



THE 132<sup>ND</sup> OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE**

**OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL**

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# 2017 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](http://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.

# 2017 Ohio Lobbying Statistics Report

The following report is published by the OLIG pursuant to Ohio law;<sup>1</sup> it is compiled with OLAC data as of March 6, 2018.

## I. 2017 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	1571	1569	1536
Employers	1855	1883	1839

### B. Out-Of-State Registrations.

	Jan-Apr	May-Aug	Sep-Dec
Lobbyists	161	163	161
Employers	509	520	505

### C. Legislative Registrations & Engagements.

Legislative Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	1563
Employers	1715
Total Engagements	4503

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 101.72(H), 121.62(H), 101.92(H).

D. Executive Registrations & Engagements.

<b>Executive Registrations &amp; Engagements</b>	
Lobbyists	1075
Employers	1689
Total Engagements	4035

*i. Executive Statewide Offices.*

<b>Statewide Office Lobbied</b>	<b>Lobbyists</b>	<b>Employers</b>	<b>Total Engagements</b>
Governor	1034	1572	3871
Lieutenant Governor	783	1050	2496
Attorney General	851	1074	2494
Auditor of State	621	748	1628
Secretary of State	597	714	1513
Treasurer of State	574	714	1493

*ii. Executive Agencies.*

<b>Executive Agency Lobbied</b>	<b>Lobbyists</b>	<b>Employers</b>	<b>Total Engagements</b>
Budget & Management	586	644	1469
Health	558	532	1264
Commerce	489	512	1117
Taxation	494	480	1112
Job & Family Services	499	451	998
Administrative Services	441	489	960
Transportation	460	425	865
Insurance	442	369	834
Environmental Protection Agency	432	369	834
JobsOhio	404	397	786

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

E. Retirement System Registrations & Engagements.

<b>Retirement System Registrations &amp; Engagements</b>	
Lobbyists	75
Employers	43
Total Engagements	76

<b>Registrations By Retirement System</b>			
<b>Retirement System Lobbied</b>	<b>Lobbyist</b>	<b>Employer</b>	<b>Total Engagements</b>
Public Employees Retirement System	70	39	71
State Teachers Retirement System	57	34	58
Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund	53	23	53
School Employees Retirement System	52	29	53
Highway Patrol Retirement System	46	21	46

## II. 2017 Legislative Lobbying Activity Data

<b>House Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity</b>		
HB 49	Creates FY 2018-2019 operating budget	1183
HB 26	Creates FY 2018-2019 transportation budget	202
HB 114	Revise energy efficiency provisions	114
HB 382	Revise Unemployment Compensation Law	95
HB 178	Address zero-emissions nuclear resource program	91
HB 27	Creates FY 2018-2019 Workers' Compensation budget	90
HB 72	Adopt requirements for step therapy protocols	88
HB 51	Review and sunset cabinet departments	79
HB 239	Allow recovery of national security generation resource cost	79
HB 193	Prohibit penalizing employee for not getting flu vaccination	78

<b>Senate Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity</b>		
SB 3	Review workforce development laws	104
SB 128	Address zero-emissions nuclear resource program	95
SB 56	Adopt requirements for step therapy protocols	88
SB 155	Allow recovery of national security generation resource costs	81
SB 8	Improve school technology infrastructure	80
SB 2	Revise environmental protection laws	75
SB 168	Prohibit Medicaid expansion and reduce GRF appropriations	69
SB 216	Enact Public School Deregulation Act-primary/secondary ed-testing	68
SB 119	Address opioid prescribing and addiction treatment	62
SB 79	Review and sunset cabinet departments	58

(Determined by the number of employers that reported lobbying on a bill in 2017; employers who reported lobbying on a bill during multiple reporting periods are counted once.)

