



THE 131ST OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JOINT LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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2014 Ohio Lobbying Statistics Report

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Introduction

The Office of the Legislative Inspector General

Each year the Office of the Legislative Inspector General ("OLIG") publishes a report of the previous year's lobbying statistics. The OLIG is a non-partisan legislative office with two primary functions: (1) it administers Ohio's lobbying laws, and (2) is the administrative office of the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee ("JLEC")—a bipartisan legislative committee comprised of twelve members of the general assembly.

Relative to lobbying, a majority of OLIG resources are dedicated to working with Ohio's more than 1,500 lobbyists to ensure a transparent, accurate, and lawful lobbying process.

An Overview of Ohio's Lobbying Laws

To assist in comprehending the following report, below is a brief overview of Ohio's lobbying laws; detailed information regarding these laws and the overall regulation of lobbying may be found in the *Ohio Lobbying Handbook*—available for download at www.ohiolobbying.com.

Lobbyists, Employers, & Engagements

In Ohio, a lobbyist is a person who is *compensated* to advocate the interests of another before Ohio's legislative and executive branches, or one of the state's retirement systems. A person or entity who compensates a lobbyist to advocate on its behalf is referred to as an employer. The relationship between an employer and a lobbyist is called an engagement.

Based on the subject matter a lobbyist is attempting to influence, Ohio law categorizes engagements as either: legislative engagements, executive engagements, or retirement system engagements. For example, a lobbyist attempting to influence legislation—regardless of with whom they are communicating—is a legislative agent (*i.e.* legislative lobbyist). Each type of engagement is subject to different regulations.

Engagement types are not exclusive; lobbyists are often both a legislative and executive lobbyist for a single employer (and thus have multiple engagements with that employer). Lobbyists may have engagements with multiple employers, just as employers may have engagements with multiple lobbyists.

Registrations, Reports, & Reporting Periods

Each engagement must be registered with the OLIG. Thereafter, lobbyists and employers must periodically report details about the lobbying activity and any expenditures associated with the engagement. This information is submitted by filing an Activity & Expenditure Report (AER).

Each calendar year consists of three reporting periods: *January-April*, *May-August*, and *September-December*. Following each, lobbyists and employers must both submit AER's to the OLIG.

Ohio Lobbying Activity Center

All registrations and AER's are submitted electronically through the Ohio Lobbying Activity Center ("OLAC")—a website designed and maintained by the OLIG. In turn, OLAC serves as a database that allows the public to view, search, and compile this information in real time.

2014 Ohio Lobbying Statistics Report

The following report is published by the OLIG pursuant to Ohio law;¹ it is compiled with OLAC data as of March 4, 2015.

I. 2014 Lobbying Registration and Engagement Data

In Ohio, a lobbyist is a person who is compensated to advocate the interests of another. The person or entity compensating the lobbyist is referred to as an employer. The relationship between a lobbyist and employer is termed an engagement.

A lobbyist may have multiple engagements with multiple employers, as an employer may have multiple engagements with multiple lobbyists. For example: Jane Lobbyist may have a legislative engagement, an executive engagement, and a retirement engagement with both ABC Employer and XYZ Employer (6 engagements between 3 registered parties).

The below numbers of *Lobbyists* and *Employers* represent the actual number of those registered to lobby in Ohio. *Total Engagements* reflect the number of relationships between these registered lobbyists and employers (not the combined number of the two).

A. Total Registrations.

	Jan-Apr	May-Aug	Sep-Dec
Lobbyists	1584	1579	1542
Employers	1727	1753	1740

B. Out-Of-State Registrations.

	Jan-Apr	May-Aug	Sep-Dec
Lobbyists	158	175	166
Employers	444	458	447

C. Legislative Registrations & Engagements.

Legislative Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	1529
Employers	1573
Total Engagements	3918

D. Executive Registrations & Engagements.

Executive Registrations & Engagements

¹ R.C. 101.72(H), 121.62(H), 101.92(H).

Lobbyists	1013
Employers	1470
Total Engagements	3340

i. Executive Statewide Offices.

Statewide Office	Lobbyists	Employers	Total Engagements
Governor	955	1361	3156
Attorney General	763	954	2101
Lieutenant Governor	746	923	2073
Auditor of State	563	665	1389
Treasurer of State	528	642	1310
Secretary of State	541	627	1277

ii. Executive Agencies.

Executive Agency	Lobbyists	Employers	Total Engagements
Budget & Management	569	564	1234
Health	502	430	992
Taxation	458	445	976
Job & Family Services	480	421	928
Commerce	444	449	922
Administrative Services	405	443	842
Insurance	437	335	754
Transportation	421	386	751
Environmental Protection Agency	402	337	726
Public Utilities Commission	382	291	659

(Represents the 10 most lobbied agencies, based on total engagements.)

