

**Calendar Year 2019
Financial Disclosure Statement
Frequently Asked
Questions & Answers**



**For Personal Financial
Disclosure Statement to be filed
in 2020**

General Information

1. **Where is the Financial Disclosure Law found?**
Section 102.02 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Joint Legislative Code of Ethics.
2. **What is the purpose of the Financial Disclosure Law?**
The financial disclosure requirement reminds public officials and employees of their financial interests to help them avoid conflicts of interest. The disclosure requirement also promotes confidence in state and local government by assisting the public in recognizing areas of potential conflict of interest.
3. **Who is required to file a 2019 Financial Disclosure Statement with the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee?**
 - a. Candidates for the General Assembly in 2020.
 - b. Members of the General Assembly serving in 2020.
 - c. Members of the General Assembly serving at any time in 2019.
 - d. Appointees to unexpired terms of the General Assembly serving at any time in 2020.
 - e. Chiefs of staff, legal counsel, directors, assistant directors, and other designated employees of the legislative branch.
4. **What information is disclosed on a Financial Disclosure Statement?**
You are filing a personal financial disclosure statement for calendar year 2019. Sections 1-12 must be completed using calendar year 2019 personal and financial information.
5. **If I don't spend any money on, or accept contributions for my campaign, am I still required to file a Financial Disclosure Statement?**
Yes. The financial disclosure statement is a statement of personal financial information, and the requirement to file is not related to campaign contributions or expenditures.
6. **If I hold or held more than one public position for which I am required to file a Financial Disclosure Statement, am I required to file more than one statement?**
No. You are required to file only one statement per calendar year.
7. **If I hold or held more than one public position for which I am required to file a Financial Disclosure Statement, which form should I file?**
You use the form, answer the questions, and pay the fee, for the public position requiring the greater level of disclosure. **For members and employees of, and candidates for the General Assembly, the form provided by the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee is the appropriate form.**

If you are/were a local official, executive branch employee, a member of a board or commission, or a current member of the General Assembly seeking a non-legislative office, you may receive a letter from the Ohio Ethics Commission requesting that you complete an Ohio Ethics Commission 2019 Financial Disclosure Statement. Should this occur, please alert this office. We will provide a copy of your 2019 JLEC Financial Disclosure Statement, if already filed with the Office of the Legislative Inspector General (OLIG), to the Ohio Ethics

Commission. Again, you are required to file only one statement per calendar year.

8. I left my filing position last year. Why do I have to file a Financial Disclosure Statement this year?

You must file a statement for each year you hold a filing position. You must file a statement, reflecting the complete preceding calendar year, the year after you leave your public position.

For example, if you are an FDS filer and you leave your position of employment in February of 2020, you must still file a 2019 financial disclosure statement by May 15, 2020. In addition, you must also file a 2020 financial disclosure statement in 2021. Please note: If you are running for elected office, you must file 30 days prior to the first election in which your name appears on the ballot or May 15, 2020, whichever is earlier.

9. How can I file my Financial Disclosure Statement?

You have several options to file your 2019 Statement. You may file electronically utilizing the Online Filing System available at www.ohiofds.com. For those filing via the Online Filing System, you may submit the corresponding \$40 filing fee electronically. For those submitting the statement in-person or via USPS, you may wish to submit your form and filing fee together via check or money order. The address is: 100 East Broad Street, Suite 1910, Columbus, Ohio, 43215.

10. When is my filing deadline?

- a. Candidates, including incumbent Members of the General Assembly who are candidates in the 2020 Primary Election must file not later than February 18, 2020.
- b. Members of the General Assembly who are not candidates in the 2020 Primary Election must file not later than May 15, 2020.
- c. Designated staff filers of the General Assembly or any legislative agency must file not later than May 15, 2020.
- d. Persons newly appointed to elective office: 15 days after they are sworn in to office (unless the deadline has been extended for good cause).
- e. Persons hired, promoted, or appointed to a required filing position after May 15, 2020: 90 days after they are hired, promoted, or appointed.

