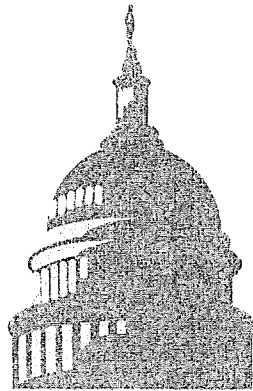


Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission

ANNUAL REPORT



FY 2020-2021

FOREWORD

I am pleased to submit the 28th Annual Report of the Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission to the members of the Legislative Research Commission.

The past year has been a busy one for the Commission and its staff. As evidenced by the large number of requests for informal opinions from individuals, businesses, and organizations covered by the Legislative Ethics Code, there is widespread interest in complying with it.

The continued support the Commission has received from the members of the General Assembly and its leadership has been gratifying.

We respectfully submit this report of activities of the Legislative Ethics Commission as required by KRS 6.666(16).

Dave Nicholas

Dave Nicholas, Chairman

Legislative Ethics Commission Member Profiles

Anthony Wilhoit – Judge Wilhoit was appointed to the Commission by the Speaker of the House in 2016. He was Executive Director of the Legislative Ethics Commission from 1997 until he retired in 2015. In 1976, he joined the Kentucky Court of Appeals, and retired as Chief Judge in 1997. Judge Wilhoit also served as a police judge, Versailles City Attorney, Woodford County Attorney, state public defender, and deputy secretary of the Justice Cabinet. He earned an A.B. from Thomas More College, a J.D. from the University of Kentucky, and an L.L.M. from the University of Virginia. In 2012, Judge Wilhoit received the COGEL Award, the highest international award given to a person working in the fields of ethics, campaign finance, and election law. He lives in Versailles.

Sheldon Baugh – Mr. Baugh was appointed to the Commission in 2017 by the President of the Senate. Mr. Baugh has an insurance agency in Russellville, and he served in the House of Representatives from 1995 to 2008. He attended Western Kentucky University, and served in the U.S. Air Force from 1962 to 1966. Mr. Baugh was a Magistrate on the Logan County Fiscal Court from 1977 to 1981, and he served as Midwest Director and two-term President of the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors. He is a member and former President of the Russellville Rotary Club, and he and his wife Brenda have two children and live in Russellville.

Pat Freibert – Former State Representative Freibert was appointed to the Commission by the President of the Senate in 2008, and also served on the Ethics Commission from 2000-2004. She was a member of the House of Representatives from 1979 to 1993. Mrs. Freibert has a long record of involvement in political, civic, educational, and charitable affairs for which she has received local, state, and national recognition. She is also a free-lance writer for several publications. In 2004, Mrs. Freibert was appointed by the Governor to the Kentucky Commission on Women, and served as Chair of that Commission. She lives in Lexington. Mrs. Freibert's term ended April, 2021.

Tony Goetz – Mr. Goetz was appointed to the Commission by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House in 2017. He is a native of Daviess County, and a graduate of Brescia University in Owensboro. He began his graduate work at George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, and completed his Master's Degree at UK in 1970. Mr. Goetz has served as Executive Director of the Owensboro Council for Retarded Children (1965-1967) and the Bluegrass Association for Mental Retardation (1967-1973). From 1973-1975, he was Executive Director of the Bluegrass Regional Health Planning Council and then served as Executive Director of the East Kentucky Health Systems Agency from 1976-1980. In 1980, he was named Associate Dean in Administration and Finance of the UK Medical School, and served in that and various other administrative positions at the University through 2003. His last position at UK was Director of Government Relations. In 2004-2005, he served as the Governor's Legislative Liaison. He and his wife, Nancy, reside in Jessamine County.

Phil Huddleston – Mr. Huddleston was appointed to the Commission by the Speaker of the House in 2017. He is a native of Albany, and served more than 30 years in state government in a variety of roles, including as a legislative and policy analyst as well as chief of staff to the President of the Senate and chief of staff to the Lt. Governor. Mr. Huddleston has served on the board for the Lexington Hearing and Speech Center, the Kentucky Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Human Services Coordination Alliance, and the Frankfort Salvation Army. He and his wife Pat live in Frankfort and have a daughter and two grandchildren. Mr. Huddleston's term ended April, 2021.

Michael Noftsger – Mr. Noftsger is the vice-chairman of the Commission. He was appointed to the Commission by the Speaker of the House in November, 2019. He serves as the Executive Vice-President, Bank Administration, for Forcht Bank. He grew up outside of Xenia, OH and later attended Georgetown College, receiving a BS in Marketing & Finance. Since the summer of 1992, he has worked in the banking industry. Mr. Noftsger has served on many community boards, including the Somerset-Pulaski (morning) Rotary Club, Somerset Christian School Board, Pulaski County Alzheimer's Respite Center Board, Cornelia Dozier Cooper Foundation and the Somerset-Pulaski County Development Foundation. He is a former member of the Kentucky Judicial Conduct Commission. He married Hope King in 1995. Hope is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and works as a Physical Therapist. They have one son, Riley, who attends Lipscomb University in Nashville. As a family, they are members of Oak Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, KY.

Legislative Ethics Commission Staff Profile

Laura Hendrix – Executive Director - Ms. Hendrix joined the Commission staff in May 2018 and became the Executive Director in September 2019. Before joining the Commission staff, she was the General Counsel for the Speaker of the Kentucky House of Representatives, General Counsel for the Legislative Research Commission, Committee Staff Administrator for the Elections, Constitutional Amendments and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, and a Legislative Analyst for the Health and Welfare Committee of the LRC. Prior to her legislative service, she was the General Counsel for the Executive Branch Ethics Commission, Assistant General Counsel for the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, and clerked for Judge William L. Graham of the Franklin Circuit Court. She received a bachelor's degree in history from Washington University in St. Louis and a J.D. from the University of Kentucky College of Law. She is a 2018 Henry Toll Fellow.

Emily Dennis – Counsel - Ms. Dennis joined the Commission Staff in October 2019 and serves as the Counsel to the Commission. Previously, she served as General Counsel of the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance from May 2008 – September 2019. She was employed by the Kentucky Justice & Public Safety Cabinet in its Office of Legal Services from 2002-2008 and also served as a Staff Attorney with the Cabinet for Economic Development from 1999-2002. Prior to joining state government, she was associated with the Danville law firm of Sheehan, Barnett, Hays, Dean & Pennington, P.S.C. Dennis received her J.D. from the University of Louisville and B.A. from Transylvania University, where she was a William T. Young scholar. When not practicing law, Emily manages Big Red Stables on her family's third generation farm in Mercer County.

Donnita B. Crittenden - Executive Assistant - Mrs. Crittenden is a graduate of Franklin County High School, and has a B.A. in Public Administration from Kentucky State University. Mrs. Crittenden joined the Commission in August 1993. Her previous experience includes a three-year internship with the Kentucky Department of Education, specifically assigned to the State Board of Education.

Lori M. Smither – Staff Assistant - Mrs. Smither is a graduate of Franklin County High School and has a degree in four areas of Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education. In addition, Mrs. Smither has obtained certificates for the Kentucky Director's Credential, Kentucky Child Care Provider, School Age Child Care, Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Technical Studies, and Early Childhood Administrator. Her previous experience includes working as a Member Service Representative at a banking institution for seven years, as a Director/Teacher for 11 years, and part-time at the Ethics Commission for eight years.

