



THE 133RD OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JOINT LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL

100 East Broad Street, Suite 1910, Columbus, OH 43215 • (614) 728-5100 • www.jlec-olig.state.oh.us

2018 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 Ohio 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.

2018 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 11, 2019.

I. 2018 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	1560	1546	1485
Employers	1853	1846	1811

B. Out-Of-State Registrations.

	Jan-Apr	May-Aug	Sep-Dec
Lobbyists	172	173	174
Employers	506	510	500

C. Legislative Registrations & Engagements.

Legislative Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	1565
Employers	1722
Total Engagements	4467

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

D. Executive Registrations & Engagements.

Executive Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	1038
Employers	1590
Total Engagements	3801

i. Executive Statewide Offices.

Statewide Office Lobbied	Lobbyists	Employers	Total Engagements
Governor	1004	1486	3659
Attorney General	825	1033	2411
Lieutenant Governor	771	997	2354
Auditor of State	608	721	1579
Secretary of State	592	682	1462
Treasurer of State	558	683	1445

ii. Executive Agencies.

Executive Agency Lobbied	Lobbyists	Employers	Total Engagements
Budget & Management	568	589	1347
Health	535	482	1170
Commerce	466	482	1046
Taxation	469	472	1039
Administrative Services	424	474	961
Job & Family Services	484	420	934
Transportation	435	409	854
Environmental Protection Agency	429	369	826
Insurance	432	355	799
Education	394	381	772

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

E. Retirement System Registrations & Engagements.

Retirement System Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	77
Employers	44
Total Engagements	77

Registrations By Retirement System			
Retirement System Lobbied	Lobbyist	Employer	Total Engagements
Public Employees Retirement System	72	41	72
State Teachers Retirement System	55	32	55
Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund	53	24	53
School Employees Retirement System	51	28	51
Highway Patrol Retirement System	45	22	45

II. 2018 Legislative Lobbying Activity Data

House Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity		
HB 529	Makes capital appropriations and reappropriations	256
HB 49	Creates FY 2018-2019 operating budget	151
HB 114	Revise energy efficiency provisions	116
HB 620	Require agencies to reduce regulatory restrictions	115
HB 512	Restructure education agencies and their duties	101
HB 382	Revise Unemployment Compensation Law	88
HB 72	Adopt requirements for step therapy protocols	87
HB 247	Regards utility refunds, market rate service, corporate being	77
HB 479	Disclose drug price information to patients	76
HB 450	Impose review on existing and new health insurance mandates	71

Senate Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity		
SB 293	Require agencies to reduce regulatory restrictions	152
SB 266	Makes capital appropriations and reappropriations	141
SB 216	Enact Public School Deregulation Act-primary/secondary ed-testing	96
SB 255	Reform occupational licensing	93
SB 56	Adopt requirements for step therapy protocols	87
SB 220	Provide legal safe harbor if implement cybersecurity program	79
SB 51	Facilitate Lake Erie shoreline improvement	75
SB 128	Address zero-emissions nuclear resource program	74
SB 265	Permit health insurers to cover pharmacist-provided benefits	72
SB 119	Address opioid prescribing and addiction treatment	71
SB 250	Protect critical infrastructure facilities from mischief	71

(Determined by the number of employers that reported lobbying on a bill in 2018; employers who reported lobbying on a bill during multiple reporting periods are counted once.)

III. 2018 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	\$24,526.92	\$27,749.70	\$17,013.96	\$69,290.58
Legislative Employers	\$231,314.80	\$119,465.16	\$58,904.86	\$409,684.82
Executive Lobbyists	\$2,589.51	\$1,038.11	\$759.65	\$4,387.27
Executive Employers	\$4,521.29	\$378.65	\$254.91	\$5,154.85
Retirement Lobbyists	\$0.00	\$31.38	\$0.00	\$31.38
Retirement Employers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES				

B. Expenditures: By Engagement Type

Total Expenditures By Engagement Type	
All Legislative Expenditures	\$478,975.40
All Executive Expenditures	\$9,542.12
All Retirement Expenditures	\$31.38
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2018	\$488,548.90

C. Expenditures: Lobbyist vs. Employer

Lobbyist vs. Employer Expenditures	
All Lobbyist Expenditures	\$73,709.23
All Employer Expenditures	\$414,839.67
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2018	\$488,548.90

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	\$43,490.71
Ohio Conference of Teamsters	\$27,243.13
Voices for Ohio's Children	\$19,555.61
Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies	\$19,483.14
Ohio Association of REALTORS	\$18,501.57
Ohio Chemistry Technology Council	\$15,132.36
Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association	\$11,754.28
AARP	\$10,633.90
Ohio Township Association	\$10,333.96
Ohio Parks and Recreation Association, Inc	\$10,036.00
TOTAL	\$186,164.66

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

E. Expenditures: By Category

Total Expenditures By Category	Lobbyist	Employer	TOTAL
Gifts	\$466.89	\$26,958.08	\$27,424.97
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$192.89	\$7,995.24	\$8,188.13
All-Invited Events	\$10,043.43	\$373,772.61	\$383,816.04
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$63,006.02	\$6,113.74	\$69,119.76
TOTAL	\$73,709.23	\$414,839.67	\$488,548.90

