



OREGON YOUTH AUTHORITY
Policy Statement
Part I – Administrative Services



Subject:

Lobbying

<i>Section – Policy Number:</i> A: General Administration – 1.0	<i>Supersedes:</i> I-A-1.0 (06/21) I-A-1.0 (07/07) I-A-1.0 (02/99)	<i>Effective Date:</i> 01/29/2026	<i>Date of Last Review/Revision:</i> None
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Related Standards and References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ORS 171.745 (Statements of lobbying expenses required; contents; time of filing) ▪ Oregon Government Ethics Commission: Guide for Public Officials ▪ Attorney General OP No 8259 (Application of state lobbying regulations to certain activities by state employees; 08/07/1998) ▪ Lobbyist Registration Filing System ▪ Guide to Lobbying in Oregon – 2021 revision ▪ OYA policy: 0-2.1 Professional Standards I-D-3.11 Political Activity
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Related Procedures:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None
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Policy Owner: Public Policy and Government Relations Manager	Approved:  Mike Tessean, Director
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I. PURPOSE:

This policy establishes lobbying guidelines for OYA staff to include:

- Lobbying activities;
- Clarification of when OYA representatives are lobbying;
- Examples of when OYA representatives are not lobbying;
- Lobbying registration requirements;
- Lobbying registration exemptions; and
- Reporting requirements.

II. POLICY DEFINITIONS:

Lobbying: Influencing, or attempting to influence, legislative action through oral or written communication with legislative officials, solicitation of others to influence or attempt to influence legislative action or attempting to obtain the good will of legislative officials.

(Source: ORS 171.725(8) and AG Opinion No. 8259, August 7, 1998)

Legislative official: Any member or member-elect of the Legislative Assembly, any member of an agency, board or committee that is part of the legislative

branch, and any staff person, assistant or employee thereof. (Source: 171.725 Definitions)

III. POLICY:

Staff representing OYA in the legislative process must perform professionally, adhering to the highest principles of public service, and discharge their duties in keeping with the public trust.

Staff must:

- Maintain the highest integrity at all times; acting for the agency, not themselves;
- Be respectful, clear and honest in all communications;
- Present all information fairly and completely; and
- Respond to inquiries without delay.

Staff may engage in efforts to inform any legislative official about OYA and participate in lobbying activities only with authorization from the agency and in coordination with the agency's legislative coordinator to ensure OYA meets statutory requirements in relation to lobbying activities.

IV. GENERAL STANDARDS:

A. Lobbying activities

1. Any request to meet, testify or provide material about any issue or bill to a legislator or staff must be immediately reported to the agency's legislative coordinator.
 - a) The legislative coordinator must monitor all staff engagement with legislative officials or lobbying activities that relate to official OYA business.
 - b) Supervisors/managers, in coordination with the legislative coordinator, must ensure that individuals representing OYA do not advocate for the legislators to support or oppose a measure and that they do not exceed lobbyist registration exemptions (defined below).
2. OYA must not reimburse individuals for lobbying expenses related to food, refreshments or entertainment.
 - a) These expenses may not be paid by the agency.
 - b) Use of personal funds for this purpose is discouraged.

Any personal funds expended for lobbying activities must be reported by the individual registered lobbyist ([Lobbyist Reporting Instructions](#)).

3. OYA may pay printing, postage, telephone and other office expenses related to authorized lobbying activities.
4. Agency funds may be used to finance non-lobbying activities to:
 - a) Promote public involvement in agency programs or efforts;
 - b) Conduct public outreach to help the success of agency programs; and
 - c) Educate or inform the public about agency programs or initiatives.
5. OYA may not hire outside firms or consultants to lobby the Legislative Assembly without DAS approval.

When using an outside firm for any activity, state contracting requirements must be followed and steps must be taken to ensure there is no conflict of interest between the agency's mission and the other clients represented by the contracted firm.

B. Representatives of OYA are lobbying when they talk or write to a legislator or to the legislator's staff to influence legislative action. Examples:

1. Testimony favoring or opposing a bill or budget;
2. Proposing amendments to a bill, including technical amendments;
3. A letter, memo or e-mail favoring or opposing a bill or budget;
4. Formal or casual conversations favoring or opposing a bill or budget;
5. Talking or writing to a legislator or their staff to promote goodwill toward the agency or an agency program; or
6. Talking or writing to partner agencies or associates with the intent to ask them to influence legislative action. Examples:
 - a) Meetings in which people are asked to support or oppose a bill or budget; or
 - b) Letters, memos, e-mails, or newsletters asking people to support or oppose a bill.

C. Representatives of OYA are **not** lobbying when they:

1. Talk or write to a legislator or to the legislator's staff merely to provide facts.

Facts may include fact estimates and expert opinions of fact. The facts may apply to any program, budget, bill, or issue.
2. Do work within the agency to research, write, or otherwise develop a bill or budget.
3. Research or write testimony supporting or opposing a bill.
4. Are waiting to present testimony or to meet with legislators or staff.
5. Write or talk to a person to solicit the person's input on the agency's legislative proposals or budget.
6. Do support work for an agency's lobbying activities, **not** including any direct communication between themselves and legislators or a legislator's staff.

D. Registration requirements

The Director's Office may designate certain staff as registered lobbyists on behalf of OYA.

1. These individuals must register as lobbyists in advance with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission ([Lobbying Registration Statement](#)).
2. All other agency representatives must register **only** when they realize they will exceed the exemption criteria in a calendar quarter.

Contact the legislative coordinator regarding this process.
3. Individuals must terminate their registered lobbyist status when lobbying activities no longer require registration, such as at the end of a legislative session ([Lobbyist Termination](#)).

E. Registration exemptions

The following persons are **exempt** from the requirement to register as a lobbyist:

1. A person who spends 24 hours or less during any calendar quarter lobbying, excluding travel time, and spends \$100 or less in lobbying during any calendar quarter, excluding the cost of personal travel, meals and lodging.

The \$100 limit includes only out-of-pocket expenses paid by the individual with personal funds and not reimbursed by the agency. The \$100 limit excludes the cost of personal travel, meals and lodging.

2. Any state official who limits lobbying activities **solely** to formal appearances to give testimony before public sessions of committees of the Legislative Assembly, or public hearings of state agencies, and who, if the individual testifies, registers an appearance in the records of such committees or agencies.
3. If a state official speaks privately with a legislator on a single occasion to express reasons why a particular bill is a good or bad idea, asks other persons to support or oppose a legislative measure, or engages in any other lobbying activity this exemption does not apply.
 - a) In this case, **all** time spent by the public official “for the purpose of lobbying” will be counted, even time spent in formal appearances that are registered in committee or agency records.
 - b) If this total time exceeds 24 hours in a calendar quarter, the public official must register.

F. Reporting requirements

Both registered and unregistered lobbyists are required to report time and costs associated with lobbying activities.

1. The legislative coordinator maintains the agency’s procedures defining reporting requirements.
2. Supervisors/managers, in coordination with the legislative coordinator, must ensure staff compliance with reporting requirements and OYA procedures.

V. LOCAL OPERATING PROTOCOL REQUIRED: NO