

# ETHICS REPORTER

February 2026



Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission  
22 Mill Creek Park, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-9230  
Phone: (502) 573-2863  
<https://klec.ky.gov>

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## [Financial Disclosure Forms for General Assembly Members and Candidates Have Been Filed](#)

Members of the General Assembly, legislative candidates, and major management personnel within the legislative branch have filed their annual financial disclosure statements. They were due by **Monday, February 16, 2026**. The statements cover the 2025 calendar year. These reports have been posted on the Commission website for public viewing. To view them, click this link: <https://klec.ky.gov/Reports/Pages/Legislators-and-Candidates.aspx>

## [Top Spending for The January 2026 Session](#)

There are currently 698 legislative agents (lobbyists) and 959 employers registered to lobby in Kentucky. Combined, they have spent \$3,160,194 to lobby the Kentucky General Assembly so far in 2026.

Employers spent almost 2.88 million to pay compensation to their lobbyists in January alone. An additional \$107,892 was spent on lobbying related administrative costs, such as travel and other expenses. Spending on advertising was \$42,680 and \$48,020 was spent on receptions, meals and events for the first month. Lobbyists on their own spent \$83,836 on out-of-pocket expenses during this same time period.

Below is the list of the top 20 spending employers during January 2026:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. KY Chamber of Commerce \$98,137                  | 11. Elevance Health & Affiliates \$19,250         |
| 2. Airbnb, Inc. \$28,047                            | 12. KY Bankers Association \$18,834               |
| 3. KY Hospital Association \$22,590                 | 13. KY Medical Association \$16,516               |
| 4. Greater Louisville, Inc. \$22,500                | 14. Coalition for the Homeless \$15,738           |
| 5. KY League of Cities, Inc. \$22,434               | 15. KY Retail Federation, Inc. \$14,994           |
| 6. KY Petroleum Marketers Assn. \$22,414            | 16. Amer. Cancer Soc. Cancer Action Net. \$13,816 |
| 7. KY Assn. of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. \$22,260 | 17. KY Automobile Dealers Assn. \$13,675          |
| 8. Accelecom \$21,811                               | 18. KY Primary Care Association \$13,500          |
| 9. Altria Client Services LLC \$19,401              | 19. Seven County Services, Inc. \$13,154          |
| 10. LG&E and KU Energy LLC \$19,351                 | 20. HCA Healthcare, Inc. \$13,054                 |

For a complete list of lobbying spending by all businesses and organizations, and compensation paid to each of the lobbyists, see the Legislative Ethics Commission's website at:

<http://klec.ky.gov/Reports/Pages/Employers-and-Legislative-Agents.aspx>

### [Lobbying Report Deadline](#)

**Monday, March 16, 2026** is the next reporting deadline for lobbying entities, and all lobbyists and employers are required to file Updated Registration Statements by that date, for the period of **February 1 through February 28, 2026**. This reporting period will be open for filing these reports on March 1, 2026.

The easiest and quickest way for lobbyists and employers to file is to visit the Commission's website <https://apps.klec.ky.gov/lec/onlinefiling.aspx> and file online.

### [Training for Lobbyists and Employers on video](#)

The Legislative Ethics Commission has a training video from one of our in-person lobbyist and employer trainings on the LRC Capitol Connection YouTube page, for viewing at any time. The link is on our website, and also on the LRC Capitol Connection page at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrqWW7sJDK4>. The video walks through the online filing process in step-by-step detail. The Commission staff are available for in-person training as well, so give us a call if needed.

### [2026 Re-Registration at the Commission Office](#)

The 2026 re-registration is in the books! We have entered all forms and copied them for filing. If you are wondering what the stack of 9,000 forms looks like, well wonder no more...



Thank you to everyone that made this process easier on us. We appreciate each of you complying with the Kentucky Code of Legislative Ethics.

