This is a brief overview of the lobbying laws. Please contact us for more information about how the laws apply to you.

**CONTACT US**

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**REPORT A VIOLATION**

(800) 824-4825

ethics.lacity.org/enforcement/#reportaviolation

**PENALTIES**

Registration statements and quarterly reports that are not filed by their deadlines are subject to late filing penalties of $25 per day, up to a maximum of $500 per filing.

In addition, anyone who violates a provision of the lobbying laws—or aids and abets another person in a violation—is liable for administrative enforcement penalties of up to the greater of $5,000 per violation or three times the amount of money at issue.
LOBBYING ACTIVITY

Lobbying activity includes the following when related to a direct communication to influence City action:

- 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;
- Similar events.

DIRECT COMMUNICATION

A direct communication is an interaction with a City employee in which an individual can urge the employee to take a particular action. A direct communication may occur in any setting, and an individual may engage in a direct communication either personally or through an agent.

Common direct communications include face-to-face conversations, telephone calls, letters, emails, text messages, and testimony at public meetings (which may include neighborhood council meetings when a City employee sits on the council).

Purely ministerial interactions with a City employee, such as scheduling a meeting, is not a direct communication. However, a direct communication can occur even in a process that a City agency calls ministerial or administrative. In addition, a purely ministerial interaction counts as lobbying activity (and toward the 30-hour threshold) if it is related to an attempt to influence a City employee.

REGISTRATION

Lobbying entities must register with the Ethics Commission. Registration is required within ten days after the end of the month in which a person qualifies as a lobbyist or lobbying firm. Registrations automatically terminate at the end of the calendar year. Annual registration fees are $450 per lobbyist and $75 for each client from whom a lobbyist receives or is entitled to receive at least $250 in a calendar quarter for lobbying activity. All registered lobbyists, lobbying firms, lobbyist employers, and clients are identified online and may be viewed at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying/lobbyists/#summaries.

MAJOR FILERS

A major filer is an entity or individual who makes payments or incurs expenses totaling $5,000 or more in a calendar quarter to influence one or more City matters but does not qualify as a lobbying entity. For example, a person might advertise through a billboard or other media to urge citizens to contact their elected officials about an issue.

Lobbying entities are not major filers, and the payments and expenses they report do not count toward the threshold. However, a client can qualify as a major filer if, separate from what it pays its lobbying firm, it reaches the $5,000 threshold.

Major filers must file a disclosure report for every quarter in which they reach the threshold.