



THE 132ND OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JOINT LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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2016 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 actively advocate the interests of others 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 outcome a lobbyist is attempting to influence, Ohio law categorizes engagements as: 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 each 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 for the public to view, search, and compile this information in real time.

2016 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 6, 2017.

I. 2016 Lobbying Registration and Engagement Data

In Ohio, a lobbyist is a person who is compensated to actively 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, just 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	1558	1548	1534
Employers	1861	1865	1842

B. Out-Of-State Registrations.

	Jan-Apr	May-Aug	Sep-Dec
Lobbyists	148	142	146
Employers	482	481	485

C. Legislative Registrations & Engagements.

Legislative Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	1561
Employers	1723
Total Engagements	4369

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

D. Executive Registrations & Engagements.

Executive Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	1057
Employers	1657
Total Engagements	3828

i. Executive Statewide Offices.

Statewide Office Lobbied	Lobbyists	Employers	Total Engagements
Governor	1012	1542	3651
Lieutenant Governor	775	1063	2426
Attorney General	827	1054	2360
Auditor of State	616	746	1581
Treasurer of State	571	719	1462
Secretary of State	594	708	1462

ii. Executive Agencies.

Executive Agency Lobbied	Lobbyists	Employers	Total Engagements
Budget & Management	586	621	1353
Health	543	526	1199
Taxation	490	501	1108
Commerce	468	492	1038
Job & Family Services	494	449	960
Administrative Services	417	478	906
Environmental Protection Agency	420	373	825
Insurance	440	366	824
Transportation	438	420	821
Public Utilities Commission	414	315	741

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

E. Retirement System Registrations & Engagements.

Retirement System Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	68
Employers	42
Total Engagements	69

Registrations By Retirement System			
Retirement System Lobbied	Lobbyist	Employer	Total Engagements
Public Employees Retirement System	63	37	64
State Teachers Retirement System	60	36	61
School Employees Retirement System	56	30	57
Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund	52	27	52
Highway Patrol Retirement System	45	23	45

II. 2016 Legislative Lobbying Activity Data

House Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity		
HB 523	Authorize the use of marijuana for medical purposes	179
HB 394	Revises unemployment compensation law	140
HB 554	Addresses renewable energy and energy efficiency	115
HB 390	Exempt sales of natural gas from sales tax	109
HB 620	Revise unemployment compensation	106
HB 463	Revises foreclosure laws	92
HB 547	Authorizes and modifies state programs and makes appropriation	82
HB 216	Revises the law governing advanced practice registered nurses	73
HB 505	Regulates biological product drugs	68
HB 617	Review for antitrust consistency/reorganize health agencies	68

Senate Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity		
SB 310	Makes capital appropriations	222
SB 235	Exempts pre-construction activities from property taxation	157
SB 129	Addresses health insurers prior authorization requirements	114
SB 320	Modifies laws pertaining to energy	110
SB 319	Revises laws relating to drugs	100
SB 332	Implement infant mortality recommendations	100
SB 374	Revise unemployment compensation	97
SB 331	Regulate dog sales and license pet stores	91
SB 3	Limits testing time and provides other exemptions for schools	82
SB 199	Permits active duty armed forces to conceal carry	76
SB 268	Modifies employment law regarding civil rights and other claims	76

(Determined by the number of employers that reported lobbying on a bill in 2016; employers who reported lobbying on a bill during multiple reporting periods are counted once.)

III. 2016 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 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	\$22,768.32	\$54,065.27	\$13,077.44	\$89,911.03
Legislative Employers	\$184,795.61	\$116,055.57	\$40,911.42	\$341,762.60
Executive Lobbyists	\$3,088.68	\$1,543.76	\$826.04	\$5,458.48
Executive Employers	\$1,802.35	\$169.50	\$478.56	\$2,450.41
Retirement Lobbyists	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Retirement Employers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES				\$439,582.52

B. Expenditures: By Engagement Type

Total Expenditures By Engagement Type	
All Legislative Expenditures	\$431,673.63
All Executive Expenditures	\$7,908.89
All Retirement Expenditures	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2016	\$439,582.52

C. Expenditures: Lobbyist vs. Employer

Lobbyist vs. Employer Expenditures	
All Lobbyist Expenditures	\$95,369.51
All Employer Expenditures	\$344,213.01
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2016	\$439,582.52

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).