Mark Brengelman – Enforcement Counsel - Mr. Brengelman graduated with both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Philosophy from Emory University in Atlanta, and earned a J.D. from the University of Kentucky College of Law. He became an Assistant Attorney General working in the area of administrative and professional law as the assigned counsel and prosecuting attorney to numerous health profession licensure boards. He retired from state government in 2012, became certified as a hearing officer, and opened his own law practice. Mr. Brengelman is a frequent participant in continuing education having presented for multiple state and national organizations and private companies. He also represents children as Guardian ad Litem and parents as Court Appointed Counsel in confidential child abuse and neglect proceedings in family court.

Education and Training FY 2020-2021

July, 2020	Laura Hendrix, Legislative Ethics Code Overview Training created for Commission website.
December, 2020	Laura Hendrix, Mark Brengelman, Emily Dennis, and Lori Smither attended the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL) Virtual Conference.
December, 2020	Laura Hendrix and Emily Dennis, New Legislator Training Session.
January, 2021	Current Issues Seminar for Members of the General Assembly conducted by LEC Staff Virtually
March, 2021	Emily Dennis, Ky. Paralegal Assn. Training Session.
May, 2021	Laura Hendrix and Emily Dennis, UK Martin School International Public Policy and Management Institute Training Session.
June, 2021	Laura Hendrix and Emily Dennis, LRC CLE "Updates from the Capitol" Training Session.

During the fiscal year, the Commission staff:

- Provided various in-house training sessions, as requested;
- Posted (on website) Legislative Ethics Code Overview Training which is accessible to the regulated community and public at any time;
- Reviewed, approved, and posted (on website) 318 Financial Disclosure forms for legislators, candidates and LRC major management staff;
- Issued an estimated 500 verbal and written informal advisory opinions;
- Answered numerous filing and procedural questions;
- E-mailed monthly Ethics Reporters to all General Assembly members, LRC staff, news media, legislative agents, and employers;
- E-mailed filing notifications monthly to all employers and legislative agents;
- Created an online list of bills lobbied;
- E-mailed and mailed updated employers and lobbyists lists monthly to all General Assembly members and LRC staff (weekly during legislative session);
- Successfully transitioned to work from home with VPN access to workplace desktop and server, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, with individual staff physically present as needs of the office dictate.

Complaints and Administrative Actions

FY July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Complaints:

There were four formal complaints filed against legislators during this fiscal year. All four complaints were dismissed.

Administrative Fines Levied by the Commission:

Legislative Agents	\$1,950.00
Employers	\$2,050.00
Legislators	\$0.00
Candidates	\$0.00
Total Fines Collected	\$4,000.00

These fines were assessed due to failure to file statements by the designated filing deadlines, and if complaints were filed with the Commission.

Employers and legislative agents are cautioned that chronic late filing of forms may result in additional penalties and possible action by the Commission.

LOBBYING EXPENSES AS REPORTED 1993 - 2020

YEAR	EMP FB	EMP AE	EMP RME	EMP EXP	LA FB	LA RME	LA EXP	LA COMP	TOTAL
**2021	\$0	\$500,929	\$55,661	\$531,873	\$0	\$9,268	\$381,602	\$13,520,615	\$14,999,948
2020	\$0	\$367,201	\$178,087	\$640,095	\$0	\$5,607	\$613,013	\$19,116,673	\$20,920,676
2019	\$0	\$317,860	\$222,083	\$568,785	\$0	\$24,235	\$726,440	\$20,432,842	\$22,292,245
2018	\$0	\$478,350	\$249,972	\$992,151	\$0	\$14,909	\$1,007,980	\$20,428,445	\$23,171,807
2017	\$0	\$227,917	\$192,375	\$690,639	\$0	\$17,542	\$846,917	\$18,856,830	\$20,832,220
2016	\$0	\$299,479	\$236,495	\$660,162	\$0	\$6,027	\$888,039	\$18,692,836	\$20,783,038
2015	\$0	\$1,017,588	\$190,100	\$600,903	\$0	\$13,484	\$781,811	\$16,692,957	\$19,296,843
2014	\$149	N/A	\$185,402	\$563,386	\$0	\$8,685	\$831,507	\$16,822,398	\$18,411,527
2013	\$429	N/A	\$154,182	\$453,074	\$30	\$11,648	\$852,342	\$14,970,623	\$16,442,328
2012	\$539	N/A	\$143,154	\$858,368	\$0	\$16,407	\$945,621	\$15,813,368	\$17,777,457
2011	\$228	N/A	\$160,435	\$393,916	\$16	\$17,491	\$905,572	\$13,613,009	\$15,090,667
2010	\$530	N/A	\$189,059	\$904,378	\$0	\$28,206	\$1,188,642	\$14,382,024	\$16,692,839
2009	\$236	N/A	\$135,943	\$462,256	\$0	\$19,126	\$985,833	\$13,659,283	\$15,262,677
2008	\$434	N/A	\$248,463	\$691,801	\$82	\$35,100	\$1,196,922	\$14,729,726	\$16,902,528
2007	\$160	N/A	\$160,087	\$530,195	\$0	\$18,175	\$1,025,796	\$11,951,309	\$13,685,722
2006	\$423	N/A	\$227,190	\$803,103	\$157	\$19,631	\$1,061,624	\$13,362,476	\$15,474,604
2005	\$420	N/A	\$214,397	\$615,303	\$268	\$24,663	\$902,410	\$10,808,709	\$12,566,170
2004	\$561	N/A	\$204,701	\$819,692	\$150	\$10,003	\$213,134	\$10,836,866	\$12,085,107
2003	\$542	N/A	\$193,663	\$848,670	\$0	\$4,639	\$0*	\$8,141,073	\$9,188,587
2002	\$262	N/A	\$188,446	\$1,008,768	\$20	\$8,248	\$0*	\$9,088,595	\$10,294,339
2001	\$160	N/A	\$136,819	\$608,853	\$73	\$4,201	\$0*	\$6,132,887	\$6,882,993
2000	\$95	N/A	\$136,032	\$857,075	\$0	\$13,424	\$0*	\$8,295,998	\$9,302,624
1999	\$248	N/A	\$30,082	\$411,981	\$0	\$1,562	\$0*	\$3,989,617	\$4,433,490
1998	\$20	N/A	\$82,741	\$939,643	\$10	\$4,500	\$0*	\$7,086,054	\$8,112,968
1997	\$14	N/A	\$22,072	\$420,529	\$0	\$4,019	\$0*	\$3,137,175	\$3,583,809
1996	\$589	N/A	\$40,822	\$880,518	\$301	\$3,939	\$341,893	\$6,037,002	\$7,305,064
1995	\$177	N/A	\$15,692	\$318,105	\$107	\$534	\$144,098	\$2,254,114	\$2,732,827
1994	\$852	N/A	\$34,117	\$1,356,719	\$350	\$2,305	\$514,701	\$4,557,014	\$6,466,058
1993	\$81	N/A	\$1,426	\$552,648	\$3	\$108	\$0	\$986,811	\$1,541,077
Totals	\$7,149	\$3,209,324	\$4,229,698	\$19,983,589	\$1,567	\$347,686	\$16,355,897	\$338,397,329	\$382,532,239

Guide to Abbreviations:

EMP.FB (Emp. Food and Beverage)

EMP.RME (Emp. Reception, Meals & Events)

EMP.EXP (Emp. Expenses)

EMP.AE (Emp. Advertising Expense)

LA. FB (Legislative Agent Food and Beverage)

LA. RME (Legislative Agent Reception, Meals & Events)

LA. EXP (Legislative Agent Expenses)

LA. COMP (Legislative Agent Compensation)

* Employer forms were amended to delete section dealing with reimbursed expenses to legislative agents.

