

Direct Lobbying Overview

City of Seattle SMC Chapter 2.06





Who is a direct lobbyist?

- Direct lobbyists are individuals who are paid or receive other consideration to communicate with City Council members, legislative department staff, the Mayor, or mayoral staff, Department Directors, Deputy Directors, or anyone who reports directly to a Department Director in an attempt to influence legislation.
- Individuals who restrict their lobbying to four days or parts thereof during a calendar quarter and are paid no more than \$5,000 for lobbying in a given quarter are not required to register as direct lobbyists.





When must a direct lobbyist register?

- A direct lobbyist must register with the City prior to lobbying the first time, or within 30 days of becoming a lobbyist, whichever comes first.
- If a lobbyist expects to qualify for the exemption for lobbying on no more than four days or parts thereof in a calendar quarter, then the lobbyist must register before lobbying on a fifth day.
- "Four days or parts thereof" does not mean 32
 hours. It means that any portion of a day spent
 lobbying counts as one of the four days. For
 example, if a direct lobbyist has a single 10-minute
 telephone call with a City Councilmember on a
 Tuesday afternoon, that day counts as one of the
 "four days or parts thereof."





How are direct lobbying registrationsand reports filed?

The Seattle Ethics and Elections
 Commission (SEEC) has established an
 online filing system for lobbyists.

 Contact <u>Chrissy.Courtney@seattle.gov</u> for online lobby filing credentials.





When do direct lobbyists have to report?

- April 15th Q1: Reflecting activity from January 1 March 31
- July 15th Q2: Reflecting activity from April 1 – June 30
- October 15th Q3: Reflecting activity from July 1 – September 30
- January 15th Q4: Reflecting activity from October 1 – December 31 of the previous calendar year





What do employers of directlobbyists have to report?

 Employers must confirm the lobbyist's employment in writing at the time of their registration using a template known as the Employer/Client Authorization. The authorization template is sent to the lobbyist with their login credentials.

• Employers must also provide a certification of the quarterly reports filed by the direct lobbyist. The certification can be submitted after each quarter but must be completed by the last day of February in the year following the activity being certified.





Whathappens when the terms of an engagement change or end?

- Within 30 days of a change to the terms of a lobbyist's engagement, or 30 days of a lobbyist's cessation of work for an employer as a lobbyist subject to the lobbying law, the lobbyist must amend their registration statement.
- If the lobbyist has terminated their work for an employer, then they must provide a termination date, file a report for the quarter in which they terminated, and provide an employer certification.





What should a direct lobbyist remember when registering?

- When reporting the compensation for a particular employer/client make sure that the compensation is for an amount of money over time. For example, \$500 per week or \$50 per hour.
- If someone lobbies as part of their employment duties but not exclusively, the lobbyist can report a pro-rated amount anticipated to be spent on lobbying when registering. The exact amounts will be reported on the quarterly reports.





What should a lobbyistremember when filing quarterly reports?

- The lobbyist report must include a description of the legislation being supported or opposed during the reporting period, and the council bill, ordinance, resolution, or initiative number, if established, in the Lobbying Details field.
- The Lobbying Details section should also include the names of the individuals lobbied, and the dates on which they were lobbied.





Questions?

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