

Summary of Proposed Administrative Rule Changes Regulation of Lobbying Entities

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Rule Updated	What Changed	Impacts
Rule 15.01 Lobbying Registration	Grassroots lobbying is “lobbying.” The revised rule clarifies that “lobbying” includes grassroots lobbying, which occurs when a lobbying group makes a mass appeal to the public to contact City Officials regarding official actions (such as with robo-calls).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The threshold for lobbying registration and disclosure will now include expenses for grassroots lobbying. • Fiscal disclosures by lobbying groups must now include expenses related to grassroots lobbying.
Rule 15.01 Lobbying Registration	Attempts to gain goodwill with intent to influence is “lobbying.” The revised rule clarifies that “lobbying” includes “attempts to gain goodwill,” and provides examples.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobbying groups giving gifts to or scheduling introductory meetings with City officials may now be considered lobbying, even without direct communications involving influencing, if such activities precede an attempt to influence.
Rule 15.01 Lobbying Registration	Governments are “lobbying entities” when certain outside individuals lobby on their behalf. The revised rule provides additional guidance regarding when governments and their representatives will be considered “lobbying entities.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the past, we have recommended that governments register as lobbying entities if certain types of lobbying occur (such as when an outside lobbyist, strategist, or other advocate working on behalf of the government is retained to lobby). The revised rule clarifies this requirement.



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CITY AUDITOR
**Lobbyist Registration
Program**

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www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/lobbyist



<p>Rule 15.01 Lobbying Registration and Rule 15.02 City Official Reporting</p>	<p>“City Official” definition clarified. The revised rule defines “at will staff of a City elected official” to include the growing number of City employees likely to have influence over City policy-making. Such staff are considered “City Officials” for lobbying registration and reporting purposes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The revised definition of “at will staff of City elected official” is intended to clarify who is considered to be a City Official. Lobbying groups are required to disclose lobbying communications, expenses, and gifts to City Officials. • City Officials are required to file disclosure statements regarding gifts and donation requests from lobbyists.
<p>Rule 15.02 City Official Reporting</p>	<p>Some cultural gifts are exempted. The revised rule excludes cultural items from the City’s lobbying registration and reporting requirements if the market value of the gift cannot be easily determined and declining the gift is likely to cause offense.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Officials will not be required to report certain ceremonial, hand-made, or other culturally specific and hard to value gifts. • Such gifts must still be accepted “on behalf of the City” (rather than accepted personally) and must still be documented and retained in accordance with City rules.
<p>Rule 15.03 Enforcement and Civil Penalties</p>	<p>Lobbying groups and City Officials may be fined for late filings. Code Section 2.12.120 authorizes penalties of up to \$3,000 for violating the City’s lobbying registration and reporting requirements. The revised rule provides additional guidance regarding when lobbying groups and City Officials may be fined for late filings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Auditor’s Office will issue a warning notice for late filings. • If a report or other required information is not filed within 24 hours after the deadline, a late fee may be assessed, up to maximum of \$500 per report, registration, or other type of disclosure.



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