



THE 134<sup>TH</sup> 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](http://www.jlec-olig.state.oh.us)

---

# 2021 Ohio Lobbying Statistics Report

Released March 14, 2022

I.	2021 Lobbying Registration and Engagement Data.....	3
	A. Total Registrations.....	3
	B. Out-Of-State Registrations .....	3
	C. Legislative Registrations & Engagements .....	3
	D. Executive Registrations & Engagements .....	4
	E. Retirement System Registrations & Engagements.....	4
II.	2021 Legislative Lobbying Activity Data .....	5
III.	2021 Lobbying Expenditure Data .....	6
	A. Expenditures: Total By Reporting Period.....	6
	B. Expenditures: By Engagement Type.....	6
	C. Expenditures: Lobbyist vs. Employer .....	6
	D. Expenditures: By Source (Ten Highest) .....	7
	E. Expenditures: By Category .....	7
IV.	2021 Lobbying Expenditures Compared To Previous Years.....	8
	A. Total Overall Expenditures By Engagement Type 2018 - 2021.....	8
	B. Total Overall Expenditures By Category 2018 - 2021 .....	9
V.	2021 Compliance Data.....	9

# 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 2021 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](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.

# 2021 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 10, 2022.

## I. 2021 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	1655
Employers	2379
Total Engagements	10650

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

Out-Of-State Registrations	
Lobbyists	208
Employers	720

### C. Legislative Registrations & Engagements.

Legislative Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	1540
Employers	2053
Total Engagements	5478

---

<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	1094
Employers	2033
Total Engagements	5089

*i. Executive Statewide Offices.*

<b>Statewide Office Lobbied</b>	<b>Lobbyists</b>	<b>Employers</b>	<b>Total Engagements</b>
Governor	1047	1875	4715
Lieutenant Governor	851	1379	3386
Attorney General	834	1165	2696
Auditor of State	621	790	1743
Treasurer of State	585	756	1594
Secretary of State	620	722	1546

*ii. Executive Agencies.*

<b>Executive Agency Lobbied</b>	<b>Lobbyists</b>	<b>Employers</b>	<b>Total Engagements</b>
Health	587	597	1449
Budget & Management	566	621	1437
Administrative Services	436	559	1167
Taxation	467	467	1095
Commerce	463	485	1082
Job & Family Services	527	457	1080
Transportation	459	469	1021
JobsOhio	450	485	1018
Medicaid, Department of	478	407	970
Education	454	432	918

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

E. Retirement System Registrations & Engagements.

<b>Retirement System Registrations &amp; Engagements</b>	
Lobbyists	81
Employers	44
Total Engagements	83

*i. Retirement Systems.*

<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	73	40	75
State Teachers Retirement System	56	32	58
School Employees Retirement System	52	29	54
Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund	49	25	51
Highway Patrol Retirement System	43	22	45

**II. 2021 Legislative Lobbying Activity Data**

<b>House Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity</b>		
HB 110	Creates appropriations for FY 2022-2023.	1181
HB 248	Enact Vaccine Choice and Anti-Discrimination Act	298
HB 218	Extend bar hours; exempt bars from statewide curfew	275
HB 435	Declare intent to enact legislation regarding vaccines	227
HB 74	Enact FY 2022-2023 transportation budget	204
HB 169	Provide grants to bars, restaurants, and the lodging industry	180
HB 376	Enact Ohio Personal Privacy Act	169
HB 122	Regards the provision of telehealth services	162
HB 2	Regards broadband expansion	159
HB 157	Modify municipal income tax rules - COVID work from home	152

<b>Senate Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity</b>		
SB 22	Establish legislative oversight over Governor's and health orders	191
SB 52	Revise law governing wind farms and solar facilities	105
SB 8	Regards broadband expansion	104
SB 97	Modify municipal income tax rules - COVID work from	103
SB 111	Provide assistance to schools and other entities	101
SB 176	Legalize and regulate sports gaming	100
SB 9	Reduce regulatory restrictions in administrative rules	96
SB 169	Prohibit mandatory coronavirus vaccine; prohibit vaccine proof	94
SB 17	Regards eligibility for SNAP, Medicaid, and unemployment	83
SB 131	Require occupational license if experienced in another state	82

(Determined by the number of employers that reported lobbying on a bill in 2021; employers who reported lobbying on a bill during multiple reporting periods are counted once.)