## ***Newly-Registered and Terminated Lobbying Employers***

The following businesses and organizations recently registered to lobby in Kentucky:

<b>Advanced Medical Technology Assn.</b>	<b>ID.ME</b>
<b>Alliant Healthcare, LLC</b>	<b>ITG Brands, LLC and its Affiliates</b>
<b>Amarok</b>	<b>Kairos Power LLC</b>
<b>American Academy of Physician Associates</b>	<b>KY Building Materials Assn.</b>
<b>American Speech-Language-Hearing Assn.</b>	<b>KY Entrepreneurship Education Network, Inc.</b>
<b>Axon Enterprise, Inc.</b>	<b>KY Fire Fighters Assn.</b>
<b>Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville</b>	<b>KY Malt Beverage Council, Inc.</b>
<b>Benevis Dental Practice Management Services</b>	<b>KY Oil &amp; Gas Association Inc.</b>
<b>Bitcoin Depot</b>	<b>KY Solar Industries Assn, LLC</b>
<b>Ceres, Inc.</b>	<b>KY Staffing Assn.</b>
<b>City of Newport, KY</b>	<b>Lexington Medical Society</b>
<b>Community Based Coordination Solutions, LLC</b>	<b>National Assn. of Public Insurance Adjusters</b>
<b>Community Care Link</b>	<b>Nelson Co. Fiscal Court</b>
<b>Conservative Energy Network</b>	<b>Ohio Valley Voices</b>
<b>CTIA - The Wireless Assn.</b>	<b>Pathology and Cytology Laboratories, Inc.</b>
<b>Dizpot</b>	<b>Pacific Justice Institute</b>
<b>Drakes Creek Stone</b>	<b>Pinion Advisors</b>
<b>Ebay, Inc.</b>	<b>Podium Event Partners</b>
<b>EchoStar Corp. and its Affiliates</b>	<b>Professional Certification Coalition</b>
<b>General Matter</b>	<b>ProGen Industries</b>
<b>GLBTQ Legal Advocates &amp; Defenders</b>	<b>Pulsara</b>
<b>Good Food Institute (The)</b>	<b>Scott County United</b>
<b>Grin Grant Inc.</b>	<b>Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America</b>
<b>Home School Legal Defense Assn.</b>	<b>Thomas D. Clark Foundation, Inc.</b>

The following business recently terminated their status in Kentucky:

<b>Apex Clean Energy, Inc.</b>	<b>Partners for Rural Impact</b>
<b>Me+U Care</b>	

## ***Ethics & Lobbying News from around the U.S.***

### **Former state police union head, lobbyist get more prison time for fraud, racketeering**

By: Darin Zullo – [MSN.com](https://www.msn.com) – February 18, 2026

A former Massachusetts State Police union president and the union's former lobbyist were sentenced Wednesday for racketeering, fraud, obstruction of justice, and tax crimes, according to prosecutors.

Dana Pullman, 64, of Worcester, was sentenced in federal court to two years in prison followed by one year of supervised release, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts announced. Pullman, who was a state trooper from 1987 to 2018, was also ordered to pay \$43,915 in restitution.

Anne Lynch, 75, of Hull, was sentenced to 15 months in prison followed by one year of supervised release, prosecutors said. Lynch, a former union lobbyist and close friend of Pullman's, was also ordered to pay \$41,795 in restitution.

The union, formally known as the State Police Association of Massachusetts (SPAM), consists of more than 1,500 troopers and sergeants. It acts as "the exclusive bargaining agent" between its members and the Commonwealth, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

Pullman became the union's president in 2012, and, during his tenure, Lynch's lobbying firm represented the union, according to prosecutors. He resigned in September 2018 amid a federal investigation into allegations that he and Lynch had turned the union into "a racketeering enterprise."

"Dana Pullman and Anne Lynch ran the Massachusetts State Police union like an old-school racket, siphoning money from troopers, deceiving the Commonwealth, hiding income from the IRS and then lying when they got caught," U.S. Attorney Leah Foley said in Wednesday's statement. "Their conduct was deliberate, sustained and corrosive."

In August 2019, Pullman and Lynch were arrested and charged with wire fraud, honest services wire fraud, conspiracy to commit wire fraud and honest services wire fraud, and obstruction of justice. Joseph Bonavolonta, former special agent in charge of the FBI's Boston field office, said at the time that Pullman "wielded the union like a criminal enterprise, running it like an old-school mob boss."

Prosecutors later found that the defendants stole money from SPAM, with Pullman using the union's debit card to "pay personal expenses for him and his then-girlfriend," including lavish meals, gifts, travel, and a new car. At one point during Pullman's tenure, Lynch paid him a \$20,000 kickback in connection with a union settlement agreement, according to prosecutors.