E. Retirement System Registrations & Engagements.

Retirement System Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	99
Employers	54
Total Engagements	111

Registrations By Retirement System			
Retirement System	Lobbyist	Employer	Total Engagements
State Teachers Retirement System	91	49	103
Public Employees Retirement System	86	49	100
School Employees Retirement System	87	44	99

Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund	75	39	85
Highway Patrol Retirement System	71	35	82

II. 2014 Legislative Lobbying Activity Data

House Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity	
HB 483 Midterm budget review	575
HB 472 Midterm budget review	296
HB 497 Capital appropriations	161
HB 490 Agriculture/natural resources/tele com	159
HB 492 Levy and administration	153
HB 487 K-12 education	144
HB 5 Municipal income tax	135
HB 486 Workforce & economic development	93
HB 59 Main operating budget	86
HB 341 Schedule II drugs	81

Senate Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity	
SB 310 Renewable energy	139
SB 58 Competitive retail energy	100
SB 276 Infant safe sleep procedures	64
SB 145 Medicaid reforms/workforce development	52
SB 243 Sales tax holiday	52
SB 99 Insurance-orally administered medications	49
SB 278 Sudden unexplained infant death	45
SB 118 Telemedicine-health	44
SB 274 Towing-unclaimed motor vehicles	44
SB 3 Rule-making & rule-review	44

(Determined by the number of employers that reported lobbying on a bill in 2014; employers who reported lobbying on a bill during multiple reporting periods are counted once.)

III. 2014 Lobbying Expenditure Data

Under Ohio's lobbying laws, an expenditure is anything of value (*e.g.* gifts, awards, meals and beverages, entertainment, ticketed events, lodging, and transportation) provided by a lobbyist or employer for the benefit of a reportable person.² Campaign contributions (made pursuant to

² See R.C. 101.70(D), 121.60(B), 101.90(B), 101.73(B), 121.63(B), 101.93(B); see also the *Ohio Lobbying Handbook*, Ch. 4 (expenditures, generally), and pg. 42 (who qualifies as a reportable person).

R.C. Chapter 3517) and compensation paid to a lobbyist are not considered lobbying expenditures and neither are reported to the OLIG.³

A. Expenditures: Total By Reporting Period

	Jan-Apr	May-Aug	Sept-Dec	Total
Legislative Lobbyists	\$35,185.24	\$28,705.59	\$18,749.80	\$82,640.63
Legislative Employers	\$238,919.16	\$63,045.32	\$38,362.97	\$340,327.45
Executive Lobbyists	\$1,094.11	\$830.56	\$679.30	\$2,603.97
Executive Employers	\$4,482.41	\$2,599.71	\$1,576.10	\$8,658.22
Retirement Lobbyists	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Retirement Employers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$279,680.92	\$95,181.18	\$59,368.17	\$434,230.27

B. Expenditures: By Engagement Type

Total Expenditures By Engagement Type	
All Legislative Expenditures	\$422,968.08
All Executive Expenditures	\$11,262.19
All Retirement Expenditures	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2014	\$434,230.27

C. Expenditures: Lobbyist vs. Employer

Lobbyist vs. Employer Expenditures	
All Lobbyist Expenditures	\$85,244.60
All Employer Expenditures	\$348,985.67
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2014	\$434,230.27

D. Expenditures: By Source (Ten Highest)

Expenditures By Source (Ten Highest)	
Wholesale Beer and Wine Association of Ohio	\$21,425.33
Voices for Ohio's Children	\$18,319.41
Ohio Association of REALTORS	\$15,515.86
Ohio Township Association	\$14,759.75
Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association	\$14,146.22
Ohio Chemistry Technology Council	\$13,780.36
Ohio Nurses Association	\$13,005.72

³ See R.C.101.76(C), 121.66(B), 101.96(B); campaign contributions are reported to the Ohio Secretary of State via campaign finance reports, available at: www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/CampaignFinance/Search.aspx

Ohio Restaurant Association	\$10,958.54
Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies	\$10,633.00
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber	\$9,727.92
TOTAL	\$142,272.11

(Includes both lobbyist and employer expenditures reported for the named entity.)