11. What is the fee for filing a Financial Disclosure Statement?

The filing fee is \$40.00. This fee may be paid from campaign funds. Employee filers do not pay a filing fee. The fee for employees will be paid by the employing legislative agency when invoiced by the OLIG. Members/candidates who submit the statement electronically have the option to pay electronically. For those submitting the statement in-person or via USPS, you may wish to submit your form and filing fee together via check or money order.

12. Am I required to provide my home address on my Financial Disclosure Statement?

No. You may list your mailing, business or government address.

- 13. Does my form have to be received by JLEC by the deadline, or just postmarked by the deadline?**
A financial disclosure statement is considered to be timely filed if it is postmarked by the USPS on or before the date of the deadline, or if it is received at the Office of the Legislative Inspector General (either filed electronically or in person) on or before the date of the deadline. JLEC is located at: 100 East Broad Street, Suite 1910, Columbus, Ohio, 43215.
- 14. What happens if I fail to file a Financial Disclosure Statement by the deadline?**
It is a criminal offense (fourth-degree misdemeanor) to **knowingly** fail to file a financial disclosure statement. The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may impose a financial penalty of up to \$250 for failure to file, regardless of whether or not it was a knowing failure to file.
- 15. How is the late fee determined?**
The late fee is \$10 per day, up to a maximum of \$250. If your statement is due on February 18, and you file February 20, your statement is two days late and the late filing fee is \$20.
- 16. What is the sanction imposed for filing a false Financial Disclosure Statement?**
It is a criminal offense (first-degree misdemeanor) to **knowingly** file a false financial disclosure statement.
- 17. Are filed Financial Disclosure Statements publicly available?**
Yes. Statements are available for review at the Office of the Legislative Inspector General and on the internet at www.ohiofds.com.
- 18. What information should not be disclosed on my Financial Disclosure Statement?**
Your financial disclosure statement is a public record upon filing and is made available for public review on www.ohiofds.com. You should **not** include your social security number, credit card numbers, bank account numbers or other similar information.
- 19. How do I obtain a copy of my prior Financial Disclosure Statement(s)?**
You may review and print a copy of any previously filed financial disclosure statement(s) at www.ohiofds.com, by selecting the 'View Filed FDS' button. A new browser window will open allowing you to locate your previous financial disclosure statements by last name. You may also obtain a copy in person at the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, 100 East Broad Street, Suite 1910, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Completing the Statement Section By Section

Section 1 - Income

1. **The Financial Disclosure Statement tells me to “Complete EITHER Section A or Section B, whichever is the appropriate section.” How do I determine the appropriate section?**

If you are currently a member of the General Assembly or were a member of the General Assembly at any time in 2019, you will only complete Section 1A. If you are a non-incumbent candidate or legislative employee you will complete Section 1B.

2. **Am I required to disclose the actual dollar amount of income I received from each source of income I disclose on my Financial Disclosure Statement?**

No. If you are a current or former member of the General Assembly, you are only required to list the source of income, generally describe the service performed, and the range of the income received. If you are a non-incumbent candidate or legislative employee you only report the source of income and generally describe the service performed.

Please note: Regardless of your filing status you are required to disclose the actual dollar amount of income received from a source you know or have reason to know, is doing or seeking to do business with the General Assembly, or if the source is a legislative agent (lobbyist).

3. **Does ‘Income’ just mean income from my job?**

No. For financial disclosure statement purposes, income means any and all gross income for federal tax purposes; including your regular employment. For example, income includes, but is not limited to, oil and gas royalties, social security income, rental income and unemployment compensation.

4. **How do I determine my gross income?**

From IRS Publication 501: "Gross income" is all income in the form of money, property, and services that is not exempt from tax.

In a manufacturing, merchandising, or mining business, gross income is the total net sales minus the cost of goods sold, plus any miscellaneous income from the business.

Gross receipts from rental property are gross income. Do not deduct taxes, repairs, or other expenses to determine the gross income from rental property.

