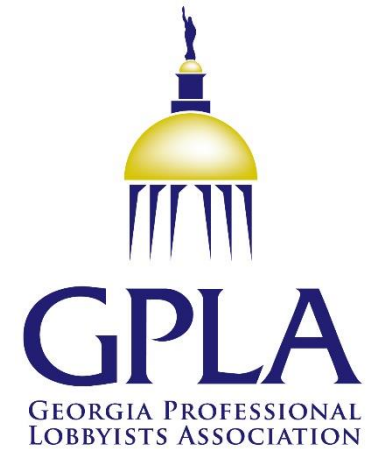


The Lobbying Profession in Georgia



Lobbying 101

Topics:

- What is a lobbyist?
- Whom does one lobby?
- Why do we need lobbyists?
- How are lobbyists regulated?

Lobbying is a profession

LOBBYIST

		
<p>What my friends think I do.</p>	<p>What my parents think I do.</p>	<p>What the other side says I do.</p>
		
<p>What society thinks I do.</p>	<p>What I think I do.</p>	<p>What I actually do.</p>

What is a Lobbyist?

Lobbyist

[lob-ee-ist]

Noun

1. a person who tries to influence legislation on behalf of a special interest; a member of a lobby.

Source: www.dictionary.com

Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission - Definition

1. Any individual who communicates personal views, interests, or professional opinions on that individual's own behalf to any public officer;

1.1 An employee or interdependent contractor of a vendor who solely participates in soliciting a bid or preparing a written bid, written proposal, or other document relating to a potential contract with a state or local government agency or a bona fide salesperson who sells to or contracts with a state or local government agency for goods or services, is not hired specifically to undertake influencing a public officer or state agency, and does not engage in other activities which would make such a person a lobbyist;

2. Any person who is invited by a public agency or government entity to appear before a committee or at a hearing of such agency or entity, including but not limited to a committee of either chamber of the General Assembly or a joint committee thereof, for the purpose of giving testimony so long as such person clearly identifies himself or herself and the interested party on whose behalf he or she is testifying;

3. Any person who is invited to furnish information upon the specific request of a public agency or government entity, including but not limited to a committee of either chamber of the General Assembly or a joint committee thereof, so long as such person clearly identifies himself or herself and the interested party on whose behalf he or she furnishes such information;

Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission - Definition (continued)

3.1 Any individual who is not compensated for the specific purpose of lobbying, does not incur more than \$250.00 per calendar year in reimbursable lobbying expenditure and is a member, director, trustee, officer, or committee member of a business, trade, labor, farm, professional, religious, educational, or charitable association, foundation or organization which employs or contracts with a registered lobbyist for the purpose of lobbying;

4. Any licensed attorney appearing on behalf of or representing a client, and any staff employed by such attorney, when such attorney is not compensated for the specific purpose of lobbying;

5. Any person employed or appointed by a lobbyist registered pursuant to this code section whose duties and activities do not include lobbying;

6. Elected public officers or appointed public officials performing the official duties of their public office or position;

7. Any public employee, aide, or intern who performs services at the direction of a member of the General Assembly including, but not limited to, drafting petitions, bills, or resolutions; attending the taking of testimony; collating facts; preparing arguments and memorials and submitting them orally or in writing to a committee or member of the General Assembly; and other services of like character intended to reach the reason of the legislators.

Who is your Lobbyist?

*The Garden Club
of Georgia, Inc.*



GEORGIA TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
GTLA

AARP
The power to make it better.

ACC
Association County Commissioners of Georgia

**GEORGIA
MUNICIPAL
ASSOCIATION**

 Medical
Association
of Georgia

GEORGIA
GAE
ASSOCIATION
OF EDUCATORS.


GNA
GEORGIA NURSES
ASSOCIATION

Georgia Department of Transportation

 **ghca** Georgia
Health Care
Association

georgia dental association

Lobbying in Georgia

- Lobbyists represent a wide range of organizations including businesses, cities, states and non-profits
- There are more than 1,100 registered lobbyists (2015)
- There are over 3,100 groups represented by lobbyists (2015)
- Many Georgians are represented by more than one lobbyist depending on your profession, hobbies, interests and affiliations

Whom does one lobby?

- Georgia General Assembly, a citizen legislature
- Georgia's Constitutional Officers
 - Governor
 - Lt. Governor
 - Secretary of State, Insurance Commissioner, etc.
- 56 Senators, 180 Representatives, 2 year term
- State Agencies, City and County Governments

Why do we need lobbyists?

- Lobbyists are an integral part of the political processes, providing lawmakers with information needed to make informed decisions. Georgia has a part time legislature with limited staff or no legislative staff support. More than 1000 bills are introduced during the 2 year session.
- Lobbyists' credibility rests with providing accurate, timely and useful information.
- "Information Specialists"

Lobbyists at the State Capitol

The part-time Georgia General Assembly considers more than 1000 issues in a typical session and have limited staff support. Lobbyists often provide specific technical support as part of the legislative process.



How are lobbyists regulated?

Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission

Website: ethics.georgia.gov

- Lobbyist registration
- Lobbyist reporting
- Lobbyist fees/fines
- Lobbyist public disclosure



Regulations on all Georgia lobbyists?

- Registration and disclosure laws in Georgia ranked among strongest in the nation
- Registration violation can result in \$2,000 fine
- Lobbyists are required to disclose multiple times a year, per the Georgia lobbyist filing schedule. (view schedule at <http://ethics.ga.gov/file-schedule/>)
- All reports available online for review
- Late filing can result in fines ranging from \$275-\$10,000

Yes, lobbying is a profession

LOBBYIST

		
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Georgia Professional Lobbyists Association

- The GPLA promotes professionalism and ethics in the lobbying profession and condemns the actions of unregistered lobbyists or lobbyists that participate in unlawful or unethical behavior
- The GPLA provides continuous ethics training for members
- GPLA's mission is to educate towards compliance and increased professionalism among registered professional lobbyists



Questions?

Contact info@galobbyists.org

