



THE 135TH OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JOINT LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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2022 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 almost 1,600 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.

2022 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, 2023.

I. 2022 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	1598
Employers	2367
Total Engagements	10785

B. Legislative Registrations & Engagements

Legislative Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	1527
Employers	2097
Total Engagements	5694

C. Executive Registrations & Engagements

Executive Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	1034
Employers	1997
Total Engagements	5015

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

i. Executive Statewide Offices

Statewide Office Lobbied	Lobbyists	Employers	Total Engagements
Governor	993	1855	4666
Lieutenant Governor	819	1406	3422
Attorney General	803	1151	2657
Auditor of State	585	799	1744
Treasurer of State	580	736	1586
Secretary of State	589	708	1507

ii. Executive Agencies

Executive Agency Lobbied	Lobbyists	Employers	Total Engagements
Budget & Management	540	619	1453
Health	563	572	1403
Administrative Services	426	524	1126
Commerce	454	476	1095
Taxation	460	446	1070
Job & Family Services	499	452	1066
JobsOhio	438	479	1016
Transportation	434	447	989
Medicaid, Department of	450	393	973
Education	432	424	907

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

D. Retirement System Registrations & Engagements

Retirement System Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	75
Employers	39
Total Engagements	76

i. Retirement Systems

Registrations By Retirement System			
Retirement System Lobbied	Lobbyist	Employer	Total Engagements
Public Employees Retirement System	67	34	67
School Employees Retirement System	53	26	53
State Teachers Retirement System	53	28	53
Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund	48	22	49
Highway Patrol Retirement System	44	19	44

II. 2022 Legislative Lobbying Activity Data

House Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity		
HB 45	Establish temporary tax amnesty program	295
HB 687	Intend to enact legislation making capital appropriations	280
HB 435	Declare intent to enact legislation regarding vaccines	132
HB 376	Enact Ohio Personal Privacy Act	124
HB 218	Extend bar hours; exempt bars from statewide curfew	122
HB 327	Prohibit teaching, advocating, or promoting divisive concepts	118
HB 248	Enact Vaccine Choice and Anti-Discrimination Act	117
HB 616	Regards promotion, teaching-divisive, inherently racist concepts	114
HB 66	Require reporting/review of property tax exemptions	95
HB 509	Revise and streamline occupational regulations	90

Senate Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity		
SB 288	Revise the Criminal Law	112
SB 343	Regards capital appropriations for FY 2023-2024	104
SB 131	Require occupational license if experienced in another state	103
SB 307	Regards electric vehicle incentives, transport electrification	78
SB 9	Reduce regulatory restrictions in administrative rules	77
SB 261	Revise the medical marijuana law	73
SB 178	Reform function, responsibilities of state education offices	73
SB 97	Modify municipal income tax rules - COVID work from home	62
SB 277	Temporarily reduce motor fuel excise tax; registration taxes	61
SB 135	Regards state institutions of higher education and free speech	59

(Determined by the number of employers that reported lobbying on a bill in 2022; employers who reported lobbying on a bill during multiple reporting periods are counted once.)

III. 2022 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	\$23,122.57	\$16,658.49	\$20,941.46	\$60,722.52
Legislative Employers	\$133,150.29	\$205,720.68	\$102,811.78	\$441,682.75
Executive Lobbyists	\$723.61	\$1,156.08	\$1,191.95	\$3,071.64
Executive Employers	\$147.42	\$421.87	\$1,802.79	\$2,372.08
Retirement Lobbyists	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Retirement Employers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$157,143.89	\$223,957.12	\$126,747.98	\$507,848.99

B. Expenditures: By Engagement Type

Total Expenditures By Engagement Type	
All Legislative Expenditures	\$502,405.27
All Executive Expenditures	\$5,443.72
All Retirement Expenditures	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2022	\$507,848.99

C. Expenditures: Lobbyist vs. Employer

Lobbyist vs. Employer Expenditures	
All Lobbyist Expenditures	\$63,794.16
All Employer Expenditures	\$444,054.83
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2022	\$507,848.99

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	\$48,243.15
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants	\$29,193.23
Ohio Conference of Teamsters	\$24,681.51
Ohio Chemistry Technology Council	\$23,777.35
Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau	\$23,376.85
Ohio Jewish Communities, Inc.	\$23,376.85
The Ohio State University	\$18,849.99
Miami University	\$16,492.76
Ohio Association of REALTORS	\$15,750.41
Ohio Association for Career and Technical Education	\$14,239.54
TOTAL	\$237,981.64

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

E. Expenditures: By Category

Total Expenditures By Category	Lobbyist	Employer	Total
Gifts	\$726.93	\$57,458.63	\$58,185.56
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$199.35	\$15,623.08	\$15,822.43
All-Invited Events	\$17,259.18	\$367,184.37	\$384,443.55
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$45,608.70	\$3,788.75	\$49,397.45
TOTAL	\$63,794.16	\$444,054.83	\$507,848.99