Gross income includes a partner's share of the gross (not net) partnership income.

Gross income also includes all taxable unemployment compensation and certain scholarship and fellowship grants. Scholarships received by degree candidates and used for tuition, fees, supplies, books, and equipment required for particular courses are generally not included in gross income. For more information about scholarships, see Chapter 1 of Publication 970.

Tax exempt income, such as certain social security benefits, is not included in gross income.

5. Are federal, state, or municipal tax refunds considered “Income” for purposes of Financial Disclosure?

It depends. If it is considered gross income for federal tax purposes, you should disclose the refund on your financial disclosure statement. For example, if you receive a Form 1099G for a state or local refund received in a prior year, the refund is considered income for IRS purposes and therefore should be disclosed.

6. Am I required to disclose my spouse’s income and investments on my Financial Disclosure Statement?

No; unless the income or investments are specifically designated for your use or benefit. An example is a trust fund in your spouse’s name established for your specific use and benefit.

7. I earn rental income from residential property that I lease to tenants. The property is not owned by a corporation, partnership, LLC or similar entity. I own it in whole or in part in my individual capacity. How do I reflect this on my Financial Disclosure Statement?

You must list either the address of the income earning property or the names of the tenants as a source of income. If the property is located in Ohio, you must also list the address appropriately in Section 5 – Real Estate.

For example, in 2019 I owned and received rental income from Joe and Jane JLEC who resided at my property at 123 Somewhere Street in Anytown, Ohio. Under Section 1 - Income, I must list either Joe & Jane JLEC or 123 Somewhere Street in Anytown, Ohio as a source of income. Under Section 5 - Real Estate I will disclose 123 Somewhere Street in Anytown, Ohio. In addition, since the property is not my primary residence or used primarily for recreational purposes, if I owe or owed at any point in 2019 more than \$1,000 on the property, I must disclose the source of the loan on 123 Somewhere Street in Anytown, Ohio under Section 6 - Creditors.

Section 2 - Immediate Family Members

1. My daughter is 19 years old and a full time college student at an out of state college. I will claim her as a dependent when completing my 2019 income tax filing. Should I disclose her as an immediate family member?

Yes. If your daughter is considered a dependent for tax filing purposes, she is a dependent child for financial disclosure purposes.

Section 3 - Business Names

1. What must I disclose as a “name under which you or members of your immediate family do business”?

You must disclose the names of any corporations, companies, proprietorships, partnerships, or other business entities under which you, your spouse residing in your household, or your dependent children conduct a business. For example, if you or your spouse own, or co-own, a business called “Buckeye’s Books” you would disclose “Buckeye’s Books” as a name under which you or your family member does business.

Section 4A - Fiduciary Relationships

- 1. I held an office or fiduciary position in a corporation, trust, business trust, partnership, or association incorporated or authorized to do business in Ohio. However, the organization did not transact business in Ohio during the calendar year for which I am filing my Financial Disclosure Statement. Am I required to list the name of the business under Section 4A – Fiduciary Relationships?**

Yes. You are required to disclose any business incorporated or authorized to do business in the state of Ohio for which you held an office or fiduciary position regardless of whether the business transacted business in Ohio during the calendar year. This includes voluntary officer positions with not-for-profits.

Section 4B - Investments

- 1. I invested funds through a stock brokerage firm. Am I required to list each corporation in which I invested through the stock brokerage firm on my Financial Disclosure Statement?**

You are required to disclose the names of each corporation incorporated or authorized to do business in Ohio in which you had an investment of \$1,000 or more. Therefore, you are not required to disclose the stock brokerage firm on your financial disclosure statement, unless you invested in the brokerage itself or in a fund the brokerage owns. Instead, you would disclose the name of each corporation in which the stock brokerage had invested, on your behalf, \$1,000 or more at any time during the preceding calendar year.

- 2. Am I required to list mutual funds in which I have placed deferred compensation on my Financial Disclosure Statement?**

Yes. It is a reportable investment. You need to disclose the name of the fund in which you have chosen to have your compensation invested through the deferred compensation program, if you selected the fund, you are not required to list individual holdings within the fund. If you did not select the fund, you only disclose "Deferred Compensation Program."

