

Lobbying Registration Code

6 Month Review

Time Magazine January 6, 2006



- Beer, wine lobby's big clout Influence - Since 2002, Oregon Beer and Wine Distributors has spent \$1.2 billion on lawmakers through lobbying and donations
 - Oregonian, October 8, 2006
- Paid-for trips jog memories of lawmakers Ethics - Two more legislators report previously undisclosed travel
 - Oregonian, October 6, 2006
- Starr amends expenses-paid trip report Ethics - The Hillsboro Republican joined others on a sponsored trip to Israel in 2005
 - Oregonian, October 5, 2006

Lobbying Registration

- Increases transparency in City government decision making
- Provides the public information about special interest lobbying of City government
- Separates individual opinion from special interest
- Discloses public officials' official meetings

What is Lobbying?

- Lobbying is when an organization or business attempts to influence an official action of a City Official.
- Lobbying is not individual advocacy for a citizen's own point of view.
- Lobbying includes time spent preparing emails, letters and preparing for oral communication with a City Official.

Does my organization or business have to register?

- If your organization's or business' representative lobby for more than 16 hours in a calendar quarter, the organization or lobbying entity must register.

Who are lobbyist?

- Lobbyist are authorized to speak on behalf of a business or organization.
- It is up to the organization to designate their lobbyist.
- If an individual claims to speak for an organization or business that individual should be designated as a lobbyist.

What must be reported by the lobbying entity?

- Currently, lobbying entities must report their lobbying activities each calendar quarter in which they meet the 16 hour threshold.
- Report includes
 - Subjects of lobbying and descriptions of contact with city officials
 - A good faith estimate of lobbying expenditures that exceed \$1000.00
 - Information about City officials benefited by expenditures in excess of \$25.00

Six Month Review Report

1. The enforcement mechanism of the registration system;
2. The classification of a lobbyist as designated by the enacted system;
3. The reporting requirements for the system;
4. The exemptions specified in the system;
5. The hourly threshold per quarter; and
6. Any other issues that impact the effectiveness of the system.

Seeking public input

- Meet individually with and users of the registration system
- Attended neighborhood coalition meeting
- Collaborated with the Office of Neighborhood Involvement
- Hosting this town hall
 - Both critics and supporters
- Met with Auditors office and BTS to work to improve the system

23 Entities Registered

- ROSE Community Development
- Home Builders Association of Metropolitan
- Oregon University System
- BOMA
- Portland Metropolitan Association of Realtors
- Portland Business Alliance
- Portland Streetcar Citizens Advisory Committee c/o Portland Streetcar, Inc.
- League of Women Voters of Portland
- Community Development Network
- Associated General Contractors Oregon-Columbia Chapter
- Portland General Electric Company
- Ron Paul Consulting Company
- Qwest
- Pacific Power
- City Club of Portland
- Ron Tonkin Family of Dealerships
- Northwest Strategies
- Portland State University
- Port of Portland
- Friends of Burnside/Couch, Inc.
- Western States Petroleum Association
- Money in Politics Research Action Project
- Bicycle Transportation Alliance
- OHSU

Subjects Addressed by Lobbying Entities

- Business and Economic Development
- Transportation
- Education
- Cable Franchise
- Planning
- Housing and Livability Development
- Fire and Police Disability and Retirement
- Police and Public Safety

What is working

- Day-lighting
 - Registration
- Cross check
 - Calendar
- Reporting
 - Lobbyist expense reports
 - Public official declarations

Untested Enforcement

- Enforcement mechanisms in place as of October 1, 2006
- Persons who violate the code shall be subjected to fines not to exceed \$500 per violation
- Enforced by the Auditor's office
- Can be referred to the City Attorney for civil penalties

Refinements

- Include lobbyist name who met with the public official on the reporting form
 - Reinforces cross check
 - Transparency
- Contractors acting within the scope of work excluded from reporting
- Neighborhood and Business associations provided process and resources to post meeting agendas and minutes on web
- Decrease threshold from 16 to 8 hours

Edit code to reflect the fact that many non profits are defined by the Oregon Secretary of Sate

Requires that all officials declare gifts received over \$25.00 or declare that they have not received any gifts.

Attempts to remove any appearance of impropriety.

Include Definition of Gift in Code

- *“Gift” means something of economic value given to a City official or the City official’s relative without valuable consideration of equivalent value, including the full or partial forgiveness of indebtedness, which is not extended to others who are not City officials or the relatives of City officials on the same terms and conditions; and something of economic value given to a City official or the City official’s relative for valuable consideration less than that required from others who are not City officials.*
- *However, “gift” does not mean:*
 - 1) Campaign contributions, as described in ORS chapter 260.
 - 2) Gifts from family members.

Administrative Changes

- List of committees recognized by council maintained on the Auditor's web site.
- Required fields will be in effect only after the reporting period ends to allow registrants easier entry of information.
- Add the name of the registered lobbyist to the contact reporting form.
- Have the reports available as a spreadsheet so they are more user friendly.

Goal is transparency in City
government decision making.

Participation of the public and
responsible decision making.

Continue to refine ordinance
and system with your input.

**Additional review scheduled
for October 31, 2007.**