

# Municipal Lobbying Ordinance

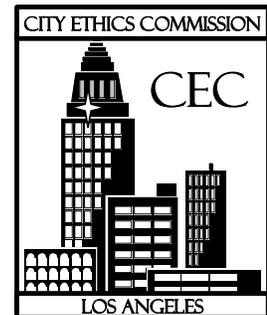
## Lobbying Neighborhood Councils



◆◆◆ Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.08.8 *et seq.*

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**Los Angeles Municipal Lobbying Ordinance --  
Lobbying Neighborhood Councils  
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## **Municipal Lobbying Ordinance – Lobbying Neighborhood Councils**

*Los Angeles Municipal Code Chapter IV, Article 8*

Repealed and Re-added by Ordinance No. 169916, effective 8/10/94.

### **Sec. 48.08.8            Lobbying Disclosure — Written Communications to Neighborhood Councils**

*Added by Ordinance No. 176034, effective 7/26/04.*

- (a) No lobbying entity registered with the City of Los Angeles shall deliver or send to a certified neighborhood council a written communication on behalf of a client, including, but not limited to, letters, faxes, electronic messages, and flyers, without a disclosure indicating that the communication was delivered or sent by that lobbying entity.
- (b) For purposes of subsection (a), the required disclosure shall be printed clearly and legibly in no less than 8-point type in a color or print that contrasts with the background so as to be legible and shall be presented in a clear and conspicuous manner in the written communication. The disclosure shall include all of the following information applicable to the written communication:
  - (1) The name of the lobbyist(s) that prepares, delivers or sends the written communication;
  - (2) The name of the registered lobbying firm(s) or lobbyist employer(s) who employs the lobbyist(s) that prepares, delivers or sends the written communication; and,
  - (3) The name of the client or clients on whose behalf the lobbying entity prepares, delivers, or sends the written communication in an attempt to influence municipal legislation.

### **SEC. 48.09            Compliance Measures and Enforcement**

*Amended by Ordinance No. 169916, effective 8/10/94.*

*Amended by Ordinance No. 171142, effective 8/3/96.*

*Amended by Ordinance No. 172942, effective 1/21/00.*

*Section added by Ordinance No. 178064, operative 1/15/07.*

- A. **Audits.** The City Ethics Commission shall have the authority to conduct audits of reports and statements filed pursuant to this Article. Such audits may be conducted on a random basis or when the City Ethics Commission staff has reason to believe that a report or statement may be inaccurate or has not been filed.

**B. Criminal Penalties.**

1. Any person who knowingly or willfully violates any provision of this Article is guilty of a misdemeanor. Any person who knowingly or willfully causes any other person to violate any provision of this article, or who knowingly or willfully aides and abets any other person in violation of any provision of this article, is guilty of a misdemeanor.
2. Prosecution for violation of any provision of this article must be commenced within one year after the date on which the violation occurred.
3. No person convicted of a violation of this Article may act as a lobbyist or otherwise attempt to influence municipal legislation for compensation for one year after such conviction.

**C. Civil Enforcement.**

1. Any person who knowingly violates any provision of Section 48.04 shall be liable in a civil action brought by the City Attorney. Any person who intentionally or negligently violates any other provisions of this Article shall be liable in a civil action brought by the City Attorney. Failure to properly report any receipt or expenditure may result in civil penalties not to exceed the amount not properly reported, or \$2,000, whichever is greater. Any other violation may result in civil penalties no greater than \$2,000. If the court determines that a violation was intentional, the court may order that the defendant be prohibited from acting as a lobbyist or otherwise attempting to influence municipal legislation for one year.
2. In determining the amount of liability pursuant to this subsection, the court shall take into account the seriousness of the violation and the degree of culpability of the defendant.
3. If two or more persons are responsible for any violation, they shall be jointly and severally liable.
4. No civil action alleging a violation of this Article shall be filed more than four years after the date the violation occurred.

**D. Injunction.** The City Attorney on behalf of the people of the City of Los Angeles may seek injunctive relief to enjoin violations of or to compel compliance with the provisions of this article.

**E. Administrative Penalties.** The City Ethics Commission may impose penalties and issue orders for violation of this Article pursuant to its authority under Charter Section 706(c).

- F. **Late Filing Penalties.** In addition to any other penalty or remedy available, if any person fails to file any report or statement required by this Article, after any deadline imposed by this Article, such person shall be liable to the City Ethics Commission in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25) per day after the deadline until the statement or report is filed, up to a maximum amount of \$500. Liability need not be enforced by the Commission if its Executive Officer determines that the late filing was not willful and that enforcement of the penalty would not further the purposes of this Article. No liability shall be waived if a statement or report is not filed within 10 days after the Commission has sent specific written notice to the filer of the filing requirement.
- G. **Restriction on Person Who Violates Certain Laws.**
1. No person shall act or continue to act as a registered lobbyist or lobbying firm if, within the prior four years, that person has been found by the City Ethics Commission, in a proceeding pursuant to Charter Section 706, to have violated City Charter Section 470(k) on any occasion. That determination shall be based either on a finding of the City Ethics Commission made after an administrative hearing or on a stipulation by the lobbyist or lobbying firm entered into with the City Ethics Commission within the previous four years.
  2. If the City Ethics Commission makes a finding that the person has either
    - (1) accepted responsibility for the violation in the form of having entered into a stipulation with the City Ethics Commission in which the party admits the violation, or otherwise exhibits evidence of having accepted such responsibility, or
    - (2) mitigated the wrongdoing by taking prompt remedial or corrective action, then the City Ethics Commission may reduce the time period during which the above prohibition would apply to a period of not less than one year.
- H. **Contract Bidder Certification of Compliance With Lobbying Laws.** Any bidder for a contract, as those terms are defined under the Contractor Responsibility Program provided for in Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 10.40.1, shall submit with its bid a certification, on a form proscribed by the City Ethics Commission, that the bidder acknowledges and agrees to comply with the disclosure requirements and prohibitions established in the Los Angeles Municipal Lobbying Ordinance if the bidder qualifies as a lobbying entity under the Ordinance. The exemptions contained in Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 10.40.4 shall not apply to this subsection. Each City department shall include a copy of the Municipal Lobbying Ordinance in each invitation for bids, request for proposals, request for qualifications or other solicitation related to entering into a contract with the City.

**SEC. 48.10 Ethics Commission Reports**

*Added by Ordinance No. 169916, effective 8/10/94.*

As soon as practicable after the close of each quarterly reporting period, the City Ethics Commission shall prepare a report to the Mayor and City Council of lobbying activity which occurred during the reporting period. Such report shall be in a form which, in the opinion of the Commission, best describes the activities, receipts and expenditures of persons subject to the requirements of this article.

**SEC. 48.11 Severability**

*Added by Ordinance No. 169916, effective 8/10/94.*

If any provision of this article, or its application to any person or circumstance, is held invalid by any court, the remainder of this article and its application to other persons and circumstances, other than that which has been held invalid, shall not be affected by such invalidity, and to that extent the provisions of this article are declared to be severable.

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