



STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Ethics to Select Lobbyists for 2020 Audit

Hartford – On Thursday, November 21, 2019, the Citizen’s Ethics Advisory Board will randomly select 10 client lobbyists to be audited in 2020 by the Office of State Ethics. The selection will be conducted electronically during the Citizen’s Ethics Advisory Board public meeting, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at 18-20 Trinity Street, 5th Floor, Hartford, Connecticut. Members of the public - including the lobbying community - are welcome to attend.

The lobbyists to be audited will be selected from a pool of all client lobbyists who were registered at any time during the audit period: January 1, 2017 thru December 31, 2019.

A client lobbyist is the party paying for lobbying services on its behalf. In other words, the client lobbyist expends, or agrees to expend, \$3,000 or more for lobbying in a calendar year. (A communicator lobbyist is the person being paid to lobby on behalf of the client lobbyist.)

Of interest, and based on our current lobbyist registrations there are 996 registered client lobbyists, 510 in-house communicators and 214 individual communicators. Further, based on our disclosure statements for the first two quarters of 2019 a total of \$33.4M was spent on lobbying, and of that total, \$30.4M went to compensation for lobbyists. Lobbying disclosure reports for our final reporting period which covers the third and fourth quarter is due January 10, 2020.

The top five issues lobbied are: (1) Health and hospitals, health care systems medical organizations; (2) Government – financing, revenue, taxation, budget, appropriations, bids fees, funds, contracts; (3) Human Services – adult, families, and children; (4) Environment – recycling, packaging, pollution, waste; and, (5) Business.

Connecticut’s lobbying laws are in place to prevent corruption and provide transparency by showing the citizens of the state who is spending money on lobbying, what issues are being targeted, and how the money is being spent. In the course of auditing the selected client lobbyists, the Office of State Ethics will also audit all associated communicator lobbyists.

A list of lobbyists selected to be audited will be available on the Office of State Ethics web site, <https://portal.ct.gov/ethics>, after the drawing. It is anticipated that all of the audits will be completed during the 2020 calendar year.

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The Connecticut Office of State Ethics mission is to ensure honesty, integrity and accountability in state government through education, interpretation and enforcement of the State of Connecticut Code of Ethics. To contact us please visit our website at <https://portal.ct.gov/ethics> or call us at (860) 263-2400.