election campaign. Nobody should feel like they need to pay a toll to gain access to their elected representative. We believe the ethics subcommittee should investigate this incident as quickly as possible in order to restore and maintain the public's trust in this institution."

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