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

D. Expenditures: By Source (Ten Highest)

Expenditures By Source (Ten Highest)	
Wholesale Beer and Wine Association of Ohio	\$37,999.91
Ohio Chemistry Technology Council	\$18,477.06
Ohio Association of REALTORS	\$17,983.06
Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies	\$14,909.00
Ohio Bankers League	\$14,251.82
Inter-University Council of Ohio (IUC)	\$12,867.19
Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association	\$12,088.85
Ohio Community Development Finance Fund	\$9,375.00
Ohio Right to Life	\$7,990.74
Central State University	7,464.30
TOTAL	\$153,406.93

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

E. Expenditures: By Category

2016 Expenditures By Category	
Gifts	\$22,287.03
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$8,356.63
All-Invited Events	\$346,669.71
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$62,269.15
TOTAL	\$439,582.52

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

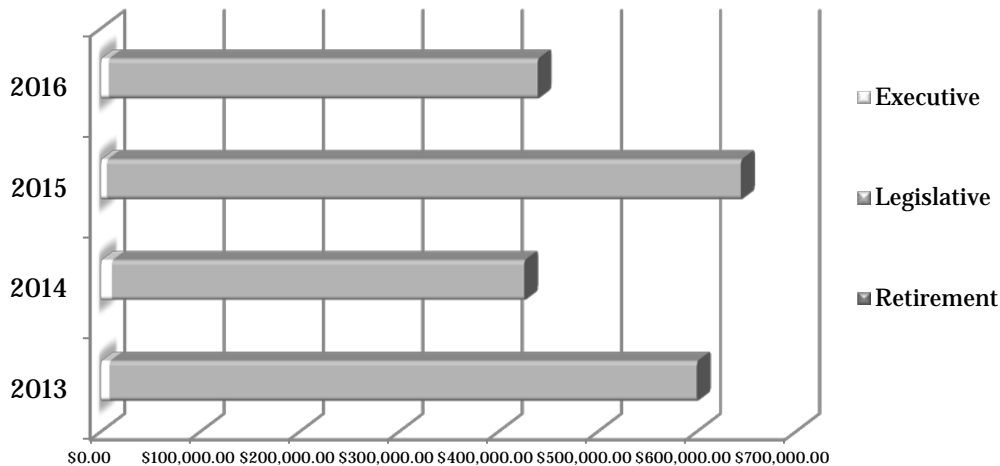
⁴ For detailed information regarding expenditure categories and reporting, see the *Ohio Lobbying Handbook*, Ch. 4-6. Gift and itemized expenditures require disclosure of the recipient as well as the amount spent, non-itemized and all-invited event expenditures require disclosure of aggregate amount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

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. 2016 Lobbying Expenditures Compared To Previous Years⁵

A. Total Overall Expenditures By Engagement Type 2013 - 2016.

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Executive	\$8,922.50	\$11,281.68	\$6,382.54	\$7,908.89
Legislative	\$591,349.36	\$414,797.53	\$638,468.76	\$431,673.63
Retirement	\$10.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$600,282.58	\$426,079.21	\$644,851.30	\$439,582.52

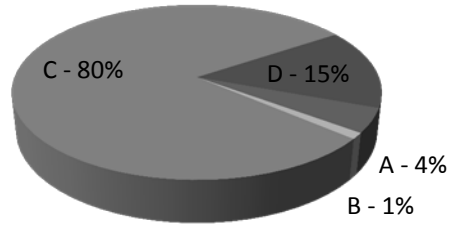


B. Total Overall Expenditures By Category 2013 - 2016.

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Gifts	\$24,122.14	\$17,690.86	\$30,989.50	\$22,278.03
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$5,805.27	\$4,555.71	\$4,915.39	\$8,356.63
All-Invited Events	\$486,449.58	\$322,120.46	\$523,589.49	\$346,669.71
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$83,905.59	\$81,712.18	\$85,356.92	\$62,269.15
Total	\$600,282.58	\$426,079.21	\$644,851.30	\$439,582.52

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 6, 2017.

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



V. 2016 Compliance Data

The following represents the number of lobbyists and employers who, as of March 15, 2017, 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	4
Employers	14