

ETHICS REPORTER

March 2026



Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission
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[Top Spending for January and February During the 2026 Session](#)

There are currently 718 legislative agents (lobbyists) and 994 employers registered to lobby in Kentucky. This is a record number of employers! More and more companies are finding a need to register in order to lobby Kentucky legislators.

Employers spent almost 6.6 million on lobbying with lobbyists spending \$181,782 out of their own pockets for expenses associated with their lobbying effort. Combined, they have spent \$6,773,942 to lobby the Kentucky General Assembly so far.

During the first two months of the 2026 session, lobbyists have been compensated \$6,052,767 by employers. An additional \$227,190 was spent on lobbying related administrative costs, such as travel and other expenses. Spending on advertising was \$93,822 and \$227,190 was spent on receptions, meals and events.

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1. KY Chamber of Commerce \$189,180 | 11. Airbnb, Inc. \$38,347 |
| 2. KY Hospital Association \$49,724 | 12. KY Bankers Association \$37,668 |
| 3. KY Assn. of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. \$45,274 | 13. Fairness Campaign \$37,311 |
| 4. One Louisville \$45,000 | 14. KY Primary Care Association \$32,835 |
| 5. KY Justice Association \$43,881 | 15. Accelecom \$31,924 |
| 6. KY League of Cities, Inc. \$42,377 | 16. KY Automobile Dealers Assn. \$31,843 |
| 7. Elevance Health & Affiliates \$41,227 | 17. KY Retail Federation, Inc. \$30,016 |
| 8. Altria Client Services LLC \$40,959 | 18. KY Petroleum Marketers Assn. \$29,444 |
| 9. KY Medical Association \$40,459 | 19. American Civil Liberties Union \$26,850 |
| 10. LG&E and KU Energy LLC \$38,811 | 20. HCA Healthcare, Inc. \$26,108 |

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](#)

Wednesday, April 15, 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 **March 1 through March 31, 2026**. This reporting period will be open for filing these reports on April 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.

[Newly-Registered and Terminated Lobbying Employers](#)

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

Alliance for Pharmacy Compounding	Ledger SAS
American Adjuster Assn., Inc.	Lenovo
Bet365 and its Affiliates	Liberty Mutual Insurance Group
Blockratize Inc.	Magpul Industries Corp.
Blood Cancer United, Inc.	meetNKY
Bluegrass Community Foundation	Milliman, Inc.
Campaign for Fairer Gambling	National Independent Venue Assn.
Carewise Health Holdings	Open Primaries, Inc.
Carrum Health, Inc.	Paycom Software, Inc
City of Madisonville, KY	Phorus Industries LLC
Crypto.com Derivatives North America	Powell Co. Fiscal Court
Electronic Payment Coalition	Robinhood Markets, Inc.
Gen Y KY Capital 1 LLC	Tailor Made
Hims & Hers Health, Inc.	Trajector Medical
International Motors, LLC	Union Co. Industrial Development Authority
Just Right Reader, Inc.	Visa Inc.
Kalshi Inc.	Waterstep
KY Patient Access Alliance LLC	X Corp.

The following business recently terminated their status in Kentucky:

Holistic Alternative Recovery Trust, Inc.	WEconnect Health Management
KY Academy of Physician Assistants	

[Ethics & Lobbying News from around the U.S.](#)

[Former Missouri House speaker sentenced to prison for COVID relief fraud](#)

By: David A. Lieb – [APNews.com](#) – March 9, 2026

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., (AP) — A former Missouri House speaker was sentenced Monday to 21 months in prison after pleading guilty to wire fraud for misusing federal COVID-19 relief funds for his personal benefit.

Former Republican House Speaker John Diehl received about \$380,000 in federal loans for his law firm between 2020 and 2022 through a program intended to help cover operating expenses for businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

But Diehl admitted in a September plea agreement that he instead used the money for personal expenses, including country club dues, swimming pool maintenance, his home mortgage and vehicle payments for a Tesla, Audi and Jeep. Prosecutors said he used more than half the money to fund his law firm's defined benefit plan, of which he was the only participant, and also paid off a civil settlement related to his time as state House speaker.

Diehl resigned as House speaker in 2015 after The Kansas City Star reported that he had exchanged sexually suggestive text messages with a college student serving as a Capitol intern. At the time, Diehl acknowledged “making a serious error in judgment by sending the text messages.”

In 2023, the Missouri Ethics Commission imposed a roughly \$47,000 fine on Diehl for campaign finance violations, including allegations that he used nearly \$6,800 of campaign funds to pay for personal expenses.

Diehl had asked the federal court to spare him from prison, noting that he had already paid back all the pandemic relief funds to the Small Business Administration.

The U.S. attorney’s office had recommended a prison sentence of 21 to 27 months. In addition to prison time, the court on Monday ordered Diehl to pay a \$50,000 fine.

“Through his education and public office, Defendant had every privilege and opportunity, and to put it bluntly, he knew better than to engage in the charged fraud scheme,” Assistant U.S. Attorney Hal Goldsmith said of Diehl in a court filing.

House ethics proceedings would be secret under new bill

By: James Dawson – Biosestatepublicradio.org– March 9, 2026

Ethics trials within the Idaho House would no longer be open to the public under a bill introduced Monday.

The proposal from Rep. Vito Barbieri (R-Dalton Gardens) would keep all ethics proceedings secret.

That’s unless the committee finds a member has violated the law, didn’t disclose conflicts of interest or otherwise their conduct was unbecoming of a legislator.

“Because this is an internal matter, because this is an ethics issue within the House itself, the only time that anything would come out would be when the Ethics Committee makes a report to the whole House as to a recommendation of an ethics violation,” Barbieri said.

The most recent ethics trial came in 2021 when a legislative intern accused former Rep. Aaron von Ehlinger of raping her. Proceedings lasted two days, with blistering testimony provided by House leadership and other elected officials.

Von Ehlinger was later convicted of rape by an Ada County jury and is serving a 20-year sentence.

Barbieri testified in support of von Ehlinger during his ethics trial and also submitted a letter to the judge in his criminal case attesting to his character. Boise State Public Radio obtained that letter through a public records request.

“Aaron has shown himself an upstanding person, genuine in character and straight forward in thought,” wrote Barbieri. “I believe that this demeanor is genuine as he has always acted in accord with his spoken ideals.”

Barbieri, who said his legislative office was nearest von Ehlinger's, said they spent many hours discussing "those things most important to single men, especially career, stability, courage and character, to name just a few."

The bill would also exempt ethics complaint records from public disclosure and prevent attorneys from representing parties within the case.

Ethics records related to the von Ehlinger case offered significant details related to his behavior around other women at the capitol ahead of the trial.

Proceedings of the House Ethics Committee are already largely obscured from the public.

Group meetings are allowed to take place behind closed doors in order to keep unsubstantiated claims secret.

House Rule 45, which establishes the committee's duties and abilities, only allows for the disclosure of these materials if the committee believes there's enough evidence to warrant a trial.

The ethics committee cannot unilaterally punish legislators. The group makes a recommendation, which the full House votes on.

Barbieri's proposal needs to clear a public hearing before it could reach the House floor.