



THE 136<sup>TH</sup> OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE**

**OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL**

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# 2025 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](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.

# 2025 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, 2026.

## I. 2025 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	1,571
Employers	2,587
Total Engagements	12,261

### B. Legislative Registrations & Engagements

Legislative Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	1,492
Employers	2,333
Total Engagements	6,364

### C. Executive Registrations & Engagements

Executive Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	1,030
Employers	2,197
Total Engagements	5,822

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 101.72(H), 121.62(H), 101.92(H).

*i. Executive Statewide Offices*

<b>Statewide Office Lobbied</b>	<b>Lobbyists</b>	<b>Employers</b>	<b>Total Engagements</b>
Governor	993	2,089	5,521
Lieutenant Governor	834	1,680	4,300
Attorney General	771	1,212	3,034
Auditor of State	559	819	2,003
Treasurer of State	568	801	1,914
Secretary of State	576	775	1,882

*ii. Executive Agencies*

<b>Executive Agency Lobbied</b>	<b>Lobbyists</b>	<b>Employers</b>	<b>Total Engagements</b>
Health	546	601	1,516
Budget & Management	520	609	1,428
Job & Family Services	503	488	1,203
Commerce	449	510	1,175
Development	396	555	1,134
Education and Workforce	453	485	1,089
Administrative Services	400	495	1,084
Medicaid, Department of	452	459	1,077
Transportation	417	468	1,073
Taxation	444	445	1,062

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

**D. Retirement System Registrations & Engagements**

<b>Retirement System Registrations &amp; Engagements</b>	
Lobbyists	75
Employers	39
Total Engagements	75

*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	62	33	62
School Employees Retirement System	55	28	55
Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund	49	21	49
State Teachers Retirement System	49	28	49
Highway Patrol Retirement System	42	18	42

## II. 2025 Legislative Lobbying Activity Data

<b>House Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity</b>	
HB 96	Make state operating appropriations for FY 2026-27
HB 54	Make appropriations for transportation for FY 2026-27 biennium
HB 15	Amend competitive retail electric service law
HB 335	Regards county budget commissions, property and sales tax, funds
HB 160	Revise liquor control, hemp, and adult-use marijuana laws
HB 309	Regards budget commissions, property tax, and certain funds
HB 1	Enact Ohio Property Protection Act
HB 186	Regards school district property taxes, school funding formula
HB 28	Eliminate the authority to levy replacement property tax levies
HB 198	Regulate manufacture, sale of inhalable, ingestible hemp products

<b>Senate Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity</b>	
SB 2	Increase power generation; improve Ohio's electric grid
SB 56	Revise medical and adult-use marijuana laws; levy marijuana taxes
SB 86	Regulate and tax intoxicating hemp, drinkable cannabinoid product
SB 1	Enact Advance Ohio Higher Education Actv
SB 207	Prohibit certain health insurance cost-sharing practices
SB 198	Prohibit certain actions re: reimbursing 340B covered entities
SB 197	Legalize, tax internet gambling; make other Gambling Law changes
SB 11	Prohibit post-employment agreement restraining career or business
SB 88	Enact the Ohio Property Protection Act
SB 104	Regards local regulation, taxing of short-term rental properties
SB 103	Allow alternative rate plans for certain natural gas companies

(Determined by the number of employers that reported lobbying on a bill in 2025; employers who reported lobbying on a bill during multiple reporting periods are counted once.)