Staff discovered that employers were listing amounts reimbursed to legislative agents for expenses and legislative agents were reporting these figures during the same period.

**2021 figures include totals through August 31, 2021.

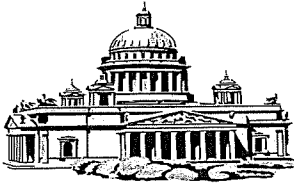
2015 was first year for reporting EMP AE

NOTE: Numbers have been rounded to the closest dollar for convenience.

ETHICS REPORTER

July, 2020

Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission
22 Mill Creek Park, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-9230
Phone: (502) 573-2863
Fax: (502) 573-2929
<http://klec.ky.gov>



Commission Office Procedures and COVID-19

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and following guidance from federal, state, and local officials, the Commission halted in-person services at its Frankfort office as of Tuesday, March 17. Email notifications were made to legislators and staff, as well as lobbyists, and employers, and a notice was placed on the Commission's website and office door.

Legislators, staff, lobbyists, employers, and the public may continue to contact the office by phone at (502) 573-2863, by fax at (502) 573-2929, and via the email addresses listed on the staff page: <https://klec.ky.gov/About-KLEC/Pages/Commission-Staff.aspx>.

If you need to send the Commission copies of paperwork, please scan and email it to the email addresses as listed on the staff page, or fax to the number above.

Continued thanks to the many lobbying entities who have honored our request to begin filing online, and those who have utilized this service for many years. If a lobbyist or employer is currently filing disclosures by paper and would like to file online, please email us and we can contact you with an ID and password.

If an entity needs to register as a lobbyist or employer, please email the required scanned paperwork to Donnita Crittenden or Lori Smither at the staff emails in the link above or fax them to (502) 573-2929. Blank forms may be found at <https://klec.ky.gov/Forms/Pages/Get-Blank-Forms.aspx>.

All provisions of the Code of Legislative Ethics are in force during this time. If there is a need for an opinion about the application of the Code to any particular ethical issue that may arise, please continue to contact us and we will answer your questions.

New and Terminated Employers

First Southern National Bank recently reported termination of its lobbying activity to the Commission.

New Employers registering are **AVF Bluegrass Solutions, Scott Hagan, Kroger Company, and Pear Therapeutics.**

ETHICS REPORTER

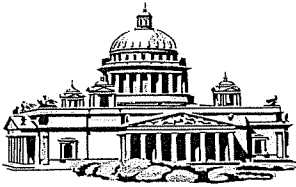
August, 2020

Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission
22 Mill Creek Park, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-9230

Phone: (502) 573-2863

Fax: (502) 573-2929

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Lobbying Reporting Deadline- September 15, 2020

The Code of Legislative Ethics requires all lobbyists and employers to file their updated registration statements on the 15th day of January, February, March, April, May, and September of each year. ***The updated registration statement is due on September 15, 2020, per KRS 6.807(3).*** All employers and lobbyists should go ahead and begin filing their statements **ASAP**. The Commission has sent every employer and lobbyist information on how to file online, or via email or fax.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, statements received **after** September 15 up to and including September 30, 2020 shall be considered timely filed if the filer emails a written explanation of the reason for delay to the Commission's Executive Director, Laura Hendrix, at Laura.Hendrix@lrc.ky.gov **by September 30, 2020.**

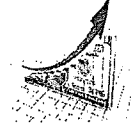
ETHICS REPORTER

September, 2020



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

Kentucky's lobbying spending dips slightly for the first 8 months



Kentucky businesses and organizations spent \$15.2 million on lobbying in the first eight months of 2020, a decrease from the previous even-year's total of \$16.7 million in September 2018.

During the first two-thirds of this year, 709 lobbying employers spent more than \$14.7 million, and another \$473,071 was spent by 598 legislative agents on lobbying-related expenses.

So far this year, the leading spender is **Kentucky Chamber of Commerce**, which spent \$243,950. Second place is **Altria Client Services**, spending \$221,936.

The rest of the top 10 spenders and the amounts spent so far this year include: **Juul Labs** (\$160,969); **Kentucky League of Cities** (\$144,483); **Kentucky Hospital Association** (\$142,247); **Marsy's Law for All** (\$128,819); **Charter Communications** (\$107,193); **Kentucky Justice Association** (\$105,546); **Kentucky Retail Federation** (\$102,135); and **Justice Action Network** (\$100,502).

The other top 20 spenders were: **HCA Healthcare** (\$95,577); **Anthem** (\$94,192); **Humana** (\$94,058); **LG&E and KU Energy** (\$90,415); **Kentucky Medical Association** (\$85,157); **Home Builders Association of Kentucky** (\$81,799); **United Healthcare Services** (\$81,333); **Kentucky Bankers Association** (\$77,465); **American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky** (\$76,999); and **Kentucky Association of Manufacturers** (\$75,280).

Recent lobbying registrations and terminations



Three businesses recently registered to lobby the Kentucky General Assembly. They are **John Hancock Life Insurance Company**; **Kentucky Medical Freedom Coalition**; and **McKesson Corporation**.

Businesses and organizations which have terminated lobbying registrations and are no longer lobbying in Kentucky are: **Acreage Holdings**; **ActivStyle**; **Alliance Coal**; **American Law Institute**; **Atlantic Bingo Supply Company**; **Aramark Correctional Services**; **Benefitfocus.com**; **Bluegrass Community Foundation**; **BusPatrol**; **CareSource Management Services**; **KY Baptist Convention**; **KY Jailers Association**; **KEPRO**; **NeuroRestorative**; **Purple Toad Winery**; and **Recording Industry Association of American**.

All provisions of the Code of Legislative Ethics are in force during this time. If there is a need for an opinion about the application of the Code to any particular ethical issue that may arise, please continue to contact us and we will answer your questions.

Next Lobbying Reporting Deadline- January 15, 2021

The Code of Legislative Ethics requires all lobbyists and employers to file their updated registration statements on the 15th day of January, February, March, April, May, and September of each year. *The updated registration statement is due on January 15, 2021, per KRS 6.807(3).*

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=ojKIWUNV8po&feature=youtu.be>. The video walks through the online filing process in step-by-step detail. Please call us with any questions!

Financial disclosures for candidates and legislators on KLEC site

The Commission has the statutorily required financial disclosures for legislative candidates and legislators available on the Commission's website at <https://klec.ky.gov/Reports/Pages/Legislators-and-Candidates.aspx>. The Commission appreciates the legislators' and candidates' diligence in promptly filing these disclosures.

