



THE 135TH OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JOINT LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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2023 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.

2023 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 7, 2024.

I. 2023 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	1,578
Employers	2,479
Total Engagements	11,570

B. Legislative Registrations & Engagements

Legislative Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	1,498
Employers	2,211
Total Engagements	5,967

C. Executive Registrations & Engagements

Executive Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	1,035
Employers	2,136
Total Engagements	5,523

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

i. Executive Statewide Offices

Statewide Office Lobbied	Lobbyists	Employers	Total Engagements
Governor	987	2,006	5,187
Lieutenant Governor	819	1,549	3,844
Attorney General	777	1,193	2,819
Auditor of State	562	834	1,827
Treasurer of State	555	785	1,686
Secretary of State	575	761	1,623

ii. Executive Agencies

Executive Agency Lobbied	Lobbyists	Employers	Total Engagements
Budget & Management	534	643	1,522
Health	561	603	1,522
Commerce	457	516	1,213
Job & Family Services	498	479	1,142
Administrative Services	399	517	1,136
Taxation	459	474	1,113
Development	374	530	1,063
Transportation	423	469	1,052
Medicaid, Department of	444	428	1,052
JobsOhio	431	504	1,045

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

D. Retirement System Registrations & Engagements

Retirement System Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	77
Employers	42
Total Engagements	80

i. Retirement Systems

Registrations By Retirement System			
Retirement System Lobbied	Lobbyist	Employer	Total Engagements
Public Employees Retirement System	64	35	66
Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund	52	26	54
State Teachers Retirement System	50	31	51
School Employees Retirement System	48	28	49
Highway Patrol Retirement System	41	21	42

II. 2023 Legislative Lobbying Activity Data

House Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity		
HB 33	Establishes operating appropriations for fiscal years 2024-2025	1,517
HB 23	Enact FY 2024-2025 transportation budget	233
HB 1	Modify the law regarding property taxation and income tax rates	138
HB 354	Modify adult use cannabis law; levy a tax on cultivators	101
HB 68	Enact Ohio Saving Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act	97
HB 86	Revise the liquor control laws	93
HB 64	Modify eminent domain law	84
HB 12	Rename and revise duties of Department of Education and Workforce	84
HB 177	Prohibit certain health insurance cost-sharing practices	80
HB 3	Authorize an affordable housing tax credit	80

Senate Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity		
SB 1	Revise Education Law and Department duties; rename the Department	117
SB 83	Enact Ohio Higher Education Enhancement Act	107
SB 6	Regards certain public entities' governance policies	106
SB 9	Revise medical marijuana law	77
SB 102	Regards public utilities, competitive electric and gas services	77
SB 11	Enact the Parent Educational Freedom Act	59
SB 146	Increase the state minimum wage	48
SB 49	Enact the Religious Expression Days "R.E.D." Act	48
SB 60	License certified mental health assistants	46
SB 119	Regards solid waste and construction and demolition debris	46

(Determined by the number of employers that reported lobbying on a bill in 2023; employers who reported lobbying on a bill during multiple reporting periods are counted once.)

III. 2023 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	\$40,562.53	\$34,398.20	\$24,147.33	\$99,108.06
Legislative Employers	\$302,893.60	\$369,772.10	\$90,290.04	\$762,955.74
Executive Lobbyists	\$784.79	\$791.92	\$922.33	\$2,499.04
Executive Employers	\$1,842.19	\$775.87	\$983.36	\$3,601.42
Retirement Lobbyists	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Retirement Employers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$346,083.11	\$405,738.09	\$116,343.06	\$868,164.26

B. Expenditures: By Engagement Type

Total Expenditures By Engagement Type	
All Legislative Expenditures	\$862,063.80
All Executive Expenditures	\$6,100.46
All Retirement Expenditures	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2023	\$868,164.26

C. Expenditures: Lobbyist vs. Employer

Lobbyist vs. Employer Expenditures	
All Lobbyist Expenditures	\$101,607.10
All Employer Expenditures	\$766,557.16
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2023	\$868,164.26

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)	
Negev Foundation - Ohio- Israel Ag Initiative	\$54,670.73
Ohio Jewish Communities, Inc	\$54,642.11
Wholesale Beer and Wine Association of Ohio	\$50,593.56
Ohio Chamber of Commerce	\$36,649.70
The Ohio State University	\$35,028.06
Ohio Chemistry Technology Council	\$23,724.31
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Ohio (NAMI OHIO)	\$19,730.93
Ohio AFL-CIO	\$19,715.51
Ohio Association of REALTORS	\$19,291.40
Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies	\$18,046.29
TOTAL	\$332,092.60

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

E. Expenditures: By Category

Total Expenditures By Category	Lobbyist	Employer	Total
Gifts	\$273.16	\$129,169.26	\$129,442.42
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$179.75	\$28,898.91	\$29,078.66
All-Invited Events	\$27,456.17	\$601,955.16	\$629,411.33
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$73,698.02	\$6,533.83	\$80,231.85
TOTAL	\$101,607.10	\$766,557.16	\$868,164.26

