



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

2019 Ohio Lobbying Statistics Report

Released March 13, 2020

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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.

2019 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 10, 2020.

I. 2019 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.

Total Registrations	
Lobbyists	1642
Employers	2074
Total Engagements	9065

B. Out-Of-State Registrations.

Out-Of-State Registrations	
Lobbyists	193
Employers	568

C. Legislative Registrations & Engagements.

Legislative Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	1540
Employers	1807
Total Engagements	4681

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

D. Executive Registrations & Engagements.

Executive Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	1110
Employers	1769
Total Engagements	4306

i. Executive Statewide Offices.

Statewide Office Lobbied	Lobbyists	Employers	Total Engagements
Governor	1065	1641	4042
Lieutenant Governor	853	1137	2723
Attorney General	857	1084	2542
Auditor of State	639	748	1644
Secretary of State	624	705	1513
Treasurer of State	583	700	1490

ii. Executive Agencies.

Executive Agency Lobbied	Lobbyists	Employers	Total Engagements
Budget & Management	606	604	1397
Health	572	511	1238
Commerce	488	494	1105
Taxation	494	468	1063
Administrative Services	433	506	1026
Job & Family Services	529	427	981
Transportation	471	440	951
JobsOhio	433	421	879
Environmental Protection Agency	444	371	869
Medicaid, Department of	476	367	849

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

E. Retirement System Registrations & Engagements.

Retirement System Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	78
Employers	44
Total Engagements	78

i. Retirement Systems.

Registrations By Retirement System			
Retirement System Lobbied	Lobbyist	Employer	Total Engagements
Public Employees Retirement System	71	40	71
State Teachers Retirement System	53	32	53
School Employees Retirement System	50	28	50
Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund	47	23	47
Highway Patrol Retirement System	40	20	40

II. 2019 Legislative Lobbying Activity Data

House Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity		
HB 166	Creates FY 2020-2021 operating budget	1229
HB 62	Creates FY 2020-2021 transportation budget	296
HB 6	Creates Ohio Clean Air Program	183
HB 80	Creates FY 2020-2021 Workers' Compensation budget	102
HB 115	Require agencies to reduce regulatory restrictions	94
HB 2	Create TechCred and Microcredential Assistance Programs	88
HB 247	Regards competitive retail electric service law	87
HB 194	Legalize and regulate sports gaming/tax sports gaming businesses	80
HB 246	Reform and modernize PUCO and Consumers' Counsel	72
HB 432	Grant Ohio occupational licenses to out-of-state licensees	71

Senate Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity		
SB 1	Reduce number of regulatory restrictions	165
SB 171	Enacts a 17-day interim budget	133
SB 11	Adds protections/mediation to civil rights law/keeps exemption	92
SB 33	Modify criminal and civil law for critical infrastructure damage	89
SB 172	Enacts a one-month Workers' Compensation interim budget	80
SB 97	Relates to providing estimates for health care preauthorization	77
SB 246	Require occupational licensing of out-of-state licensees	72
SB 8	Authorize tax credit for investment in opportunity zone	71
SB 111	Regulate and levy tax on sports wagering	70
SB 57	Decriminalize hemp and license hemp cultivation	70

(Determined by the number of employers that reported lobbying on a bill in 2019; employers who reported lobbying on a bill during multiple reporting periods are counted once.)

III. 2019 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	\$41,955.75	\$32,841.81	\$25,215.17	\$100,012.73
Legislative Employers	\$332,565.64	\$196,728.58	\$137,543.04	\$666,837.26
Executive Lobbyists	\$2,725.06	\$1,344.32	\$813.25	\$4,882.63
Executive Employers	\$1,823.99	\$971.11	\$793.46	\$3,588.56
Retirement Lobbyists	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Retirement Employers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES				\$775,321.18

B. Expenditures: By Engagement Type.

Total Expenditures By Engagement Type	
All Legislative Expenditures	\$766,849.99
All Executive Expenditures	\$8,471.19
All Retirement Expenditures	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2019	\$775,321.18

C. Expenditures: Lobbyist vs. Employer.

Lobbyist vs. Employer Expenditures	
All Lobbyist Expenditures	\$104,895.36
All Employer Expenditures	\$670,425.82
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2019	\$775,321.18

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	\$42,052.37
Ohio Chamber of Commerce	\$40,274.84
Ohio State Bar Association	\$32,200.50
Ohio Conference of Teamsters	\$22,757.48
Ohio Association of REALTORS	\$21,421.49
Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies	\$19,687.86
Philanthropy Ohio	\$16,390.74
Ohio Chemistry Technology Council	\$13,102.73
Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of	\$13,032.70
Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging	\$11,971.00
TOTAL	\$232,891.71

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

E. Expenditures: By Category.

Total Expenditures By Category	Lobbyist	Employer	Total
Gifts	\$533.66	\$41,347.70	\$41,881.36
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$382.38	\$12,706.48	\$13,088.86
All-Invited Events	\$32,843.29	\$609,173.88	\$642,017.17
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$71,136.03	\$7,197.76	\$78,309.33
TOTAL	\$104,895.36	\$670,425.82	\$775,321.18