### III. 2017 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

#### A. Expenditures: Total By Reporting Period

	Jan-Apr	May-Aug	Sept-Dec	Total
Legislative Lobbyists	\$25,870.80	\$61,287.46	\$20,689.79	\$107,848.05
Legislative Employers	\$320,138.54	\$163,069.58	\$111,480.20	\$594,688.32
Executive Lobbyists	\$3,157.39	\$1,120.58	\$520.90	\$4,798.87
Executive Employers	\$73.33	\$574.00	\$504.20	\$1,151.53
Retirement Lobbyists	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Retirement Employers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>				<b>\$708,486.77</b>

#### B. Expenditures: By Engagement Type

<b>Total Expenditures By Engagement Type</b>	
All Legislative Expenditures	\$702,536.37
All Executive Expenditures	\$5,950.40
All Retirement Expenditures	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2017</b>	<b>\$708,486.77</b>

#### C. Expenditures: Lobbyist vs. Employer

<b>Lobbyist vs. Employer Expenditures</b>	
All Lobbyist Expenditures	\$112,646.92
All Employer Expenditures	\$595,839.85
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2017</b>	<b>\$708,486.77</b>

<sup>2</sup> 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).

<sup>3</sup> 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](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/CampaignFinance/Search.aspx)

#### D. Expenditures: By Source (Ten Highest)

<b>Expenditures By Source (Ten Highest)</b>	
Wholesale Beer and Wine Association of Ohio	\$44,811.12
Ohio Jewish Communities, Inc	\$30,902.32
Ohio Chamber of Commerce	\$28,531.88
Ohio Association of REALTORS	\$16,756.64
Ohio Chemistry Technology Council	\$15,978.34
Ohio Conference of Teamsters	\$14,404.82
Ohio National Guard Association	\$13,447.82
Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies	\$13,155.62
Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association	\$11,766.95
Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging	\$11,316.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$201,071.51</b>

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

#### E. Expenditures: By Category

<b>Total Expenditures By Category</b>	<b>Lobbyist</b>	<b>Employer</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Gifts	\$136.74	\$65,189.73	\$65,326.47
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$264.52	\$20,403.46	\$20,667.98
All-Invited Events	\$29,480.22	\$506,460.22	\$535,940.44
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$82,765.44	\$3,786.44	\$86,551.88
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$112,646.92</b>	<b>\$595,839.85</b>	<b>\$708,486.77</b>

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

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

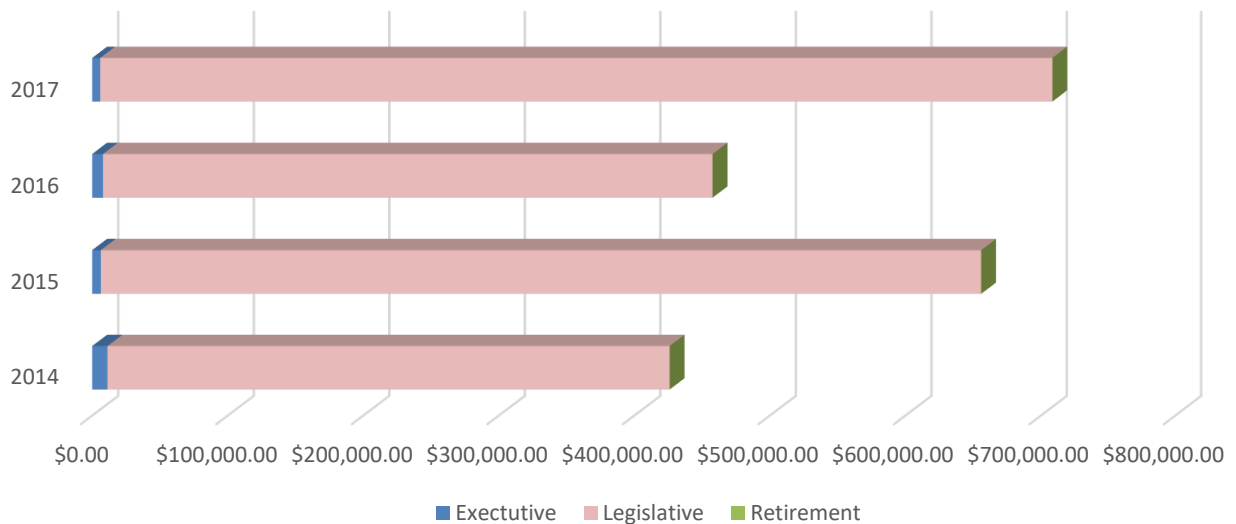
<sup>4</sup> For detailed information regarding expenditure categories and reporting, see the *Ohio Lobbying Handbook*, Ch. 4-6. Gift and itemized expenditures require disclosure of the recipient as well as the amount spent, non-itemized and all-invited event expenditures require disclosure of aggregate 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. 2017 Lobbying Expenditures Compared To Previous Years<sup>5</sup>