Ethics and lobbying news from around the U.S.A.



Pandemic takes bite out of lawmakers' free food from lobbyists

MICHIGAN – Detroit News -- September 4, 2020 – Craig Mauger

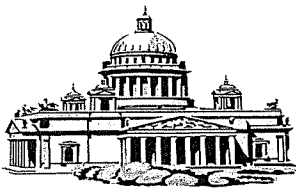
Restaurant closures and restrictions on gatherings are crimping one of the perks of serving in the Michigan Legislature: lobbyist funded meals.

Over the first seven months of the year, lobbyists reported spending \$221,429 on food and drink purchases for state officials, the lowest total disclosed over that period in 19 years. The \$221,429 figure represents a 62% drop from the \$578,261 lobbyists reported spending over the first seven months of 2019.

The drop in food purchases reflects another trend during the pandemic: a decline in campaign giving to state House candidates by interest groups' political action committees, said Simon Schuster, director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, a nonprofit organization that tracks political spending. Groups have cut their spending with fewer opportunities for direct access to lawmakers.

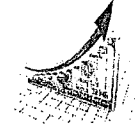
ETHICS REPORTER

October, 2020



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

Kentucky lobbying numbers since the inception of the Legislative Ethics Code shows growth of the industry and the necessity of public disclosure



Since the passage by the Kentucky General Assembly of the Kentucky Legislative Ethics Code, businesses and organizations have spent a total of \$362 million on lobbying, from 1993 to August, 2020.

Prior to the Code's enactment, the public had no way of knowing how much was spent on lobbying, or who was lobbying the General Assembly. The Code requires registration of all who are in direct communication with legislators regarding legislative matters and are compensated for lobbying.

The highest yearly amount spent on lobbying thus far was for 2018, at \$23 million. Contrast that with the first full year of reporting under the Code, in 1994, at \$6 million.

The majority of the lobbying expenses arise from legislative agent compensation, which amounted to \$320 million for 1993 to August, 2020.

The newest category of reporting, that of employer advertising expenses relating to legislation, totaled \$2.6 million from 2015 to the present.

The Commission's website has a searchable list of all lobbyists and employers, and their expenditures, for the public's easy reference.

The public's confidence in the integrity of government is bolstered by this public disclosure, so that everyone can understand who is involved in the processes of making laws.

Recent lobbying registrations and terminations



Five businesses recently registered to lobby the Kentucky General Assembly. They are: **Core Scientific; Ingram Barge Company; Isaiah House; Lees Ford Resort Marina; and Securus Technologies.**

The **Kentucky Aviation Association** recently terminated its lobbying registration and is no longer lobbying in Kentucky.

There are currently 593 legislative agents and 711 employers registered with the Commission.

Financial disclosures for candidates and legislators on KLEC site

The Commission has the statutorily required financial disclosures for legislative candidates and legislators available on the Commission's website at <https://klec.ky.gov/Reports/Pages/Legislators-and-Candidates.aspx>. The Commission appreciates the legislators' and candidates' diligence in promptly filing these disclosures.

Ethics and lobbying news from around the U.S.A.



Ex-House speaker runs for reelection despite federal charges

OHIO – Associated Press -- October 17, 2020 – Farnoush Amiri

The race in the rural Ohio district of disgraced ex-Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder now includes four write-in candidates attempting to unseat the once-powerful politician, who has refused to step aside from his reelection bid despite facing charges in a \$60 million bribery scheme.

The four challengers — of varied parties and backgrounds — are unified in their attacks on Householder's questionable ethics and his role in passing a nuclear bailout bill at the center of the scandal that now faces renewed scrutiny at the Statehouse. Still, a Householder victory appears likely in District 72, given his strong ties in his native Perry County and an endorsement by the local Party.

He is the only candidate listed on the ballot, having fielded no opposing party challenger. The district also covers Coshocton County and Licking County in east-central Ohio.

The write-in candidates are 20-year-old Kaitlyn Clark, a college student from Coshocton; Jay Conrad, a 29-year-old Marine veteran and college student from New Lexington; Robert Leist, a 51-year-old maintenance coordinator from Coshocton; and Marci McCaulay, a 69-year-old psychologist from Thornville.

While each candidate has different policy plans for the district, all of them agreed the district's residents deserve ethical representation in the Ohio House in the wake of Householder's arrest and indictment.

All the candidates have also said they support a repeal of House Bill 6, the nuclear bailout bill at the center of the federal investigation that led to Householder's ouster as house speaker in July. The candidates made their case for the seat during an Oct. 10 debate that Householder was invited to participate in but did not attend.

The two-time lawmaker was charged in July with racketeering charges in the alleged bribery scheme to pass a \$1.3 billion bailout of two Ohio nuclear plants. Householder was one of the driving forces behind the nuclear plants' financial rescue, which added a new fee to every electricity bill in the state and directed over \$150 million a year through 2026 to the plants near Cleveland and Toledo.

ETHICS REPORTER

November, 2020



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

Kentucky's governmental ethics provision ranked 7th best in the nation in "S.W.A.M.P." index

Kentucky fared extremely well in an annual ranking of states' ethics provisions and enforcement, garnering a seventh-place finish. Kentucky's ranking was based on legislative and executive branch ethics laws enacted by the Kentucky General Assembly.

The Coalition for Integrity recently released States with Anti-Corruption Measures for Public Officials (S.W.A.M.P.) Index 2020. According to the Coalition, "the S.W.A.M.P. Index, first published in 2018, is a comparative scorecard which rates the 50 States and District of Columbia based on the laws and regulations governing ethics and transparency in the executive and legislative branches. The questions in the index relate to the scope and independence of ethics agencies, powers of those agencies, acceptance and disclosure of gifts by public officials, transparency of funding of independent expenditures, and client disclosure by legislators."

The entire report may be found at <http://coalitionforintegrity.org/swamp2020/>

The report specific to Kentucky may be found at <https://www.coalitionforintegrity.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Kentucky-FINAL-REPORT.pdf>

The public's confidence in the integrity of government is bolstered by strong ethics codes for public officials.

Recent lobbying registrations and terminations

Five businesses recently registered to lobby the Kentucky General Assembly. They are: **Gainwell Technologies LLC; HNTB Corporation; Patient Services Inc.; Salesforce.com Inc.; and Verisys Corporation.**

DXC Technologies recently terminated its lobbying registration and is no longer lobbying in Kentucky.

602 legislative agents and 719 employers are currently registered with the Commission.

Overview of Legislative Ethics Code online

The Legislative Ethics Commission has a PowerPoint overview of the Legislative Ethics Code available for reference. The link is on our website, and also on the LRC Capitol Connection page at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4FjvhrSoao> Feel free to watch!

Financial disclosures for legislators and members-elect on KLEC site

The Commission has the statutorily required financial disclosures for legislators and members-elect available on the Commission's website at <https://klec.ky.gov/Reports/Pages/Legislators-and-Candidates.aspx>. The Commission appreciates their diligence in promptly filing these disclosures.

Ethics and lobbying news from around the U.S.A.