- 3. I participated in a College Advantage 529 Savings Plan through the State of Ohio. Is this a reportable investment?**

Yes. It is a reportable investment. You should disclose the name of the fund in which you have chosen to invest; and disclose the individual holdings you select within the fund.

- 4. Do I have to list the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) as an investment?**

No. PERS is a retirement system, not a corporation, trust, business trust, partnership, or association transacting business in Ohio. Therefore, you are not required to disclose a PERS investment. The same answer applies to any other public retirement fund and to the Social Security Administration. However, because members of the General Assembly have the option to opt out of participating; filers are encouraged to continue to voluntarily disclose their participation in any of the state retirement systems.

In addition, if you received social security income or income from a public or private retirement fund, you will disclose the Social Security Administration or the retirement fund as the source of the income under Section 1 - Income.

Please see the following examples of disclosure of investments on a financial disclosure statement. These are examples. Specific questions should be directed to JLEC at 614-728-5100 or your financial advisor.

If I have more than \$1,000 invested in a(n)...	Do I need to disclose this investment?	Do I need to list the individual holdings within this investment?
Mutual Fund	Yes	No
Stock	Yes	No
Bond	Yes	No
Brokerage Account	Yes - if invested in the brokerage itself or in a fund the brokerage owns.	Yes
Trust (Beneficiary)	Yes	Yes – to the degree you exercise or have the ability to exercise control over the individual holdings.
Investment Club Account	Yes	Yes
529 Plan	Yes	Yes
ESA	Yes	Yes
Deferred Compensation	Yes	To the degree you exercise control over the individual holdings within the fund.
Public Retirement System Account (PERS, STRS, SERS, HPRS, OPF&F)	No - however, in the interest of public disclosure, filers are encouraged to voluntarily disclose their participation.	No
Social Security	No	No

Section 5 - Real Estate

1. **Do I need to disclose my personal residence as a real estate holding?**
No. You are not required to disclose your personal residence or any real property used primarily for your recreational purposes.

2. **Do I need to disclose interests in real property related to my outside business?**
If you personally hold legal title to or a beneficial interest in real property located in Ohio, you must disclose the property address.

3. **I own residential property, in Ohio, I lease to tenants and from which I realize income. How do I reflect this on my Financial Disclosure Statement?**
You must list the address of each property in this section. You must also list either the address of all income earning property or the names of the tenants from which you earned income in 2019 under Section 1 – Income. Additionally, you must disclose the mortgagee(s) as creditors under Section 6 – Creditors on

properties that are not your personal residence or real property used primarily for recreational purposes.

4. I own residential property in Georgia, which I lease to tenants and from which I realize income. How do I reflect this on my Financial Disclosure Statement?

You are not required to list the address(es) of the property in this section, as the property is located outside of Ohio. However, you are required to list the address of all income earning property or the names of the tenants from which you earned income in 2019 under Section 1 – Income (regardless of where the property is located). Additionally, you must disclose the mortgagee(s) as creditors under Section 6 - Creditors on properties that are not your personal residence or real property used primarily for recreational purposes.

Section 6 - Creditors (People to whom you owe money)

1. I have a mortgage and home equity loan for my personal residence. Must I disclose the mortgagee(s) as creditors?

No. You are not required to disclose the debts on your **personal** residence or real property used primarily for your recreational purposes.

2. I often use a credit card for personal travel and other personal expenses. During a calendar month, I incurred more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in charges on one credit card. However, I paid off these charges by the due date and incurred no interest charges. Must I disclose the issuer of this credit card as a creditor?

No. Under these specific facts, the issuer of the credit card need not be disclosed as a creditor. An obligation in excess of \$1,000 has not been created for purposes of the Financial Disclosure Law. The holder of the card has not established the requisite financial obligation where the holder has maintained a balance of less than \$1,000 by the first date the credit obligation became due.

