This is a brief overview of laws that apply to lobbyists.

Please contact us for more information about how the laws apply to you. We are happy to help!

ethics.lacity.gov

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Reporting Violations

You may report possible violations to: (800) 824-4825 or ethics.lacity.gov/enforcement.

Anyone who violates these laws (or aids and abets another person in a violation) may be liable for administrative penalties of up to the greater of $5,000 per violation or three times the amount of money at issue.
Who is a Lobbyist?

Under the Municipal Lobbying Ordinance, an individual qualifies as a lobbyist when both of these thresholds are met within any consecutive 3-month period:

1. The individual is paid to engage in at least 30 hours of lobbying activities on behalf of another person;
2. The individual has at least one direct communication, either personally or through an agent, with a City official or employee in an attempt to influence a City matter.

Lobbying activities include:

- communicating with a City employee, drafting ordinances, resolutions, or regulations;
- providing advice or recommending strategy to a client or others;
- conducting research or gathering information;
- seeking to influence an outside party's position, through activities such as public relations or engaging with neighborhood councils;
- attending, monitoring, or providing public comment at City meetings (including neighborhood council meetings), hearings, or other events; and
- other similar activities.

A direct communication is an interaction with a City official or employee that provides an opportunity for an individual to urge the City official or employee to take a particular action. The interaction can be conducted personally or through an agent.

Some examples of direct communication are listed below.

- telephone call
- text message
- email
- letter
- face-to-face conversation
- testimony at a public meeting
- answer to a question posed by a City employee

Exceptions include:

Some contacts are not considered direct communications under the Municipal Lobbying Ordinance (MLO), such as a purely ministerial interaction with a City employee that does not involve an attempt to influence the employee about a discretionary outcome or course of action. Examples include the following: scheduling a meeting, asking for clarification about a regulation or law, or checking to see if a matter has been placed on an agenda.

Although a purely ministerial contact is not a direct communication, the time that is spent engaging in a ministerial contact does count as lobbying activity—and toward the 30-hour threshold—if it is related to an attempt to influence a City matter.

A City agency may label something as "ministerial" or "administrative," such as a by-right development process, but that label does not supersede the MLO. Even in a process that is considered generally administrative, there may be interaction regarding an aspect of the process that is subject to discretion and, therefore, results in a direct communication.

Search for Registered Lobbyists

Disclosed information about lobbying entities and their clients can be viewed and searched online.

Alphabetical Lists and Reporting Summaries
https://ethics.lacity.gov/lobbyists/#summaries

Interactive Data Visualizations
https://ethics.lacity.gov/lobbying/lobbying-dashboard

All Data and Reports
https://ethics.lacity.gov/data/lobbying