Ethics Complaint Filed After Honolulu Lobbyist Fails (Again) To Register

HAWAII- Honolulu Civic Beat -- November 10, 2020 – by Anita Hofschneider

Longtime local lobbyist David Arakawa hasn't registered to lobby at the city despite advocating against recent legislative proposals to reshape Honolulu's parking and urban-planning policies.

Arakawa is the executive director of the Land Use Research Foundation, a group that lobbies on behalf of landowners and developers in Hawaii. Marti Townsend, who leads the Hawaii chapter of the environmental group Sierra Club, filed a complaint with the city ethics commission Friday highlighting Arakawa's failure to register to lobby.

The filing comes ahead of the Honolulu City Council's Tuesday hearing on Bill 2, which aims to make the city's rules on off-street parking and building design more flexible and environmentally friendly.

Lawmakers have recently softened language in the measure to ease developers' concerns. Specifically, developers have pushed back against the proposed mandatory "unbundling" of future parking spaces from residential units, as well as proposed distances for building setbacks.

Those changes followed the Department of Planning and Permitting's regular meetings earlier this year with LURF, which Townsend cited in her complaint as an example of Arakawa's lobbying activities. She noted Arakawa's name is missing from the city's list of 2020 registered lobbyists.

It's not the first time Arakawa has run afoul of city ethics rules. Civil Beat reported in 2018 that Arakawa had failed to register as a lobbyist. After the story, Arakawa registered. But Arakawa's name is also missing from the city's 2019 list of registered lobbyists. And despite registering in 2018, he does not appear to have filed a required annual report detailing his spending that year.

ETHICS REPORTER

December, 2020



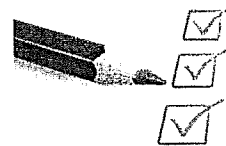
Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission
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Mandatory Ethics Training on January 6th for all legislators



The 2021 Current Issues ethics session for members of the General Assembly will be held on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. The 2 hour session will start at 9 a.m. and will last until 11 a.m., and will be held virtually on Zoom. The members have been provided with the Zoom login and further details via email. The Ethics Code requires this 2-hour Current Issues session for legislators each year.

Year-end spending reports due by January 15



Employer and Legislative Agent Updated Registration Statements for the period of September 1 to December 31, 2020 are required to be filed by Wednesday, January 15, 2021.

To file forms quickly and easily, please use the Legislative Ethics Commission's website at <http://klec.ky.gov/>. The **File Forms Online** box is on the front page of the website. If there are questions about an employer's or legislative agent's form, please contact the Commission office at (502) 573-2863.

New & terminated employers

There are 721 businesses and organizations, and 608 legislative agents, registered to lobby the General Assembly. Those organizations which have recently registered to lobby include: **HHR Kentucky LLC (Castle Hill Gaming); KY Lions Eye Bank; and Software Management.**

Those which have recently terminated lobbying are: **Evolent Health; and KY Raceway LLC.**

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=ojKIWUNV8po&feature=youtu.be>. The video walks through the online filing process in step-by-step detail. Please call us with any questions!

(502) 573-2929. Blank forms may be found at <https://klec.ky.gov/Forms/Pages/Get-Blank-Forms.aspx>.

All provisions of the Code of Legislative Ethics are in force during this time. If there is a need for an opinion about the application of the Code to any particular ethical issue that may arise, please continue to contact us and we will answer your questions.

Ethics & Lobbying News from around the U.S.



Ethics panel rebukes legislator accused of having sex with intern

MISSOURI— ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH – by Kurt Erickson -- December 16, 2020

A state lawmaker from St. Louis faces censure after an investigation into whether he had sex with his legislative intern earlier this year.

Rep. Wiley Price IV, who won his second, two-year term on Nov. 3, did not admit to having sex with the intern, but was found to have attempted to cover up the incident and interfered in the House Ethics Committee probe into his behavior.

In an eight-page report made public Wednesday, the 10-person committee recommended the full House strongly admonish the legislator, whose district spans the west side of the city, including Forest Park and the Wells-Goodfellow neighborhood.

That could include stripping Price of his committee assignments and not allowing him to meet with his caucus. He also will be barred from having an intern in the future, and the report calls for Price to repay \$22,494 to cover the cost of the investigation.

Lawmakers who previously have been in similar circumstances have resigned their posts rather than serve under those conditions.

Price did not respond to a request for comment. An aide said he hadn't seen the report.

The committee — made up of an equal number of Republicans and Democrats — unanimously concluded Price should face sanctions after a witness, who was his legislative assistant at the time, said Price threatened her if she reported his behavior.

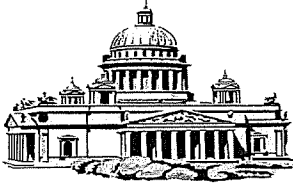
“Where I come from, people die for doing s*** like this,” she said Price told her.

According to the report, the aide contacted the House Division of Administration on Jan. 27 to report Price had told her “he had sex with (the intern) the night before.”

The college-age intern did not testify before the committee. The report said Price committed perjury by denying he had an inappropriate relationship.

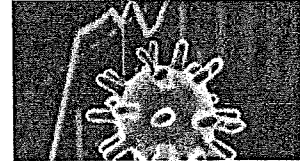
ETHICS REPORTER

January, 2021



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

Lobbying spending dips for 2020 as pandemic hits



Kentucky lobbying spending for 2020, in which a global pandemic hit during the 60-day legislative session, dipped from an all-time yearly high of \$23.1 million for the last "long session" of 2018 to \$20.9 million in 2020.

A record 733 lobbying businesses and organizations registered to lobby in Kentucky in 2020, spending \$20.2 million. Of that amount, employers reported 35% less spending on expenses from 2018 to 2020, going from \$992,150 to \$639,555. Spending on receptions, meals and events, and advertising also dropped by about a third for the same periods.

In 2020, 607 lobbyists were paid \$19 million in compensation, and also incurred \$618,620 in expenses. Expenses that lobbyists paid for receptions, meals, and events paid for by lobbyists dropped from \$14,908 in 2018 to \$5,606 in 2020, also reflecting the social distancing imposed by the pandemic.

2020's top lobbying spender was **Kentucky Chamber of Commerce**, with \$329,185, representing a relatively small decrease in its spending from 2018 (\$352,425), but a cliff dive from 2018's previous top spender, **Altria Client Services**, which had shelled out \$552,103 to earn the top spot that year. **Altria Client Services**, now in the #2 spot, spent \$314,627 on lobbying in 2020.

The rest of the top five spenders include: **Kentucky Hospital Association** (\$187,991); **Juul Labs** (\$178,225), which was not registered to lobby until 2019; and **Kentucky League of Cities** (\$164,744) which increased its spending from \$136,839 in 2018.

Others in the top 10 were: **Kentucky Justice Association** (\$145,116); **Marsy's Law for All** (\$141,319); **Justice Action Network** (\$140,502); **HCA Healthcare** (\$140,410); and **Kentucky Retail Federation** (\$130,067).

The rest of the top 20 spenders: **Humana** (\$127,139); **Anthem Inc.** (\$125,692); **United Healthcare Services** (\$121,427); **LG&E and KU Energy** (\$121,165); **Charter Communications** (\$118,943); **Home Builders Association of KY** (\$117,298); **CSX Corp.** (\$114,999); **Kentucky Medical Association** (\$110,562); **LifePoint Corporate Services** (\$110,002); and **Kentucky Association of Manufacturers** (\$106,666).

