

# OVERVIEW

The Lobbyist Registration Act regulates individuals engaged in lobbying activity related to decisions by the City of Oakland.

To help inform the public about who is attempting to influence City action, the Act requires registration and activity disclosure for individuals that lobby City public servants.

The Public Ethics Commission is the administrative body that receives lobbyist filings, provides education and advice, and enforces the Act.



This brochure presents a brief overview of the City's lobbying laws. Please contact the Ethics Commission to determine how the laws apply specifically to you.

# CONTACT US

Visit our website for more information and resources about lobbying in Oakland.

Here are more ways to get involved and stay connected with us:

1. Subscribe to our newsletter on our website
2. Follow us on social media

 @OakGovEthics

and  @OaklandEthics

Please contact us for more information about the laws or to report a possible violation.



CITY OF OAKLAND

PUBLIC ETHICS COMMISSION

1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Rm. 104  
Oakland, CA 94612  
Phone: (510) 238-3593; Fax: (510) 238-3315  
Email: [ethicscommission@oaklandca.gov](mailto:ethicscommission@oaklandca.gov)  
[www.oaklandca.gov](http://www.oaklandca.gov)

Business Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

# CITY OF OAKLAND PUBLIC ETHICS COMMISSION



# LOBBYING IN OAKLAND

# LOBBYIST REGISTRATION

## WHO IS A LOBBYIST?

A lobbyist is anyone who does the following for the purpose of influencing any proposed or pending governmental action of the City:

1. Receives or is entitled to receive one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or more in economic consideration in a calendar month. (Contract Lobbyist)
2. Has job duties as a salaried employee, officer, or director, of any corporation, organization or association, that include communication directly or through agents with any public official, officer, or designated employee. (In-House Lobbyist)

## REGISTRATION

Once a person qualifies as a lobbyist, s/he must file a Lobbyist Registration Form annually with the PEC before beginning or continuing any lobbying activity.

## TERMINATION

Lobbyists who have stopped all lobbyist activity are required to file a Lobbyist Notice of Termination. Once filed, s/he has no further obligations under the Act unless s/he begins lobbying again.

# DISCLOSURE OF ACTIVITIES

## QUARTERLY REPORTING

Registered lobbyists must file quarterly disclosure reports by specific deadlines detailing lobbyist activities.

Lobbyist must disclose client or employer information, the governmental action(s) in which a lobbyist sought to influence, employment relationships with an elected City officeholder or candidate for City office, and solicited campaign contributions.

Registered lobbyist are required to submit quarterly reports whether there is any activity during the period or not.

Registration forms and quarterly reports are filed using the Public Ethics Commission's online OakApps Lobbyist Registration and Reporting System.



Scan or go to  
<https://apps.oaklandca.gov/pec/>

## RECORDS

Lobbyists must keep all documents related to registration and quarterly reports for 5 years. This includes all books, papers, and documents, including Lobbyist Registration Forms, Lobbyist Quarterly Reports, and Lobbyist termination Forms.

# PROHIBITIONS

Lobbyists can't offer or make, any gift or loan valued at more than \$50 cumulatively in a calendar year to a Public Servant. There is also a \$240 restriction for any other form of compensation or incurred expenses.

Lobbyists, clients, contractors, and persons doing business with the City can't take any action that places an official or employee under personal obligation to them.

A lobbyist, client, contractor, or person doing business with the City, can't attempt to deceive a City official or employee regarding facts about a governmental action.

A lobbyist or lobbying firm can't act on someone else's behalf in the making of any gifts or arrange for the making of any gift by another person to any Public Servant.

If you are a former Public Servant, you are restricted from lobbying your former department for a period of one year after leaving the City (two years for City officers, department heads, and budget directors).

## NONCOMPLIANCE

If the Public Ethics Commission determines that a person has violated the law, he or she is subject to possible fines and/or debarment from lobbying.