3. I am a small business owner and in the normal course of my business am invoiced by vendors for supplies or services in excess of \$1,000. Must I disclose these vendors as creditors?

No. **Short-term** debts resulting from the ordinary conduct of a business or profession need not be disclosed. However, long-term debts in your name should be disclosed.

4. I have private and federal school loans in excess of \$1,000. Must I disclose the individual lenders as creditors?

Yes. If you owed more than \$1,000 on your school loans, you must disclose each individual lender.

Section 7 - Debtors (People who owe you money)

1. I am a small business owner and in the normal course of my business I have customers who owed me in excess of \$1,000 for supplies or services I provided. Must I disclose these customers as debtors?

No. Short-term obligations resulting from the ordinary conduct of a business or profession need not be disclosed.

2. **I received an income tax refund from the federal government in 2019. Must I disclose the federal government as a creditor?**
No.

Section 8 - Travel

1. **Am I required to disclose all travel expenses/reimbursements I received in 2019?**

No. You need only report those travel expenses/reimbursements received in connection with your official duties when undertaken in a vehicle **not** owned or leased by a state agency or state institution of higher education under Section 8 - Travel. You must report the source of personal travel expenses/reimbursements totaling more than \$75.00, aggregated per year, that are **not** received in connection with your official duties under Section 9 - Gifts. You need not disclose travel expenses relating to furtherance of your private employment.

2. **I traveled in a state vehicle owned or leased by an executive agency in furtherance of my official duties. Must I disclose the state agency as the source and amount of travel expenses on my Financial Disclosure Statement?**

No. Under JLEC Advisory Opinion 2014-002, members and employees of the General Assembly are not required to disclose official travel when undertaken in a vehicle owned or leased by a state agency or institution of higher education.

3. **My campaign committee reimbursed me for travel expenses as did the caucus legislative campaign fund. Must I disclose the campaign committee(s) as the source of travel reimbursement?**

No. These reimbursements will be reported in campaign finance reports, thus serving the public interest of full and fair disclosure. However, in order to avoid any questions as to the delineation between campaign activities and official duties, filers may wish to disclose the campaign committee as the source of travel on the financial disclosure statement whenever there is reasonable argument as to the true nature of the activity. Filers may prorate the reporting of such amounts on the financial disclosure statement to reflect the percentage related to official duties.

4. **Am I required to disclose each payment for travel expenses on my Financial Disclosure Statement, or can I add all the payments together and disclose only the total payment from each source?**

You are required to disclose each payment of travel expenses from each source. For example, if you received four separate payments for travel expenses from the same source in a calendar year, you must disclose the source and total amount of each payment in four separate entries on your financial disclosure statement. Exception: Payments for in state mileage and lodging received from the General Assembly or the Legislative Service Commission only require you to disclose the source and total amount for each category received in 2019. (For example, you need only report the total amount of in state mileage reimbursement received from the General Assembly or Legislative Service Commission and the total amount of in state lodging reimbursement received from the General Assembly or Legislative Service Commission during 2019 as two separate entries).

5. **If someone gives me a trip on a private aircraft, or lodging in a private home without payment of any kind, must I disclose that as a Gift or as Travel?**

If the trip is in connection with your public duties, then you must report the source of the trip or lodging as payment for travel expenses on your financial disclosure statement. If the trip is not in connection with your public duties, and is personal in nature then you must report the source of the trip or lodging as the source of a gift on your financial disclosure statement if the fair market value of the gift exceeds \$75.00.

6. **May I reimburse the source of the payment of my allowable travel expenses, so as not to trigger reporting requirements?**

Yes. As with any gift, meal, or beverage, you may reimburse (pay your own way) for any travel expenses. You are advised to complete this reimbursement within 60 days of the original expenditure made on your behalf. Personal travel provided by a lobbyist is prohibited and must be reimbursed within seven (7) calendar days.¹ If you stayed in a private home or traveled by private aircraft, you will reimburse at the market rate for comparable public accommodations/travel, i.e., hotel in the same area and airfare to the same destination via common carrier.