The president and lobbyist hid the kickback to avoid reporting the income or paying taxes to the IRS, the U.S. Attorney's Office said. When subpoenas were issued in 2018, Pullman encouraged the union's treasurer to lie and say that they had a policy to destroy expense records more than a year old.

Pullman and Lynch were indicted by a federal grand jury in September 2019. After an October 2022 trial, they were found guilty the following month on three counts of wire fraud and one count each of racketeering conspiracy, honest services wire fraud, obstruction of justice, and conspiracy to defraud the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Additionally, Pullman was convicted of two more counts of wire fraud and two counts of aiding and assisting the filing of a false tax return, according to prosecutors. Lynch was also convicted of a second count of obstruction of justice and four counts of aiding and assisting in the filing of a false tax return.

In May 2023, Pullman was sentenced to 30 months in prison and three years of probation. Lynch was sentenced to two years in prison and two years of probation. Both defendants were ordered to pay restitution.

The U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals later reversed three of the defendants' wire fraud convictions, one of Lynch's tax convictions, and one of Lynch's obstruction of justice convictions in June 2025. They let the remaining convictions stand.

“Mr. Pullman and Ms. Lynch exploited their positions of trust and authority for their own personal gain, betraying the very people they were meant to serve,” Thomas Demeo, special agent in charge of the IRS’ Boston field office, said in Wednesday’s statement. “The reversal of some convictions does not erase the damage wrought by years of fraudulent financial conduct, including the misuse of union funds and tax evasion.”

## **Homer Rep. Vance faces ethics probe over official letter pressuring newspaper**

By: Eric Stone - [Alaska Public Media](#) - January 29, 2026

The Alaska state House’s ethics committee has launched an investigation into whether Homer Republican Rep. Sarah Vance illegally used state resources when she successfully pushed the local newspaper to remove and revise a story.

Vance objected to a Homer News article about a vigil she helped organize after the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk. The article described Kirk’s views as “racist and controversial” and said Kirk promoted conspiracy theories.

Vance accused the paper of “hate-baiting” and raised concerns about the impact of what she called the newspaper’s “partisan spin” on the paper’s financial viability. She listed her objections in a letter on state letterhead that she posted to her official Facebook page.

The newspaper’s owner, Alabama-based Carpenter Media Group, then removed, revised and reposted the story without the reporter’s byline. Carpenter, now the U.S.’s fourth-largest newspaper operator, told the Columbia Journalism Review that the article did not meet its standards.

State law prohibits legislators from using public resources for “non-legislative” or partisan political purposes.

The House Subcommittee of the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics said it had received “numerous complaints” about Vance’s conduct and that the allegations, if true, would violate state ethics laws. It opened an investigation in November and determined the scope of its review on Jan. 15.

“There is credible information to indicate that further investigation and proceeding is warranted,” reads a portion of a document outlining the investigation obtained by Alaska Public Media.

Two lawmakers serving on the committee — Republican Rep. Kevin McCabe and independent Rep. Alyse Galvin — declined to comment on the investigation.

In an interview, Vance defended the move and said she was asking to have the complaint dismissed.

“I believe that I was acting within my legislative duties,” Vance said.

Vance said she was aware of advisory opinions from the ethics committee covering “many examples of similar instances,” including one that allowed the use of state letterhead for political endorsements.

In a 1984 opinion, the ethics committee said it was not a violation of ethics laws to use official letterhead to endorse a candidate for office. However, lawmakers have significantly tightened state ethics laws since

then, including in 1998, when the Legislature explicitly prohibited lawmakers from using state resources for partisan political purposes.

Ethics committee investigations are typically confidential, but Vance waived that protection in the interest of transparency, she said.

“I consider this a form of lawfare, using the ethics committee against me for something that they disagreed with,” she said.

The committee is asking Vance to provide copies of her communications with Carpenter Media, an explanation of the “legislative purpose” of the letter and why it was posted to her official social media account on state letterhead, how the letter was drafted, and what funds were used to draft and distribute it.

Vance’s letter and Carpenter’s response led to an exodus of editorial staff at the company’s three Alaska newspapers, including its top editor in the state, and indirectly to the creation of a new nonprofit online news outlet, the Homer Independent Press.

Vance applauded the new outlet.

“We need local journalism,” Vance said. “People in the community have come together and said, ‘We want a local paper to talk about local issues,’ and I fully support that, because we need that local voice in our small community.”