### III. 2021 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	\$11,338.52	\$18,146.03	\$14,581.08	\$44,065.63
Legislative Employers	\$5,344.29	\$33,919.23	\$125,070.60	\$164,334.12
Executive Lobbyists	\$269.32	\$505.46	\$1,178.48	\$1,953.26
Executive Employers	\$799.02	\$1,569.75	963.81	\$3,332.58
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>\$17,751.15</b>	<b>\$54,140.47</b>	<b>\$141,793.97</b>	<b>\$213,685.59</b>

#### B. Expenditures: By Engagement Type.

<b>Total Expenditures By Engagement Type</b>	
All Legislative Expenditures	\$208,399.75
All Executive Expenditures	\$5,285.84
All Retirement Expenditures	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2021</b>	<b>\$213,685.59</b>

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

<b>Lobbyist vs. Employer Expenditures</b>	
All Lobbyist Expenditures	\$46,018.89
All Employer Expenditures	\$167,666.70
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2021</b>	<b>\$213,685.59</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>	
Ohio Chamber of Commerce	\$26,399.99
Ohio Conference of Teamsters	\$23,749.30
County Auditors' Association of Ohio	\$13,368.11
Ohio Recorders Association	\$9,528.45
Ohio Parks and Recreation Association, Inc.	\$7,890.00
Ohio Community Corrections Association	\$6,813.20
Ohio Green Industry Association (OGIA)	\$6,457.00
County Commissioners' Association of Ohio	\$6,002.33
Ohio Chemistry Technology Council	\$4,674.59
Ohio Aggregates & Industrial Minerals Association	\$4,619.01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$109,501.98</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	\$452.17	\$25,445.70	<b>\$25,897.87</b>
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$61.43	\$4,513.52	<b>\$4,574.95</b>
All-Invited Events	\$2,344.52	\$136,778.93	<b>\$139,123.45</b>
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$43,160.77	\$928.55	<b>\$44,089.32</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$46,018.89</b>	<b>\$167,666.70</b>	<b>\$213,685.59</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 the lobbyist to that reportable person, does not exceed \$50; (b) those provided by a

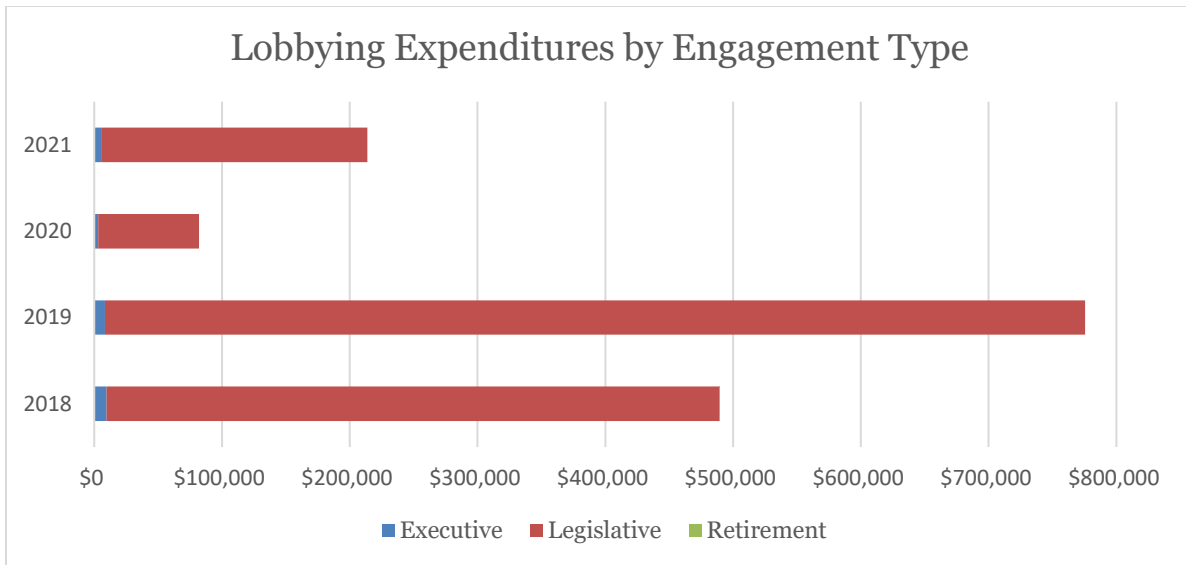
<sup>4</sup> For detailed information regarding expenditure categories and reporting, see the *Ohio Lobbying Handbook*, Ch. 4-6. Gift and itemized expenditures require disclosure of the recipient as well as the amount spent, non-itemized and all-invited event expenditures require disclosure of aggregate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