Commission Office Procedures and COVID-19

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and following guidance from federal, state, and local officials, the Commission halted in-person services at its Frankfort office as of Tuesday, March 17. Email notifications were made to legislators and staff, as well as lobbyists, and employers, and a notice was placed on the Commission's website and office door.

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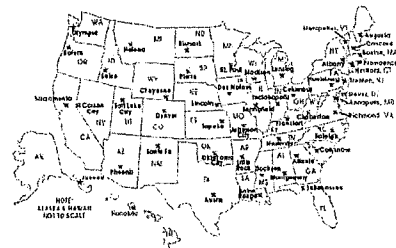
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Continued thanks to the many lobbying entities who have honored our request to begin filing online, and those who have utilized this service for many years. If a lobbyist or employer is currently filing disclosures by paper and would like to file online, please email us and we can contact you with an ID and password.

If an entity needs to register as a lobbyist or employer, please email the required scanned paperwork to Donnita Crittenden or Lori Smither at the staff emails in the link above or fax them to (502) 573-2929. Blank forms may be found at <https://klec.ky.gov/Forms/Pages/Get-Blank-Forms.aspx>.

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Ethics & Lobbying News from around the U.S.



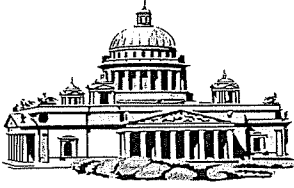
Barred from Capitol due to pandemic, CT lobbyists face hurdles during critical legislative session

CONNECTICUT – *Hartford Business Journal* -- by Matt Pilon -- January 25, 2021

Hartford — Swearing in of lawmakers, organizational committee meetings, and other rituals marking the start of the state legislative session may seem a tad corny or incidental for some, but you can bet your bottom dollar that most lobbyists will be present.

ETHICS REPORTER

February, 2021



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

Lobbying spending in first month of 2021 close to 2019's record for an odd-year session

Although the General Assembly's 2021 regular session is a short 30-day one, and the legislature only convened for 4 legislative days during that month, January 2021 lobbying spending hit \$2.17 million, nearly matching that of the last odd-year January record total of \$2.2 million in 2019, and equaling that of January, 2017. The pandemic seems not to have affected the pace of spending, thus far this year.

617 legislative agents and 747 employers are currently registered to lobby the General Assembly.

2021's top spender thus far is the **Kentucky Education Association**, which spent \$77,123 last month, the majority of that amount, \$71,539, on advertising regarding legislation. **Kentucky Chamber of Commerce** was second, spending \$35,430 on lobbying the General Assembly, followed by the rest of the top 5: **Keeneland Association** (\$28,550); the **American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky** (\$27,367); and **Altria Client Services** (\$25,686).

The rest of the top 20 spending entities are: **KY Justice Association** (\$21,497); **KY Hospital Association** (\$15,238); **Greater Louisville Inc.** (\$15,000); **KY Association of School Administrators** (\$15,000); **KY Retail Federation** (\$14,418); **KY Equine Education Alliance** (\$14,021); **KY League of Cities** (\$13,632); **Anthem Inc. and its Affiliates** (\$13,500); **CSX Corporation** (\$12,750); **CVS Health** (\$12,083); **Heaven Hill Distilleries** (\$12,000); **Westlake Chemical Corporation** (\$11,500); **LG&E and KU Energy LLC** (\$11,475); **New Venture Fund** (\$11,309); and **HCA Healthcare Inc.** (\$11,208).

Newly-registered lobbying employers & terminations

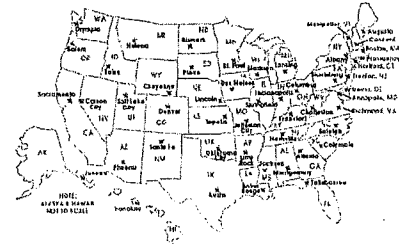
The following businesses and organizations recently registered to lobby in Kentucky: **Accel-ecom**; **Air Methods Corporation**; **American Kennel Club**; **American Resources Corporation**; **Association of Equipment Manufacturers**; **Atlantic Bingo Supply**; **Aurinia Pharma US**; **Barr Media**; **Bluegrass Ingredients Inc.**; **BusPatrol**; **Chewy Inc.**; **Foundation for Individual Rights in Education**; **Giffords**; **KY Jailers Association**; **Mackinac Center**; **National Auto & Travel Association**; **National Vote at Home Coalition**; **Neurocrine Biosciences Inc.**; **Owl's Head Alloys, Inc.**; **Paristown Preservation Trust LLC**; **Pearl Medical Practice LLC**; **Self Storage Association**; **SmileDirectClub**; **Universal Guaranty Life Insurance Co.**; **Woodford Forward Inc.**

Several businesses and organizations terminated their registration, and are no longer lobbying the Kentucky General Assembly: **AFLAC**; **DC Elevator**; **Deciphera Pharmaceuticals**; **Innocence Project**; **KY Concrete Association**; **Key Assets Corporation**; **March of Dimes**; **Messer Construction**; **Payment Alliance**; **Synergy Rehabilitation**; and **Terrace Metrics**.

If an entity needs to register as a lobbyist or employer, please email the required scanned paperwork to Donnita Crittenden or Lori Smither at the staff emails in the link above or fax them to (502) 573-2929. Blank forms may be found here <https://klec.ky.gov/Forms/Pages/Get-Blank-Forms.aspx>

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Ethics & Lobbying News from around the U.S.



Wisconsin wildlife officials ate \$20,000 of illegal caviar, prosecutors say. Now the 'sturgeon general' faces charges.

WISCONSIN – *Washington Post*-- by Antonia Noori Farzan – February 18, 2021

Deep in the frozen heart of Wisconsin, state wildlife officials allegedly dined like oligarchs, feasting on tens of thousands of dollars worth of caviar and passing around jars of the prized delicacy at team meetings.

Meanwhile, some of their colleagues were working undercover to expose the long-running scheme responsible for the lavish spread, and tipping off federal authorities to a world of clandestine after-hours meetings at state laboratories and five-gallon buckets filled with gleaming fish roe.

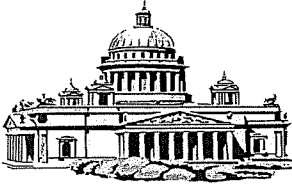
The extensive three-year investigation resulted in the arrest of the state's top sturgeon expert last week. Ryan P. Koenigs, nicknamed the "sturgeon general" by local television stations, allegedly obtained at least \$20,000 worth of caviar in a single year while holding down an otherwise unglamorous post as a biologist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. He faces charges of misdemeanor theft for illegally trading sturgeon eggs, as well as obstructing an investigation by a conservation warden.

Caviar is made from curing the eggs of wild sturgeon, a threatened species in many parts of the world. Typically, harvesting the massive, prehistoric fish is off-limits for recreational anglers — with one major exception. During the month of February, Wisconsin allows a limited number of residents to build makeshift shanties on frozen Lake Winnebago, near Oshkosh, where they plunge spears into the icy depths and pull up lake sturgeon that can weigh more than 100 pounds and yield hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of caviar.