7. **Am I required to report travel expenses that are received for travel to a national conference of an association to which any state agency, state institution of higher education, or any political subdivision in Ohio pays membership dues?**

No. Questions regarding membership status should be directed to the host organization.

8. **I incurred travel expenses in connection with my official duties at the end of December, but did not receive reimbursement for my travel expenses until the following year, which year do I disclose the travel expenses on my Financial Disclosure Statement?**

Typically, you disclose travel expenses, incurred in connection with your official duties, when received. However, where the travel occurred at or near the end of the calendar year and a partial or total reimbursement was received the following year, Members have the option to disclose official travel in either the year in which the travel occurred or the year the reimbursement was received. Members are encouraged to remain consistent (where possible) in whichever approach they choose to utilize.

Section 9 - Gifts

Gifts Generally - please see the next section for questions relating to reporting obligations pertaining to gifts from legislative agents (lobbyists).

1. **Am I required to disclose my personal gifts on my Financial Disclosure Statement?**

You are required to disclose the source(s) of any gifts, including personal gifts, from whom you received more than \$75 (\$25 if received from a legislative agent)

¹ See, 1997 JLEC Advisory Op. 97-006.

in aggregate fair market value in the calendar year. You need not report such gifts if received from your parents, grandparents, spouse, children, grandchildren, siblings, nephews, nieces, uncles, aunts, cousins, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, fathers-in-law, mothers-in-law, or any person to whom the person filing the statement stands in loco parentis, or received by way of distribution from any inter vivos or testamentary trust established by a spouse or by an ancestor.

2. Does this mean that I must disclose a personal friend as the source of a gift, even if there is no connection to my public position?

Yes. If you received more than \$75 (\$25 if from a legislative agent) in aggregate fair market value in the calendar year, you must disclose your personal friend as the source of a gift on your financial disclosure statement.

3. While on vacation, I visited a personal friend (not a lobbyist). Instead of staying at a hotel, I stayed in her guest room. Am I required to disclose my friend as the source of a gift on my Financial Disclosure Statement?

You must determine the fair market value of the accommodations. If you accepted gift(s) that when totaled together over the course of the year, have a fair market value of more than \$75, you must disclose your friend as the source of a gift on your financial disclosure statement. The lodging/trip was not in connection with your official duties; therefore, the cost of the lodging/trip is not reportable under Section 8 - Travel.

4. Am I required to disclose the nature or monetary value of the gift in this section?

No. You are only required to disclose the source of the gift.

5. Am I required to disclose contributions to my political campaign on my Financial Disclosure Statement?

No. These are contributions to your campaign fund, not gifts to you. These contributions must be disclosed, however, on a form that you must file in connection with your campaign. For more information, contact your county Board of Elections or the Office of the Secretary of State at 614-466-2655.

6. For purposes of financial disclosure, is the value of each gift from one source counted alone or are the values of all gifts from one source totaled together?

The values of all gifts from one source are totaled together. For instance, if you receive two gifts from the same source in a year, and the total value of the gifts is more than \$75 (\$25 if received from a legislative agent), you are required to disclose the source on your financial disclosure statement.

7. How do I determine the value of a gift I receive?

The gift should be valued at its fair market value. "Fair market value" is the minimum amount you would have to pay to obtain the same item in the same geographical area at the same time the item was provided to you. If the fair market value of the item is over the threshold amount, you must disclose the source of the gift on your financial disclosure statement.