##### A. Total Overall Expenditures By Engagement Type 2014 - 2017.

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Executive	\$11,281.68	\$6,382.54	\$7,994.56	\$5,950.40
Legislative	\$414,797.53	\$649,532.73	\$449,739.82	\$702,536.37
Retirement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$426,079.21</b>	<b>\$655,915.27</b>	<b>\$457,734.38</b>	<b>\$708,486.77</b>

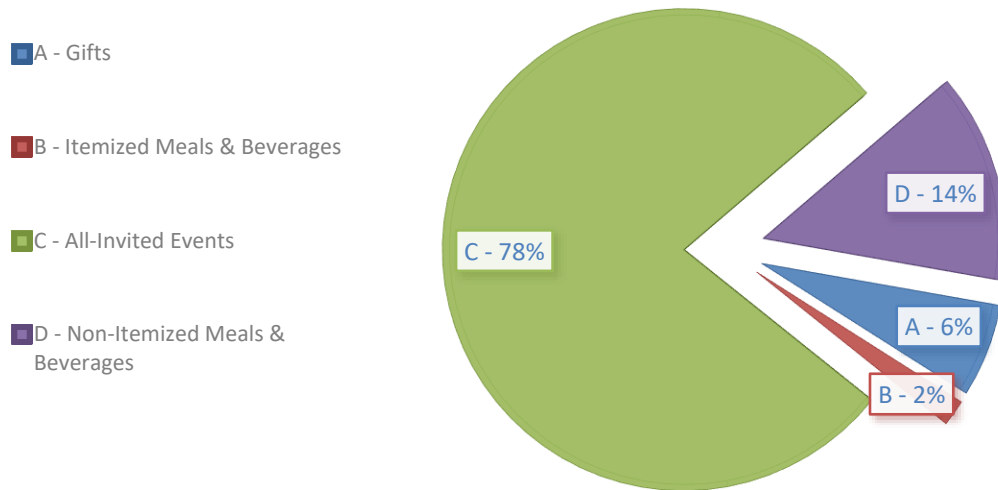


<sup>5</sup> OLAC generates data in real time. As lobbyists and employers amend reports from time to time, expenditure figures reflecting previous years may vary from prior reports, as originally published. All figures for this report were generated March 6, 2018.



## B. Total Overall Expenditures By Category 2014 - 2017.

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Gifts	\$17,690.86	\$30,989.50	\$26,055.90	\$65,326.47
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$4,555.71	\$4,915.39	\$9,015.40	\$20,667.98
All-Invited Events	\$322,120.46	\$534,653.46	\$360,436.77	\$535,940.44
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$81,712.18	\$85,356.92	\$62,226.31	\$86,551.88
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$426,079.21</b>	<b>\$655,915.27</b>	<b>\$457,734.38</b>	<b>\$708,486.77</b>



## V. 2017 Compliance Data

The following represents the number of lobbyists and employers who, as of March 15, 2018, 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.

<b>Filers Remaining Non-Compliant</b>	
Lobbyists	2
Employers	18