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

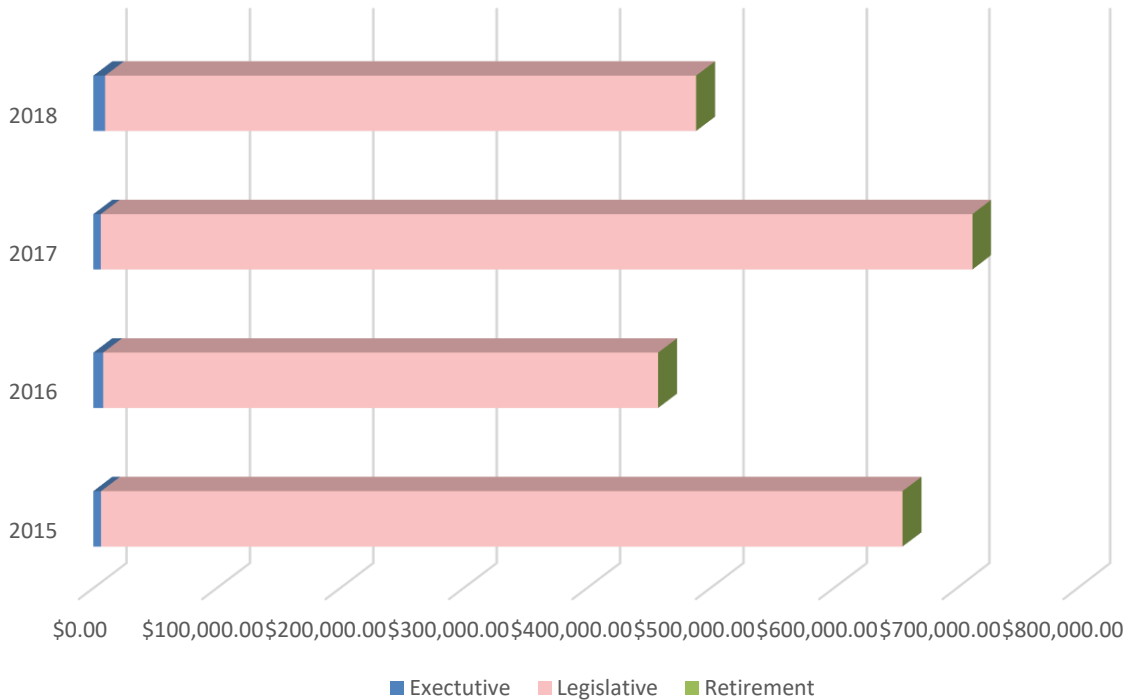
⁴ For detailed information regarding expenditure categories and reporting, see the *Ohio Lobbying Handbook*, Ch. 4-6. Gift and itemized expenditures require disclosure of the recipient as well as the amount spent, non-itemized and all-invited event expenditures require disclosure of aggregate amount 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. 2018 Lobbying Expenditures Compared To Previous Years⁵

A. Total Overall Expenditures By Engagement Type 2015 - 2018.

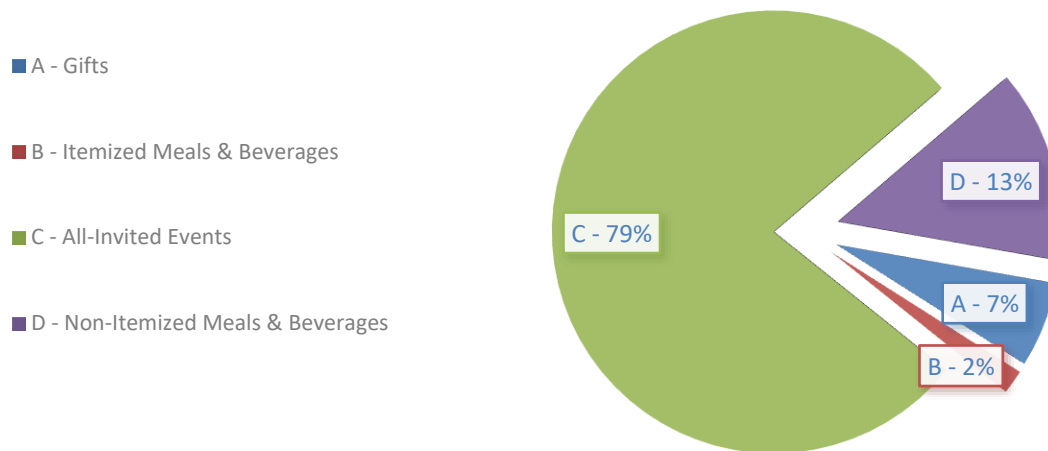
	2015	2016	2017	2018
Executive	\$6,282.54	\$7,994.56	\$6,018.40	\$9,542.12
Legislative	\$649,532.73	\$449,739.82	\$706,923.04	\$478,975.40
Retirement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31.38
TOTAL	\$655,815.27	\$457,734.38	\$712,941.44	\$488,548.90



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 11, 2019.

B. Total Overall Expenditures By Category 2015 - 2018.

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Gifts	\$30,889.50	\$26,055.90	\$66,278.34	\$27,424.97
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$4,915.39	\$9,015.40	\$20,664.35	\$8,188.13
All-Invited Events	\$534,653.46	\$360,436.77	\$538,426.16	\$383,816.04
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$85,356.92	\$62,226.31	\$87,572.59	\$69,119.76
TOTAL	\$655,815.27	\$457,734.38	\$712,941.44	\$488,548.90



V. 2018 Compliance Data

The following represents the number of lobbyists and employers who, as of March 15, 2019, 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	1
Employers	8