

Lobbying Administrative Rule Changes Summary

In November 2019, the Auditor's office updated three administrative rules with the purpose of providing additional guidance in areas of the code that are unclear, easing administrative burden, and updating certain definitions. The below summary is not comprehensive but lists some of the main changes. All lobbying rules are [posted on the Auditor's Office website](#).

The rule changes are in effect for the first quarter of 2020. During this time, the office will focus on education and training for new rule provisions.

	What Changed	Impact
ARA Rule 15.01, Lobbying Registration	Grassroots or indirect lobbying is lobbying. Definition of lobbying clarified to explicitly include grassroots lobbying (where lobbying groups make mass appeals to the public to contact City officials regarding official actions, such as with robo-calls)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiscal disclosure must include expenses related to grass roots lobbying by lobbying groups; Lobbying threshold for registration & disclosure includes expenses for grassroots lobbying
ARA Rule 15.02 Lobbying Registration	Governments become lobbying entities when certain outside individuals lobby on their behalf. Section is clarified to exempt staffers of elected officials, including tribes and tribal councils and those within the government, as lobbyists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments become lobbying entities requiring registration and disclosure when certain types of lobbying occurs, such as an outside lobbyist, strategist, or other advocate working on its behalf is retained to lobby
ARA Rule 15.02 City Official Reporting	City Officials definition expanded. Definition to include growing officials employed as leadership throughout City. Officials excluded from City's classified service, such as director I, II, III, and those in specialized roles, such as City Treasurer, considered City Official; some exceptions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased disclosure requirement for lobbying groups; quarterly lobbying reports required to include communications with deputy directors, other City leaders.



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CITY AUDITOR
**Lobbyist Registration
Program**

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www.portlandoregon.gov/auditro/lobbyist



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	<p>City Officials definition expanded (Continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditor’s Office to maintain public list of covered City Officials • Expanded group of City leaders now required to submit disclosures of gifts from lobbying groups above \$25
<p>ARA Rule 15.02 City Official Reporting</p>	<p>Some cultural gifts exempted. Gifts requiring disclosure on quarterly lobbying reports do not include cultural items that are difficult to market-value and may cause offense if declined</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceremonial, hand-made, or other culturally specific and hard to value gifts given to City Officials not required in disclosure reports • Such gifts are still accepted “on behalf of the City”, not personally accepted; gifts in this category are retained and documented for archival purposes according to City rules, procedures
<p>ARA Rule 15.03, Enforcement and Civil Penalties</p>	<p>Auditor’s office may charge late fines to lobbying groups and City Officials. If information not submitted as required by lobbying regulations, warning and notice shall be given after 24 hours, followed by potential daily late fine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Official or lobbying entities are alerted to late filings and late fees may be assessed, up to maximum of \$500 per report, registration, or other type of disclosure



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