



# *Updates to Direct Lobbying Requirements*

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City of Seattle – Ordinance 126260





# *Seattle Municipal Code*

## *Chapter 2.06*

Lobbying Regulations in effect as of June 13, 2021






# Changes to existing direct lobbying regulations:

## 2.06.101 Definitions

### **The definition of “lobby” and “lobbying” includes communications with:**

- City Council members
- City officers or employees or agents of the Legislative Department
- Mayor
- City officers or employees or agents of the Mayor’s office
- Department Directors, Deputy Directors, or other employees who report directly to a Department Director

### **“Lobby” and “lobbying” do not include:**

- Communications or actions by any City officer or employee or agent acting with the scope of their employment authority or contract with the City
  - Communications or actions related to collective bargaining agreement(s)
  - Communications or actions by members of the news media devoted to the dissemination of news or opinion and not created solely to influence specific legislation
  - An association’s or organization’s act of communicating with the members of that association or organization
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# Changes to existing direct lobbying regulations:

## 2.06.020 Registration of lobbyists

C. Each registered lobbyist shall file a new registration statement, revised as appropriate, on the second Monday in January of each even-numbered year. Failure to do so terminates the lobbyist's registration.

The next date for the revised registration statement is January 8, 2024.





# Changes to existing direct lobbying regulations:

## 2.06.030 Reporting by lobbyists

### **A. Lobbying reports are due on the following dates:**

First Quarter (1/1 - 3/31) Due on 4/15

Second Quarter (4/1 - 6/30) Due on 7/15

Third Quarter (7/1 - 9/30) Due on 10/15

Fourth Quarter (10/1 - 12/31) Due on 1/15

There is no separate annual report required.





# Changes to existing direct lobbying regulations:

## 2.06.030 Reporting by lobbyists - continued

B. The report shall contain the following information for each of the lobbyist's employers:

1. The name, permanent business address, business telephone number, business e-mail address, and occupation or business of the lobbyist's employer.

5. The names of the individuals lobbied, and the dates on which they were lobbied.

The names and dates of the individuals lobbied should be reported in the Lobbying Details section of the quarterly report.





# Changes to existing direct lobbying regulations:

## 2.06.030 Reporting by lobbyists - continued

B. The report shall contain the following information for each of the lobbyist's employers:

8. If, during the quarterly reporting period, the lobbyist provided compensated services, including consulting services, to the campaign of any candidate for elective City office, or to a campaign for or against any City ballot measure, then the name of the candidate, the elective City office sought by the candidate, the ballot number of the ballot measure, the date of the election, the amount of compensation earned for the compensated services, and a description of the nature of the services provided shall be reported by the lobbyist. Such information shall be reported if the lobbyist personally provided the services, or if the services were provided by a business entity in which the lobbyist owns at least a ten percent investment, whether the compensation was provided directly to the lobbyist or to the business entity.





# Changes to existing direct lobbying regulations:

## 2.06.030 Reporting by lobbyists - continued

SMC 2.06.030 B. 8.

**To summarize:** Lobbyists providing compensated services to any City candidate or City ballot measure campaign (whether for or against) now need to report those services on their quarterly reports, whether the services were provided by the lobbyist personally or an entity in which the lobbyist owns at least a 10% investment, regardless of whether the compensation was paid to the lobbyist or to the entity.

### **What needs to be reported?**

- The campaign or candidate
- The office being sought or the ballot number of the measure
- The date of the election
- The amount of compensation for the services provided
- A description of the nature of the services







# Changes to existing direct lobbying regulations:

## 2.06.040 Reports by employers of registered lobbyists

- A. On or before the last day of February of each year, every employer of a lobbyist not exempted under Section 2.06.070 shall report on such employment either by:
1. Verifying, by signing or certifying along with the lobbyist , each quarterly report for the preceding calendar year required to be filed by Section 2.06.030; or
  2. Filing with the Commission a statement disclosing for the preceding calendar year the following information:
    - a. The total expenditures made by the employer for lobbying purposes, whether through or on behalf of a registered lobbyist or otherwise;
    - b. The legislation the employer has been employing a lobbyist or lobbying entity, or compensating a lobbyist or lobbying entity to support or oppose, including council bill, ordinance, resolution, or initiative number, if established;
    - c. The name, permanent business address, business telephone number, and business e-mail address of each lobbyist or lobbying entity employed by the reporting person and the total expenditures made by the employer for each such lobbyist or lobbying entity for lobbying purposes;
    - d. Any contract the entity or any of its subdivisions has with the City





# Changes to existing direct lobbying regulations:

## 2.06.060 Registration and reporting - Exemptions

The following persons are exempt from registration and reporting under this Chapter 2.06:

B. Lobbyists who restrict their lobbying activities to no more than four days or parts thereof during any quarter and are paid no more than \$5,000 for lobbying in that quarter.

Appearances before public sessions of the City Council and its committees are not counted as lobbying activities.





# Questions?

Please contact Chrissy Courtney at [Chrissy.Courtney@seattle.gov](mailto:Chrissy.Courtney@seattle.gov) or call 206.437.6165

