



THE 134TH OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JOINT LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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2020 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 1,600 lobbyists to ensure a transparent, accurate, and lawful lobbying process. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, expenditures for 2020 were significantly lower than in years past.

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.

2020 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 8, 2021.

I. 2020 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	1635
Employers	2200
Total Engagements	9535

B. Out-Of-State Registrations.

Out-Of-State Registrations	
Lobbyists	200
Employers	653

C. Legislative Registrations & Engagements.

Legislative Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	1543
Employers	1937
Total Engagements	5092

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

D. Executive Registrations & Engagements.

Executive Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	1012
Employers	1800
Total Engagements	4361

i. Executive Statewide Offices.

Statewide Office Lobbied	Lobbyists	Employers	Total Engagements
Governor	976	1675	4087
Lieutenant Governor	791	1213	2876
Attorney General	778	1080	2466
Auditor of State	587	746	1619
Treasurer of State	553	711	1486
Secretary of State	576	685	1442

ii. Executive Agencies.

Executive Agency Lobbied	Lobbyists	Employers	Total Engagements
Budget & Management	547	577	1281
Health	544	531	1265
Administrative Services	408	518	1025
Commerce	443	473	1013
Taxation	457	454	994
Job & Family Services	492	423	974
Transportation	450	440	920
Medicaid, Department of	441	375	887
JobsOhio	408	440	870
Environmental Protection Agency	409	367	827

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

E. Retirement System Registrations & Engagements.

Retirement System Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	82
Employers	44
Total Engagements	82

i. Retirement Systems.

Registrations By Retirement System			
Retirement System Lobbied	Lobbyist	Employer	Total Engagements
Public Employees Retirement System	74	41	74
State Teachers Retirement System	59	33	59
School Employees Retirement System	54	29	54
Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund	51	25	51
Highway Patrol Retirement System	45	21	45

II. 2020 Legislative Lobbying Activity Data

House Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity		
HB 197	Make technical and corrective changes to tax law	453
HB 606	Grant immunity to essential workers who transmit COVID-19	419
HB 166	Creates FY 2020-2021 operating budget	181
HB 614	Study and reform unemployment compensation system	133
HB 13	Establish residential broadband expansion program	128
HB 404	Allow state university trustees attend meetings electronically	128
HB 679	Establish/modify requirements for telehealth services	112
HB 746	Repeal HB 6 of 133rd GA and revive prior law	102
HB 246	Reform and modernize PUCO and Consumers' Counsel	101
HB 798	Delays certain provisions of HB 6; revises the energy law	100

Senate Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity		
SB 310	Provide federal COVID funding to local subdivisions	339
SB 308	Regards civil liability of service providers in emergency	336
SB 1	Reduce number of regulatory restrictions	158
SB 246	Require occupational licensing of out-of-state licensees	113
SB 352	Modify municipal income tax withholding-COVID- work-at-home	98
SB 346	Repeal HB 6 of 133rd GA and revive prior law	97
SB 311	Limit Director of Health order-issuing authority	96
SB 316	Reappropriate capital funds	91
SB 358	Change educational laws in response to COVID-19	85
SB 33	Modify criminal and civil law for critical infrastructure damage	82
SB 387	Terminates a portion of the face covering health order	82

(Determined by the number of employers that reported lobbying on a bill in 2020; employers who reported lobbying on a bill during multiple reporting periods are counted once.)

III. 2020 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	\$11,797.53	\$1,999.66	\$3,585.90	\$17,383.09
Legislative Employers	\$59,215.56	\$666.68	\$1,810.88	\$61,693.12
Executive Lobbyists	\$1,443.11	\$46.15	\$540.22	\$2,029.48
Executive Employers	\$683.20	\$265.31	\$115.99	\$1,064.50
Retirement Lobbyists	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Retirement Employers	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$73,139.40	\$2,977.80	\$6,052.99	82,170.19

B. Expenditures: By Engagement Type.

Total Expenditures By Engagement Type	
All Legislative Expenditures	\$79,076.21
All Executive Expenditures	\$3,093.98
All Retirement Expenditures	\$0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2020	\$82,170.19

C. Expenditures: Lobbyist vs. Employer.

Lobbyist vs. Employer Expenditures	
All Lobbyist Expenditures	\$19,412.57
All Employer Expenditures	\$62,757.62
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2020	\$82,170.19

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)	
Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies	\$16,224.18
Ohio Township Association	\$11,963.60
Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association	\$4,818.36
Ohio Cattlemen's Association	\$4,708.70
The Ohio State University	\$4,156.68
Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association	\$3,575.93
Emergency Management Association of Ohio	\$3,100.00
Ohio Public Transit Association	\$2,849.75
National Federation of Independent Business/Ohio	\$2,774.50
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.	\$2,031.96
TOTAL	\$56,203.66

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

E. Expenditures: By Category.

Total Expenditures By Category	Lobbyist	Employer	Total
Gifts	\$180.64	\$3,917.74	\$4,098.38
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$15.25	\$1,276.94	\$1,292.19
All-Invited Events	\$2,412.36	\$57,258.17	\$59,670.53
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$16,804.32	304.77	\$17,109.09
TOTAL	\$19,412.57	62,757.62	\$82,170.19