Under state law, spear fishermen are entitled to keep any caviar from their catch, but can't sell it. And many prefer the thrill of the hunt to the taste of briny fish eggs. But DNR staffers had developed a taste for the pricey appetizer, and according to a criminal complaint, Wisconsin game wardens had a long-standing directive to collect eggs for "research purposes" whenever anglers said they didn't plan to process and eat them.

ETHICS REPORTER

March 2021



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

Legislative Ethics Commission enhances public's access to bills lobbied in the Kentucky General Assembly

Starting in early March, the Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission (KLEC) has made information on which bills legislative lobbying employers are promoting or opposing newly available to the public, via the LEC's website.

While the Ethics Code, since its passage in 1993, has required entities with paid legislative agents to report the particular bills on which they are lobbying, this information has never been immediately accessible by the public on KLEC's website.

By visiting KLEC's website, citizens can now view the bills that particular groups are advocating for or against, giving the public a more accurate picture of lobbying activity in Kentucky.

"We hope this will make more information immediately available, so the public can better understand what legislation is being promoted or opposed by registered lobbying organizations," said David Nicholas, who chairs the Ethics Commission.

KLEC's Donnita Crittenden worked closely with the Commonwealth Office of Technology and LRC to create these public reports. The list is on LEC's web site <https://klec.ky.gov/Reports/Pages/Employers-and-Legislative-Agents.aspx> under "Bills Lobbied", by Current Year or Prior Year.

In addition to Nicholas, other members of the Legislative Ethics Commission are: Vice-Chair Michael Noftsger; former Representative Sheldon Baugh of Russellville; former Representative Pat Freibert of Lexington; Anthony Goetz of Nicholasville; Phil Huddleston of Frankfort; former Representative and Judge Tanya Pullin of South Shore; former Judge Paula Sherlock of Prospect; and former Judge Anthony Wilhoit of Versailles.

Lobbying spending in first two months of 2021 lags behind the 2019 record

January and February's 2021 lobbying spending matched that of 2017's pace, totaling \$4.65 million. It fell short of the same period in 2019, which saw a record of \$5.02 million.

621 legislative agents and 751 employers are currently registered to lobby the General Assembly.

2021's top spender thus far is **Secure Democracy**, which spent \$91,240 in the last two months, the majority of that amount, \$53,240, on a poll regarding elections legislation. The nonprofit group from Washington DC lobbied on HB 574, an omnibus elections bill, and HB 232 and SB 259.

Overview of Legislative Ethics Code online

The Legislative Ethics Commission has a PowerPoint overview of the Legislative Ethics Code available for reference. The link is on our website, and also on the LRC Capitol Connection page at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4F\]vhrSoao](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4F]vhrSoao). Feel free to watch!

Commission Office Procedures and COVID-19

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ETHICS REPORTER

April, 2021



Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission
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Phone: (502) 573-2863
<http://klec.kv.gov>

Lobby spending hits a second-place high for an odd-year session



Kentucky lobbying spending came in second place for an odd-year session in 2021, garnering \$7.19 million spent by lobbyists and employers. The highest spending for a “short session” came in April, 2019, as \$7.55 million was spent on lobbying during that odd-year, 30-day session. 2017 and 2015’s totals both came in at \$6.9 million.

During the session, 749 businesses and organizations employed 615 lobbyists.

Despite the inability of the lobbyists and public to directly access the halls and corridors of the Capitol due to the COVID pandemic, the increased spending demonstrates that lobbyists and their employers were still working to influence public policy in the Commonwealth.

The top spending lobbying organization this year was the **Kentucky Chamber of Commerce**, which spent \$217,595.46 in the 2021 session, nearly doubling its expenditures for the previous short session of \$112,740.

The second-biggest spender in the 2021 regular session was the **American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky** which spent \$111,821.54.

The other top five spenders include: **Kentucky Education Association** (\$106,365); **Secure Democracy** (\$93,240); and **Keeneland Association** (\$92,831).

The rest of the top ten includes: **Kentucky Equine Education Alliance (KEEP)** (\$92,014); **Altria Client Services, LLC** (\$73,627); **Kentucky League of Cities** (\$73,588); **National Council of State Boards of Nursing** (\$68,370); and **Kentucky Justice Association** (\$56,494).

The remainder of the top twenty includes: **Americans for Prosperity** (\$56,285); **Anthem, Inc. and Its Affiliates** (\$51,500); **Kentucky Hospital Association** (\$48,529); **Kentucky Retail Federation** (\$46,070); **Greater Louisville, Inc.** (\$45,070); **Kentucky Assn. of School Administrators** (\$45,000); **Kentucky Medical Association** (\$41,745); **LG&E and KU Energy LLC** (\$39,925); **CSX Corporation** (\$38,250); and **RAI Services Company** (\$37,095).

Bills report shows public which legislation is being lobbied



Starting in early March, 2021, the Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission (KLEC) has made information on which bills legislative lobbying employers are promoting or opposing newly available

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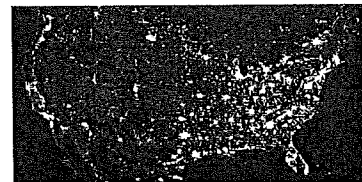
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Ethics & Lobbying News from around the U.S.



Missouri House docks the pay of St. Louis lawmaker who was censured after ethics investigation

MISSOURI -- St. Louis Post-Dispatch – by Jack Suntrup -- April 26, 2021

A St. Louis lawmaker has seen his pay slashed since his colleagues in the Missouri House censured him in January over allegations he had sex with a Capitol intern and tried to cover it up.

ETHICS REPORTER

May 2021



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

Legislative Ethics Commission adds two new members; two members' service is greatly appreciated as they leave the Commission

Two new members have joined the Legislative Ethics Commission, as two long-time public servants exit their time on the Commission. The Commission is comprised of community members, no current legislators, and is an independent agency of the legislative branch.

Former Senator Ernie Harris was appointed to the Commission by Senate President Robert Stivers in May. He served in the Kentucky Senate for 25 years, and is a farmer. He served at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force as a pilot, and also flew for UPS.

Katherine Gail Russell, an attorney from Louisville, was appointed to the Commission by House Speaker David Osborne in May. A former Secretary of the Public Protection Cabinet, she also served as Counsel to the House Speaker, serves on the Uniform Law Commission, and has a private law practice.

Former Representative Pat Friebert, who was one of the original legislators helping to craft the Code of Legislative Ethics, and spent 19 years on the Commission, ended her service in April. Phil Hudleston, who served over 20 years in various governmental positions, also left the Commission in April. The Commission thanked them both for their dedication and public service at its April meeting and deeply appreciates their efforts at educating on and enforcing the Code of Legislative Ethics.

In addition to Harris and Russell, other current members of the Legislative Ethics Commission are: Chair Dave Nicholas of Frankfort; Vice-Chair Michael Noftsgger of Somerset; former Representative Sheldon Baugh of Russellville; Anthony Goetz of Nicholasville; former Representative and Judge Tanya Pullin of South Shore; former Judge Paula Sherlock of Prospect; and former Judge Anthony Wilhoit of Versailles

Lobbying spending for the 2021 short session eclipsed only by 2019 record

The total lobbying spending for the 2021 Regular Session, \$9 million, nearly matched that of the previous record set for the last 30-day legislative session in 2019, at \$9.43 million, despite the continuing effects of the pandemic. This was the second-highest amount spent during an odd-year session.