### III. 2025 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	\$36,295.86	\$36,566.90	\$18,004.13	\$90,866.89
Legislative Employers	\$492,096.21	\$266,276.88	\$233,868.56	\$992,241.65
Executive Lobbyists	\$371.37	\$713.74	\$776.25	\$1,861.36
Executive Employers	\$438.32	\$467.89	\$510.70	\$1,416.91
Retirement Lobbyists	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Retirement Employers	\$32,730.75	\$20,000.00	0.00	\$52,730.75
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>				<b>\$1,139,117.56</b>

#### B. Expenditures: By Engagement Type

Total Expenditures By Engagement Type	
All Legislative Expenditures	\$1,083,108.54
All Executive Expenditures	\$3,278.27
All Retirement Expenditures	\$52,730.75
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2025</b>	<b>\$1,139,117.56</b>

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

Lobbyist vs. Employer Expenditures	
All Lobbyist Expenditures	\$92,728.25
All Employer Expenditures	\$1,046,389.31
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2025</b>	<b>\$1,139,117.56</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/](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/CampaignFinance/Search/)

## D. Expenditures: By Source (Ten Highest)

Expenditures By Source (Ten Highest)	
Ohio Retired Teachers Association	\$52,730.75
The Ohio State University	\$51,402.60
Ohio Chamber of Commerce	\$43,218.92
Wholesale Beer and Wine Association of Ohio	\$42,652.64
Ohio Chemistry Technology Council	\$28,694.48
Bowling Green State University	\$26,397.25
Americans for Prosperity	\$24,666.00
Ohio Pork Council	\$23,067.84
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Ohio (NAMI OHIO)	\$22,843.34
Ohio Association of REALTORS	\$21,945.83
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$337,619.65</b>

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

## E. Expenditures: By Category

Total Expenditures By Category	Lobbyist	Employer	Total
Gifts	\$117.50	\$124,440.16	\$124,557.66
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$221.32	\$16,926.37	\$17,147.69
All-Invited Events	\$10,761.80	\$891,189.32	\$901,951.12
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$81,627.63	\$13,833.46	\$95,461.09
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$92,728.25</b>	<b>\$1,046,389.31</b>	<b>\$1,139,117.56</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

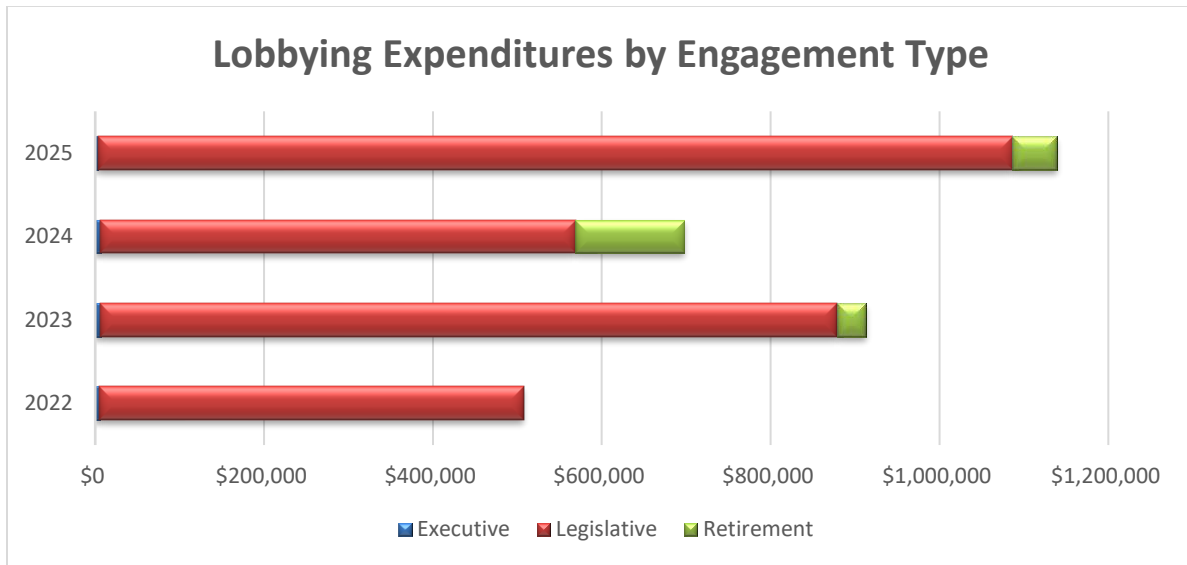
<sup>4</sup> For detailed information regarding expenditure categories and reporting, see the *Ohio Lobbying Handbook*, Ch. 4-6. Gift and itemized expenditures require disclosure of the recipient as well as the amount spent, non-itemized and all-invited event expenditures require disclosure of aggregate 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. 2025 Lobbying Expenditures Compared To Previous Years<sup>5</sup>