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

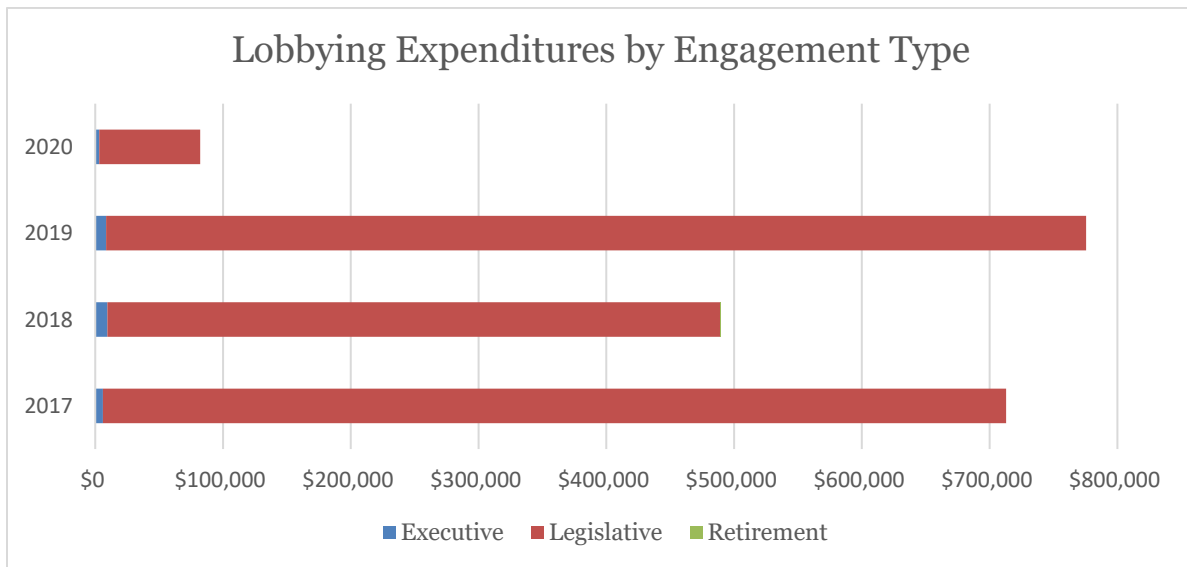
⁴ For detailed information regarding expenditure categories and reporting, see the *Ohio Lobbying Handbook*, Ch. 4-6. Gift and itemized expenditures require disclosure of the recipient as well as the amount spent, non-itemized and all-invited event expenditures require disclosure of aggregate amount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

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. 2020 Lobbying Expenditures Compared To Previous Years⁵

A. Total Overall Expenditures By Engagement Type 2017 - 2020.

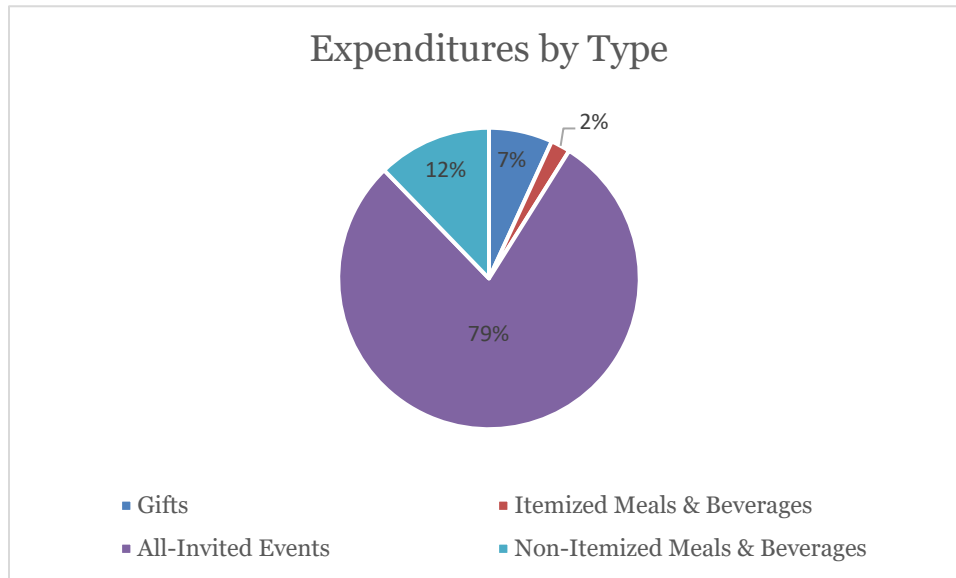
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Executive	\$6,018.40	\$9,542.12	\$8,513.69	\$3,093.98
Legislative	706,923.04	\$479,655.57	\$767,052.82	\$79,076.21
Retirement	\$0.00	\$31.38	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$712,941.44	\$489,229.07	\$775,566.51	\$82,170.19



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 8, 2021.

B. Total Overall Expenditures By Category 2017 - 2020

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Gifts	\$66,278.34	\$28,349.22	\$42,121.22	\$4,098.38
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$20,664.35	\$7,918.65	\$13,094.33	\$1,292.19
All-Invited Events	\$538,426.16	\$383,816.04	642,017.17	\$59,670.53
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$87,572.59	69,145.16	\$78,333.79	\$17,109.09
TOTAL	\$712,941.44	\$489,229.07	\$775,566.51	\$82,170.19



V. 2020 Compliance Data

The following represents the number of lobbyists and employers who, as of March 15, 2021, have outstanding Activity & Expenditure Reports.

Filers Remaining Non-Compliant	
Lobbyists	1
Employers	1