Gifts from Legislative Agents (Lobbyists)

- 1. I received a ticket to a sporting event from a legislative agent. The ticket has a face value of \$50.00. Do I disclose this gift?**
Yes. You know the value of the ticket exceeds \$25 and was given by a legislative agent. Therefore, you must disclose the name of the agent on the 2019 Financial Disclosure Statement (see also Section 11 – Non-disputed Information).
- 2. When completing my Financial Disclosure Statement I realized I accepted \$90.00 in gifts from one legislative agent in 2019. Is this a problem?**
Yes. Ohio law prohibits you from accepting more than \$75 in aggregate value in gifts from one legislative agent during a calendar year. You must immediately reimburse the agent at least \$15 to bring you under the gift acceptance limit.
- 3. I received two gifts from a legislative agent in 2019. I am unsure of the aggregate value of the gifts. Must I disclose the legislative agent as the source of gifts in this section if I reasonably believe these gifts have a fair market aggregate value of less than \$25?**
For purposes of this section, a member need not report a legislative agent as the source of a gift(s) if the member reasonably believes he or she has received gifts of less than \$25, in aggregate value, in a calendar year from the agent. The financial disclosure statement sets forth a reporting threshold of \$25 in aggregate value of gifts received from a legislative agent.

Section 10 - Official Meals & Beverages

- 1. My next-door neighbor frequently invites my spouse and me to dinners at her home. The value of these weekly dinners likely exceeded \$100 in 2019. Do I report my neighbor as the source of meals and beverages?**
Assuming your neighbor is not the employer of a legislative agent nor doing or seeking to do business before the General Assembly, you do not report her as the source of meals and beverages regardless of the aggregate amount. You only list the source of payments for meals and beverages when received in connection with your official duties. This is also the rule for meals and beverages purchased at public establishments.
- 2. I am a member of the General Assembly. My spouse and I were hosted to dinner by the employer of a legislative agent while attending the National Conference of State Legislatures. The cost of the meals and beverages consumed by my spouse and me exceeded \$100 and was not part of the conference agenda. Do I disclose the host as the source of meals and beverages?**
No. Meals and beverages received while attending meetings of national organizations to which the General Assembly, any state agency, state institution of higher education, or any political subdivision of Ohio pays membership dues are not required to be disclosed by a member of the General Assembly.

Please note: This exception does not apply to legislative employees.

3. **I am an employee of the General Assembly. My spouse and I were hosted to dinner by the employer of a legislative agent while attending a national conference of an association to which a state agency or state institution of higher education pays membership dues. The cost of the meals and beverages consumed by my spouse and I exceeded \$100. Do I disclose the host as the source of meals and beverages in this section?**
Yes. Additionally, as an employee of the General Assembly, the host will report you as the recipient of meals and beverages on the Employer of a Legislative Agent Activity & Expenditure Report for the reporting period during which the national conference occurred. Therefore, unlike a member of the General Assembly, you are required to disclose the information in Section 10 and in the Non-disputed Information section if you receive notice from a legislative agent or employer of a legislative agent. (See Section 11 – Non-disputed Information).

Section 11 - Non-disputed Information

1. **What exactly does this section of the statement require of me?**
Lobbyists and their employers are required to report expenditures made for the benefit of, or on behalf of, state public officials and designated staff members. If you do not dispute this report, please attach it to your statement. If you dispute the information contained therein, or did not receive a report; please contact JLEC at 614-728-5100. You can monitor reported lobbying expenditures at any time by visiting the Ohio Lobbying Activity Center www.ohiolobbying.com. If you were a Member or employee of the General Assembly in 2019, you can automatically load non-disputed information when filing electronically.

Section 12 - Licenses

1. **I hold a license as an attorney admitted to practice law in Ohio. Do I need to disclose this license?**
Yes, if you are a legislator. This requirement is found in Section 3 of the Legislative Code of Ethics. This section requires all members of the General Assembly to disclose any license held pursuant to a professional activity regulated by the State of Ohio.
2. **Do I have to disclose my Ohio's driver's license?**
No. You are only required to disclose licenses issued by the state as part of the regulation of a specific profession, trade, business or occupation.
3. **Do I have to disclose my Ohio Concealed Handgun (CCW) License?**
No.

Please note: The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee has compiled this financial disclosure FAQ sheet to provide general information about financial disclosure and to assist financial disclosure filers while they complete the annual statement. The Committee encourages any person with additional questions, or a need for further assistance with the filing, to contact the Office of the Legislative Inspector General directly at (614) 728-5100.