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

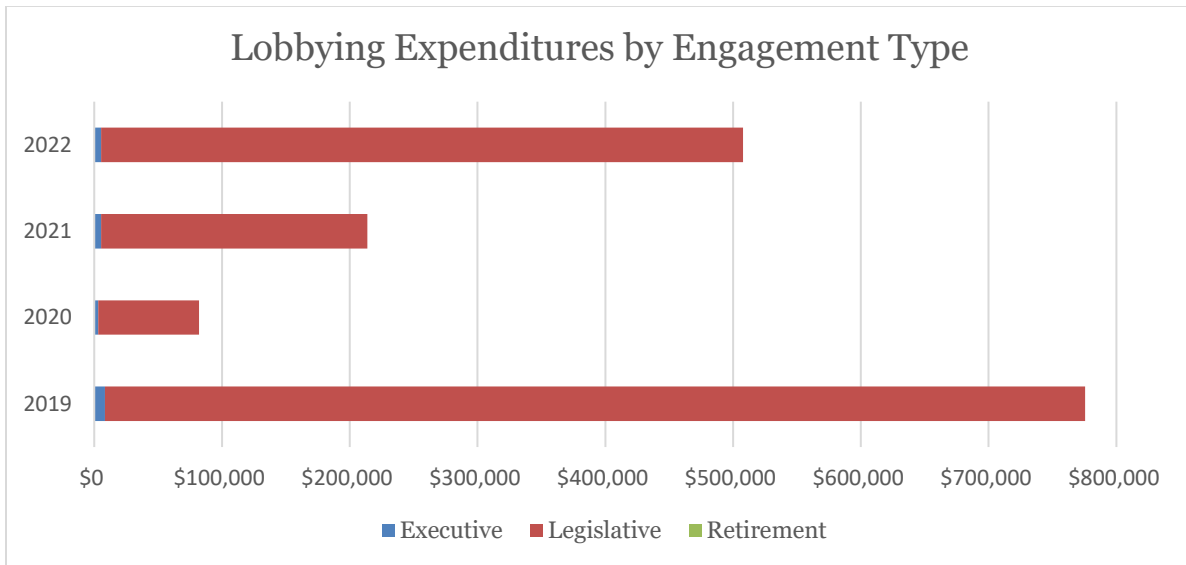
⁴ For detailed information regarding expenditure categories and reporting, see the *Ohio Lobbying Handbook*, Ch. 4-6. Gift and itemized expenditures require disclosure of the recipient as well as the amount spent, non-itemized and all-invited event expenditures require disclosure of aggregate amount 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. 2022 Lobbying Expenditures Compared To Previous Years⁵

A. Total Overall Expenditures By Engagement Type 2019 - 2022

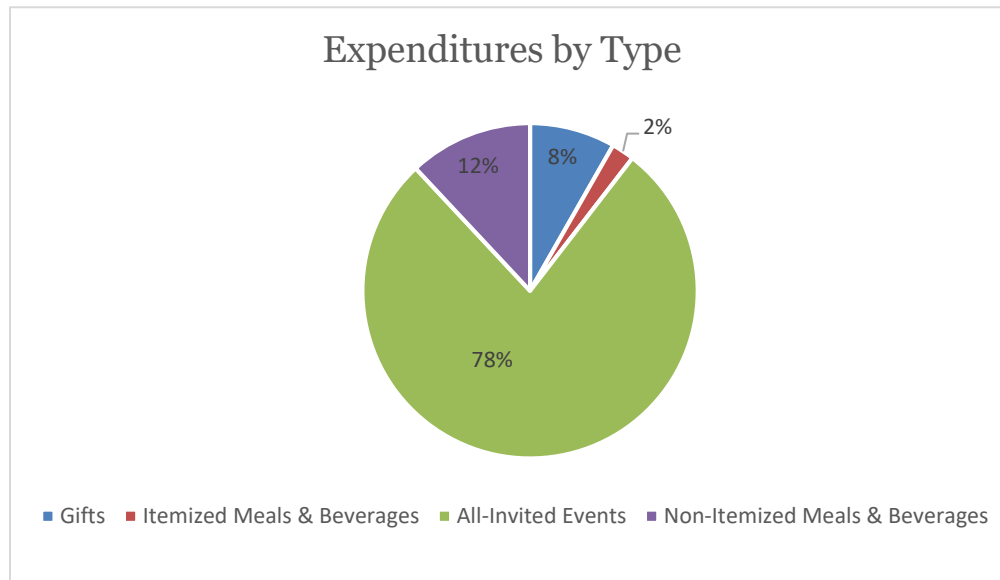
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Executive	\$8,513.69	\$3,093.98	\$5,285.84	\$5,443.72
Legislative	\$767,052.82	\$78,996.61	\$208,477.99	\$502,405.27
Retirement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$775,566.51	\$82,090.59	\$213,763.83	\$507,848.99



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, 2023.

B. Total Overall Expenditures By Category 2019 - 2022

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Gifts	\$42,121.22	\$4,120.36	\$25,976.11	\$58,185.56
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$13,094.33	\$1,272.19	\$4,574.95	\$15,822.43
All-Invited Events	\$642,017.17	\$59,670.53	\$139,123.45	\$384,443.55
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$78,333.79	\$17,027.51	\$44,089.32	\$49,397.45
TOTAL	\$775,566.51	\$82,090.59	\$213,763.83	\$507,848.99



V. 2022 Compliance Data

The following represents the number of lobbyists and employers who, as of March 15, 2023, have outstanding Activity & Expenditure Reports.

Filers Remaining Non-Compliant	
Lobbyists	0
Employers	1