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

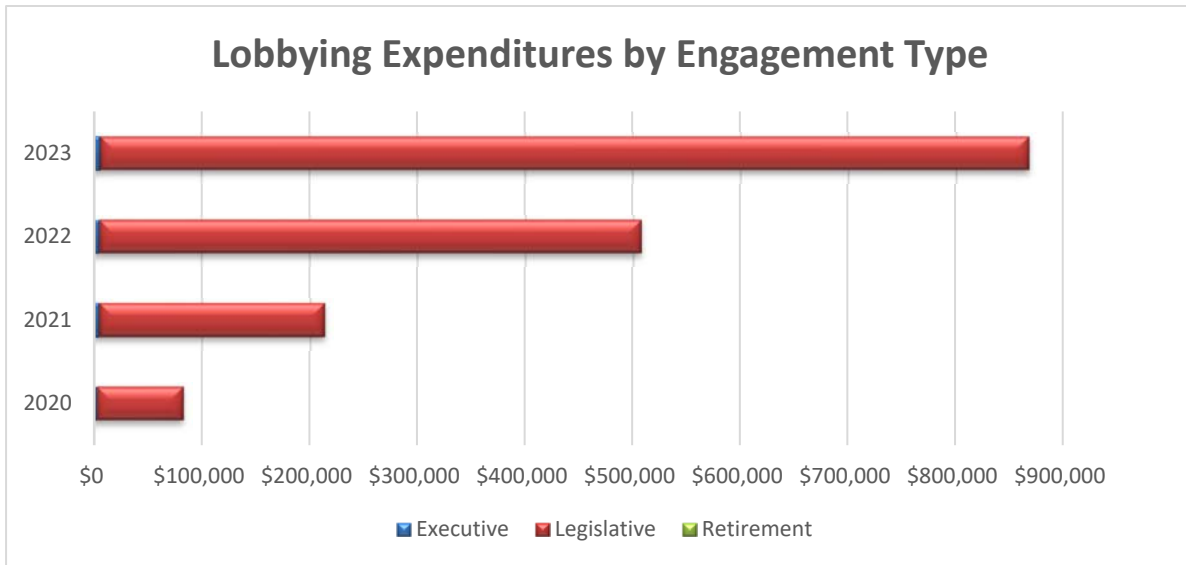
⁴ For detailed information regarding expenditure categories and reporting, see the *Ohio Lobbying Handbook*, Ch. 4-6. Gift and itemized expenditures require disclosure of the recipient as well as the amount spent, non-itemized and all-invited event expenditures require disclosure of aggregate amount 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. **2023 Lobbying Expenditures Compared To Previous Years**⁵

A. Total Overall Expenditures By Engagement Type 2020 - 2023

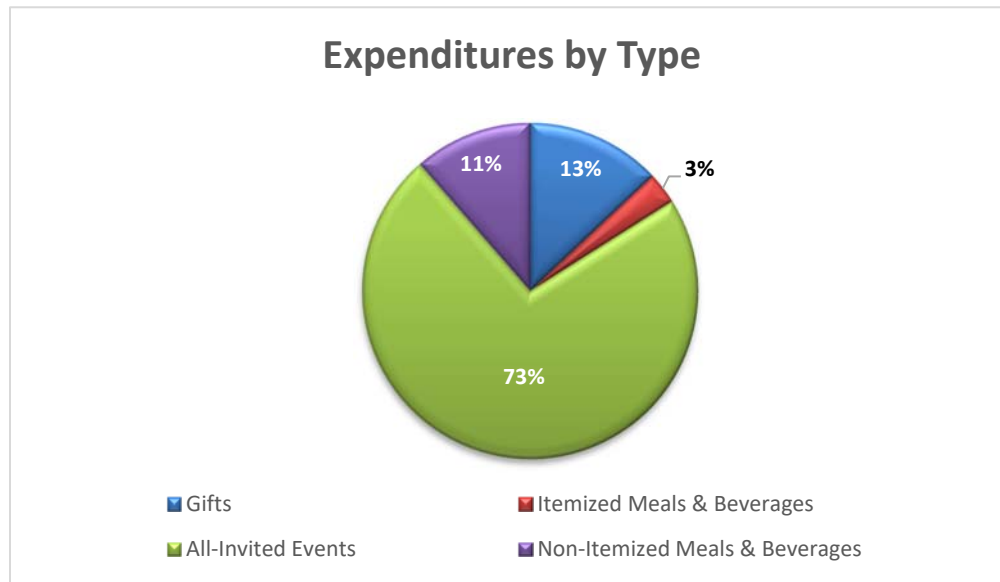
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Executive	\$3,093.98	\$5,285.84	\$5,443.72	\$6,100.46
Legislative	\$78,996.61	\$208,477.99	\$502,259.82	\$862,063.80
Retirement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$82,090.59	\$213,763.83	\$507,703.54	\$868,164.26



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 7, 2023.

B. Total Overall Expenditures By Category 2020 - 2023

	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Gifts	\$4,120.36	\$25,976.11	\$58,088.05	\$129,442.42	\$217,626.94
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$1,272.19	\$4,574.95	\$15,724.49	\$29,078.66	\$50,650.29
All-Invited Events	\$59,670.53	\$139,123.45	\$384,443.55	\$629,411.33	\$1,212,648.86
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$17,027.51	\$44,089.32	\$49,447.45	\$80,231.85	\$190,796.13
TOTAL	\$82,090.59	\$213,763.83	\$507,703.54	\$868,164.26	\$1,671,722.22



V. 2023 Compliance Data

The following represents the number of lobbyists and employers who, as of March 8, 2024, have outstanding Activity & Expenditure Reports.

Filers Remaining Non-Compliant	
Lobbyists	0
Employers	0