605 legislative agents and 745 employers are currently registered to lobby the General Assembly.

The top five lobbying spenders for the 2021 session are: **Kentucky Chamber of Commerce** (\$251,738); **American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky** (\$125,155); **Kentucky Education Association** (\$106,622); **Kentucky Equine Education Alliance** (\$101,214); and **Keeneland Association** (\$100,291).

Overview of Legislative Ethics Code online

The Legislative Ethics Commission has a PowerPoint overview of the Legislative Ethics Code available for reference. The link is on our website, and also on the LRC Capitol Connection page at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4FjvhrSoao>. Feel free to watch!

Commission Office Procedures and COVID-19

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and following guidance from federal, state, and local officials, the Commission halted in-person services at its Frankfort office as of Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Email notifications were made to legislators and staff, as well as lobbyists, and employers, and a notice was placed on the Commission's website and office door.

Legislators, staff, lobbyists, employers, and the public may continue to contact the office by phone at (502) 573-2863, by fax at (502) 573-2929, and via the email addresses listed on the staff page: <https://klec.ky.gov/About-KLEC/Pages/Commission-Staff.aspx>.

Additionally, new lines for direct access to Commission staff have been added. You may reach Laura Hendrix, Executive Director, at (502) 573-2910, and Emily Dennis, Counsel, at (502) 573-2911., and Lori Smither, Staff Assistant, at (502) 564-9084 You may still reach Donnita Crittenden, Executive Assistant, at the main Commission number (502) 573-2863.

If you need to send the Commission copies of paperwork, please scan and email it to the email addresses as listed on the staff page, or fax to the number above.

Continued thanks to the many lobbying entities who have honored our request to begin filing online, and those who have utilized this service for many years. If a lobbyist or employer is currently filing disclosures by paper and would like to file online, please email us and we can contact you with an ID and password.

If an entity needs to register as a lobbyist or employer, please email the required scanned paperwork to Donnita Crittenden or Lori Smither at the staff emails in the link above or fax them to (502) 573-2929. Blank forms may be found here <https://klec.ky.gov/Forms/Pages/Get-Blank-Forms.aspx>

All provisions of the Code of Legislative Ethics are in force during this time. If there is a need for an opinion about the application of the Code to any particular ethical issue that may arise, please continue to contact us and we will answer your questions.

Ethics & Lobbying News from around the U.S.

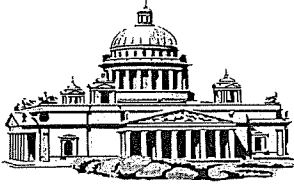
Multiple charities supported by ComEd lobbied for bills favorable to the utility giant

ILLINOIS —*WBEZ Chicago*—by Dave McKinney – May 26, 2021

State law says utility companies like Commonwealth Edison cannot make their customers pay for the cost of their lobbying expenses.

ETHICS REPORTER

June 2021



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Phone: (502) 573-2863
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29 years ago BOPTROT scandal came to light; prompted sweeping legislative ethics law and ushered in reforms

In May, 1992, a years-long FBI sting of the Kentucky General Assembly's legislators and associated lobbyists, in the words of Henderson journalist Frank Boyett for **The Gleaner**, "sparked a political firestorm ... that burned the reputation of the General Assembly to the ground." As Boyett noted, "the scandal continued for four years, and prompted Kentucky to enact some of the nation's stiffest laws on campaign finance and legislative ethics."

A national scandal, BOPTROT was the source of derision throughout the country. As the **New Yorker** put it in 1994:

The FBI is here, investigating corruption in state government, and several of our politicians have been convicted of taking bribes to influence racing legislation. Operation BOPTROT began in 1990, as an undercover investigation of the Kentucky legislature. For 1 1/2 years, the FBI was creeping around Frankfort, the state capital, secretly doctoring \$20 bills with fluorescent powder and taping lawmakers and lobbyists, and even having surveillance airplanes fly over. Similar sting operations have gone on in California, Arizona, and South Carolina. Here the FBI targeted lawmakers who were willing to be bribed for their influence in helping a troubled harness track compete against a rival Thoroughbred track for more gambling opportunities. The BOP in BOPTROT came from the Business Organizations and Professions Committees in both the House and the Senate of the Kentucky General Assembly; the BOP committees handle horse-racing bills. TROT referred to the trots, as harness racing is known. The investigation spread to other areas of public business and is still going on. BOPTROT has stood the state on its ear, and we're having to take a hard look at the way things get done here.

In the ensuing years, the General Assembly acted to pass and toughen one of the strongest ethics laws in the nation, enforced by an independent Ethics Commission. Since the passage of the law, no sitting legislator has been convicted of a felony related to his or her legislative office. The strict Ethics Code, education, informal and formal opinions, as well as attention paid by legislators, legislative agents, and the public alike to the law's requirements has provided Kentucky's legislative branch with a strong foundation after BOPTROT. Constant attention and education is required to ensure that the law continues to prevent and address possible ethical pitfalls.

Newly-registered lobbying employers & terminations

The following businesses and organizations recently registered to lobby in Kentucky: **American Kidney Fund, Inc.; Child Care Council of Kentucky, Inc.; Greyhound; Prominent Technologies; Virginia Everywhere, LLC; and W.L. Gore & Associates, LLC.**

Kentucky lobbyists and their employers are required to report the value of food, beverages, and other expenses contributed to events to which Kentucky legislators are invited. Lobbyists and employers are also required to report other expenses incurred in conjunction with the meetings, if the expenses are directly associated with the employer's or lobbyist's lobbying activities. These include expenses for promotional or informational items, and conference registration and travel expenses.

The Code of Legislative Ethics prohibits lobbyists and employers from buying food and beverages for individual legislators, and prohibits lobbyists and employers from providing legislators with out-of-state lodging or transportation from Kentucky to an out-of-state location.

Legislative conferences for the upcoming year include:

- **Southern Legislative Conference** Annual Meeting: July 10-14 in Nashville, Tennessee at the Grand Hyatt Nashville.
- **National Conference of State Legislatures** Legislative Summit: November 3-5, 2021 in Tampa, Florida at the Tampa Convention Center.
- **Council on State Governments** National Conference: December 1-4 in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Lobbying report deadlines and important reminder about reporting bill numbers

Wednesday, September 15, 2021 is the next reporting deadline, and all lobbyists and employers are required to file Updated Registration Statements then, for the period of **May 1** through **August 31, 2021**.

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>.

Additionally, reporting entities are reminded that they are required to report the specific bill numbers that they are lobbying on, as required by the Legislative Ethics Code. If your reports have not adequately reflected bill numbers in the past, please make every effort to reflect bill numbers in updated registration statements going forward.

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 on the LRC Capitol Connection page at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ojKl-WUNV8po&feature=youtu.be>. The video walks through the online filing process in step-by-step detail. Please call us with any questions!

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