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. 2021 Lobbying Expenditures Compared To Previous Years<sup>5</sup>

##### A. Total Overall Expenditures By Engagement Type 2018 - 2021.

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Executive	\$9,542.12	\$8,513.69	\$3,093.98	\$5,285.84
Legislative	\$479,655.57	\$767,052.82	\$78,996.61	\$208,399.75
Retirement	\$31.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$489,229.07</b>	<b>\$775,566.51</b>	<b>\$82,090.59</b>	<b>\$213,685.59</b>

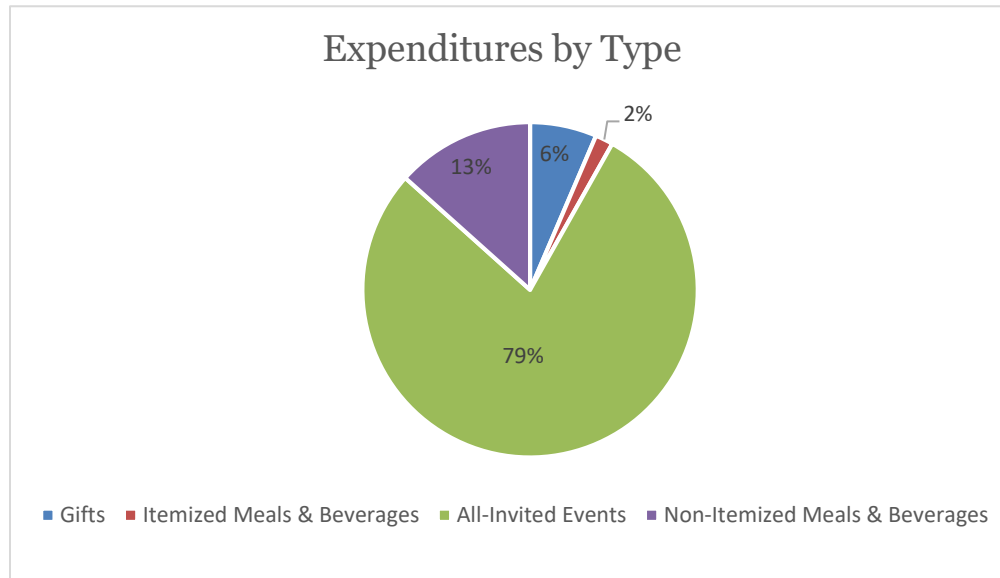


<sup>5</sup> OLAC generates data in real time. As lobbyists and employers amend reports from time to time, expenditure figures reflecting previous years may vary from prior reports, as originally published. All figures for this report were generated March 10, 2022.



## B. Total Overall Expenditures By Category 2018 - 2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Gifts	\$28,349.22	\$42,121.22	\$4,120.36	\$25,897.87
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$7,918.65	\$13,094.33	\$1,272.19	\$4,574.95
All-Invited Events	\$383,816.04	642,017.17	\$59,670.53	\$139,123.45
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	69,145.16	\$78,333.79	\$17,027.51	\$44,089.32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$489,229.07</b>	<b>\$775,566.51</b>	<b>\$82,090.59</b>	<b>\$213,685.59</b>



## V. 2021 Compliance Data

The following represents the number of lobbyists and employers who, as of March 14, 2022, have outstanding Activity & Expenditure Reports.

<b>Filers Remaining Non-Compliant</b>	
Lobbyists	0
Employers	0