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

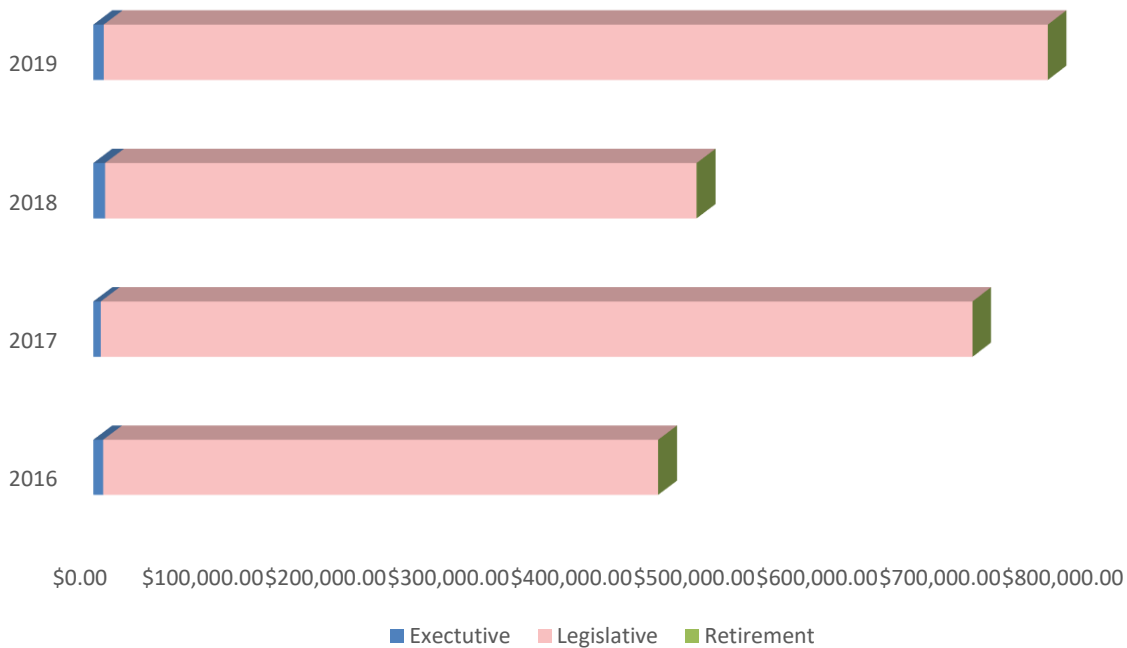
⁴ For detailed information regarding expenditure categories and reporting, see the *Ohio Lobbying Handbook*, Ch. 4-6. Gift and itemized expenditures require disclosure of the recipient as well as the amount spent, non-itemized and all-invited event expenditures require disclosure of aggregate amount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

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. 2019 Lobbying Expenditures Compared To Previous Years⁵

A. Total Overall Expenditures By Engagement Type 2016 - 2019.

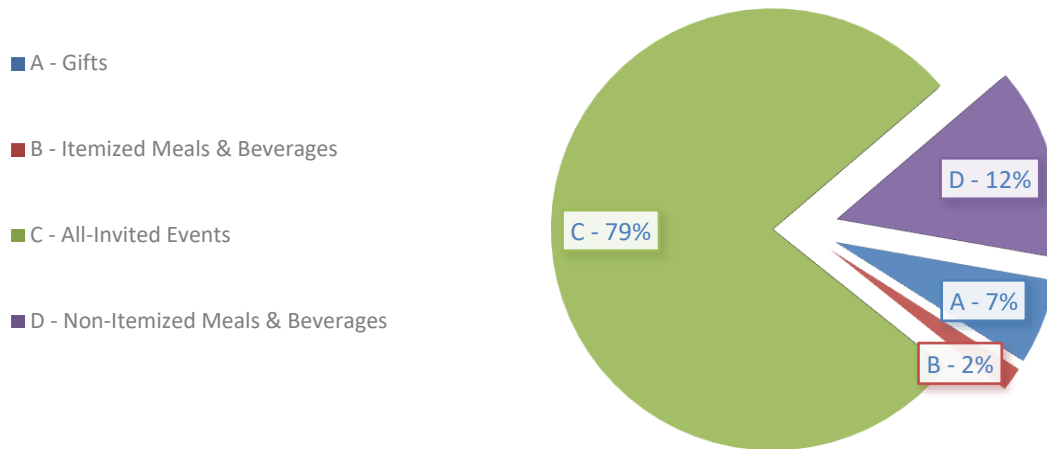
	2016	2017	2018	2019
Executive	\$7,994.56	\$6,018.40	\$9,542.12	\$8,471.19
Legislative	\$449,739.82	\$706,923.04	\$479,339.57	\$766,849.99
Retirement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31.38	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$457,734.38	\$712,941.44	\$488,913.07	\$775,321.18



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 10, 2020.

B. Total Overall Expenditures By Category 2016 - 2019.

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Gifts	\$26,055.90	\$66,278.34	\$28,033.22	\$41,881.36
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$9,015.40	\$20,664.35	\$7,918.65	\$13,088.86
All-Invited Events	\$360,436.77	\$538,426.16	\$383,816.04	\$642,017.17
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$62,226.31	\$87,572.59	\$69,145.16	\$78,333.79
TOTAL	\$457,734.38	\$712,941.44	\$488,913.07	\$775,321.18



V. 2019 Compliance Data

The following represents the number of lobbyists and employers who, as of March 13, 2020, 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	1