E. Expenditures: By Category

2014 Expenditures By Category	
Gifts	\$16,322.44
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$5,438.15
All-Invited Events	\$330,677.22
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$81,792.46
TOTAL	\$434,230.27

For reporting purposes, all lobbying expenditures fall under one of the following categories:⁴

1. **Gift Expenditures:** Anything of value, excluding a meal or beverage, provided for the benefit of a reportable person that exceeds \$25.
2. **Itemized Meal & Beverage Expenditures:** A meal or beverage provided by an employer for the benefit of a reportable person; or a meal or beverage provided by a lobbyist to a reportable person that, when aggregated with all other meals or beverages provided by the lobbyist to that reportable person, exceeds \$50.
3. **All-Invited Event Expenditures:** The total cost of meals and beverages provided to reportable persons at an event to which all members of the general assembly or all members of either chamber are invited.
4. **Non-Itemized Meal & Beverage Expenditures:** (a) those provided by a lobbyist to a reportable person that, when aggregated with all other meals and beverages provided by the lobbyist to that reportable person, does not exceed \$50; (b) those provided by a lobbyist to certain reportable persons who are participating in a panel, seminar, or speaking engagement; (c) those provided to certain reportable persons while attending a national conference of an organization to which any state agency pays membership dues.

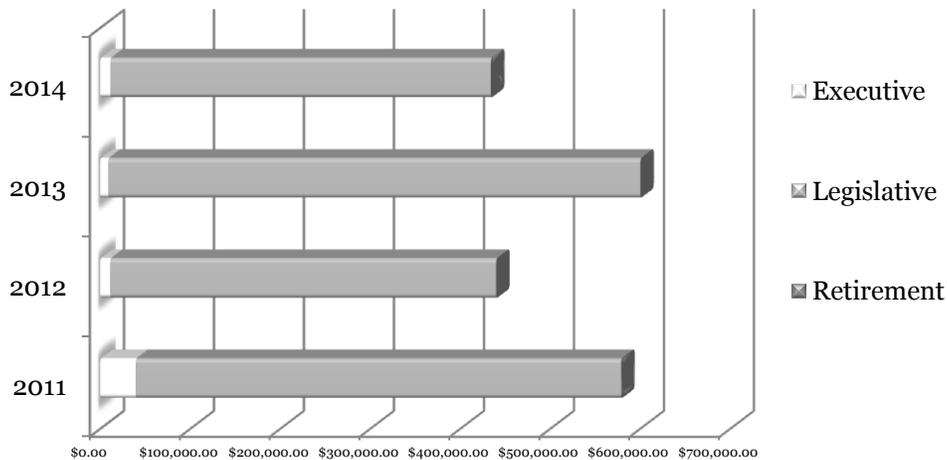
IV. 2014 Lobbying Expenditures Compared To Previous Years⁵

⁴ For detailed information regarding expenditure categories and reporting, see the *Ohio Lobbying Handbook*, Ch. 4-6. Gift and itemized expenditures require disclosure of the recipient as well as the amount spent, non-itemized and all-invited event expenditures require disclosure of aggregate amount spent.

⁵ OLAC generates data in real time. As lobbyists and employers amend reports from time to time, expenditure figures reflecting previous years may vary from prior reports, as originally published. All figures for this report were generated March 4, 2015.

A. Total Overall Expenditures By Engagement Type 2011 - 2014.

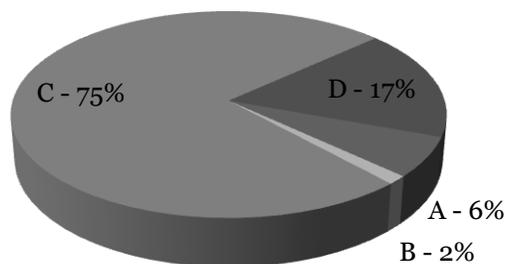
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Executive	\$39,477.21	\$11,166.03	\$8,922.50	\$11,262.19
Legislative	\$539,470.91	\$428,706.28	\$591,249.36	\$422,968.08
Retirement	\$0.00	\$146.61	\$10.72	\$0.00
Total	\$578,948.12	\$440,018.92	\$600,182.58	\$434,230.27



B. Total Overall Expenditures By Category 2011-2014.

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Gifts	\$68,315.19	\$20,726.86	\$24,022.14	\$16,322.44
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$9,817.76	\$6,203.76	\$5,805.27	\$5,438.15
All-Invited Events	\$398,642.62	\$326,418.37	\$486,449.58	\$330,677.22
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$102,172.55	\$86,669.93	\$83,905.59	\$81,792.46
Total	\$578,948.12	\$440,018.92	\$600,182.58	\$434,230.27

- A - Gifts
- B - Itemized Meals & Beverages
- C - All-Invited Events
- D - Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages



V. **2014 Compliance Data**

The following represents the number of lobbyists and employers who, as of March 13, 2015, have outstanding Activity & Expenditure Reports due to the OLIG. Knowingly failing to file an AER is a fourth degree misdemeanor. Those with outstanding reports have been notified by email and certified letter.

Filers Remaining Non-Compliant	
Lobbyists	5
Employers	11