##### A. Total Overall Expenditures By Engagement Type 2022 - 2025

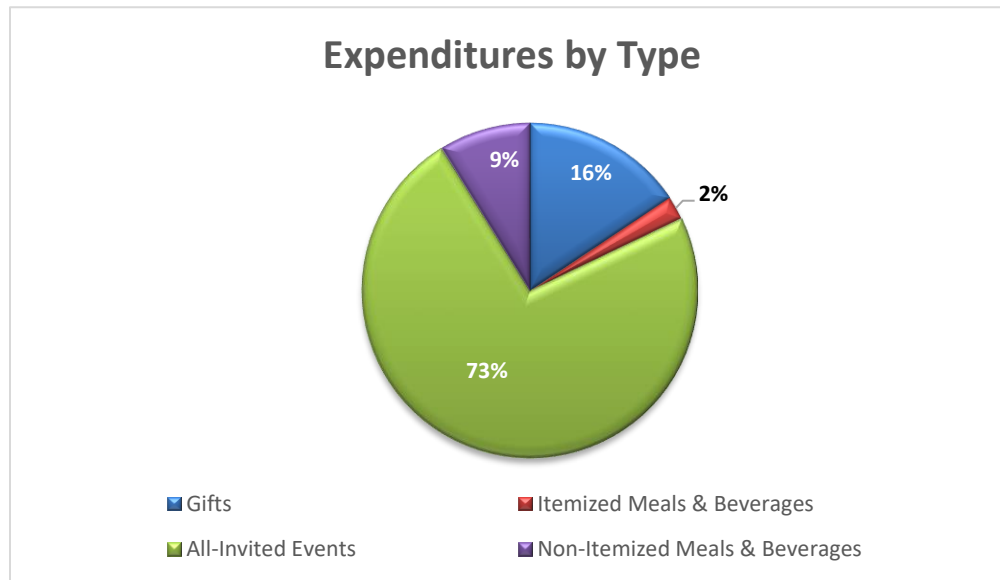
	2022	2023	2024	2025
Executive	\$5,443.72	\$6,053.46	\$6,513.05	\$3,278.27
Legislative	\$502,259.82	\$873,073.98	\$562,330.42	\$1,083,108.54
Retirement	\$0.00	\$34,164.00	\$128,951.50	\$52,730.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$507,703.54</b>	<b>\$913,291.44</b>	<b>\$697,794.97</b>	<b>\$1,139,117.56</b>



<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, 2026.

## B. Total Overall Expenditures By Category 2022 - 2025

	2022	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL
Gifts	\$58,088.05	\$166,704.20	\$160,924.01	\$124,557.66	\$510,273.92
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$15,724.49	\$29,575.66	\$10,718.03	\$17,147.69	\$73,165.87
All-Invited Events	\$384,443.55	\$636,826.73	\$464,212.61	\$901,951.12	\$2,387,434.01
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$49,447.45	\$80,184.85	\$61,940.32	\$95,461.09	\$287,033.71
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$507,703.54</b>	<b>\$913,291.44</b>	<b>\$697,794.97</b>	<b>\$1,139,117.56</b>	<b>\$3,257,907.51</b>



## V. 2025 Compliance Data

The following represents the number of lobbyists and employers who, as of March 13, 2026, have outstanding Activity & Expenditure Reports.

Filers Remaining Non-Compliant	
Lobbyists	4
Employers	5