CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE __________________

COUNCIL BILL __________________

...title
AN ORDINANCE relating to lobbying regulations; expanding lobbying regulations to cover
paid lobbyists who attempt to influence administrative rulemaking by the executive
branch; and amending Chapter 2.06 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

...body
WHEREAS, …; and
WHEREAS, …; and
WHEREAS, …; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 2.06 of the Seattle Municipal Code, enacted by Ordinance 122645 and
last amended by Initiative 122, is amended as follows:

CHAPTER 2.06 LOBBYING REGULATIONS

2.06.005 Statement of Policy

It is the City policy to encourage the full participation and expression
of interest of all of the people of the City in the legislative process. The provisions
of this Chapter shall be construed to promote full disclosure of lobbying in order
to protect the openness and integrity of the legislative process while preserving an individual's
right to organize and petition the government.

2.06.010 Definitions

For the purposes of this Chapter, the following terms apply:

“Binding act” means an act taken by the City in an official capacity that imposes
obligations on a non-City party. “Binding act” includes only the following types of actions:

1. Legislation:
2. Rulemaking by a City department, as defined in Section 3.02.020;

3. The procurement or awarding of a contract by a contract awarding authority as defined in Section 20.42.020;

4. A land use decision or Master Use Permit grant under Chapter 23.76; and

5. A nonadvisory decision made by a board, commission, or similar City entity.

((A.)) "City" means the City of Seattle.

((B.)) "City officer or employee or agent" means every person elected or appointed to any City office or position of employment, including volunteers performing work for the City, when acting within the scope of their City duties, and contract workers and consultants when acting within the scope of their contract with the City. The term also includes persons appointed to City boards, commissions and committees when acting within the scope of their City duties, regardless of whether those persons are paid by the City.

((C.)) "Commission" means the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission.

((D.)) "Compensation" includes anything of economic value that is provided or promised to a lobbyist or lobbying entity in return for lobbying. The term includes compensation for preparation and planning activities, research and other background work that is intended, at the time it is performed, for use in connection with lobbying.

((E.)) "Executive Director" means the Executive Director of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission or his or her designee.

((F.)) "Expenditure" means anything of economic value that is provided, given, loaned, or promised in furtherance of lobbying. The term includes expenditures for preparation and planning activities, research, and other background work that is intended, at the time it is performed, for use in connection with lobbying. The term also includes agreements to provide
things of economic value even when those agreements are unenforceable. Expenditures other than money or its equivalent shall be valued according to their fair market value.

((G)) "Gift" means anything of value transferred or promised by one person to another without consideration.

((H)) "Legislation" means any council bill, ordinance, resolution, ballot measure, or charter amendment. The term also includes making, confirming, or rejecting appointments to City positions. The term does not include quasi-judicial matters subject to the appearance of fairness doctrine.

((I)) "Legislative Department Staff" means any City officer or employee or agent of the Legislative Department.

((J)) "Lobby" and "lobbying" each mean communications with City Council members, the Mayor, City officers or employees or agents either of the Legislative Department or working in the Mayor’s office, a department director, or a deputy director or other employee who reports directly to a department director in an attempt to influence any of those individuals to develop, propose, draft, consider or reconsider, promote, adopt, enact, reject, take favorable action upon, approve, disapprove, veto, or fail to take action upon a binding act.

"Lobby" and "lobbying" do not include the following:

1. Communications or other actions by any City officer or employee or agent acting within the scope of his or her employment authority or contract with the City;

2. Communications or other actions related to existing or proposed collective bargaining agreement(s) with the City or other binding acts that could affect specific existing or proposed collective bargaining agreements with the City;
3. Communications or other actions by members of the news media related to news and feature reporting, commentary, and editorial opinion in a regularly-published periodical, on television or radio, or on a regularly-maintained Internet website or other means of electronic communication devoted to the dissemination of news or opinion and not created solely to influence a specific piece of legislation binding act.

(L) "Lobbying entity" means a law firm, consulting firm, public relations firm, or other similar organization that engages in lobbying through its employees or agents.

(M) "Lobbyist" means any individual who lobbies for compensation, except individuals reimbursed for minor incidental personal expenses.

(N) "Lobbyist's employer" means any person who employs or compensates a lobbyist or lobbying entity for lobbying to promote that person's interests.

(O) "Mayor's Staff" means any City officer or employee or agent working in the Mayor's office.

(P) "Minor incidental personal expenses" means expenses actually incurred for lodging, mileage, parking, meals, copying, telephone, and facsimiles, which expenses are directly related to lobbying.

(Q) "Month" means a calendar month.

(R) "Organizational member" includes a person as defined in this Chapter but excludes individuals.

(S) "Person" includes an individual, partnership, joint venture, public or private corporation, association, federal, state or local governmental entity or agency however constituted, candidate, committee, political committee, political party, executive committee thereof, or any other organization or group of persons, however organized.
"Quarter" means a calendar quarter, i.e., January through March, April through June, July through September, and October through December.

"Year" means a calendar year.

2.06.020 Registration of lobbyists

A. Before lobbying, or within 30 days after being employed as a lobbyist, whichever comes first, a lobbyist shall register by filing with the Executive Director a lobbyist registration statement, in such detail as the Commission shall by rule prescribe, showing:

1. The lobbyist’s name, permanent business address, business telephone number and business e-mail address;

2. The following information for each of the lobbyist's employers:

   a. The name, permanent business address, business telephone number, business e-mail address and occupation or business of the lobbyist’s employer;

   b. The duration of the lobbyist's employment;

   c. The lobbyist’s compensation for lobbying, and any compensation for lobbying provided to a lobbying entity for the lobbyist's services, how much the lobbyist is to be paid for expenses, and what expenses are to be reimbursed;

   d. Whether the person from whom the lobbyist receives that compensation employs solely as a lobbyist or whether the lobbyist is a regular employee performing services that include, but are not limited to, lobbying;

   e. The general subject or subjects of his or her lobbying and, if known, the binding act related to the
lobbyist’s lobbying, including council bill, ordinance, resolution, or initiative number, if established;

(((f)) f. If the lobbyist receives compensation from a lobbying entity, then the name of such entity; and

(((g)) g. If the lobbyist's employer is an entity (including, but not limited to, a business or trade association) not exempted under Section 2.06.070, whose members include businesses, groups, associations, or organizations or which as a representative entity undertakes lobbying activities for businesses, groups, associations, or organizations:

(((i)) 1) The name and business address of each business or trade association, or other organizational member of such entity; and

(((ii)) 2) The name of each person represented by such entity, whose payments or other consideration paid to such entity for lobbying during either of the prior two years have exceeded (((five hundred dollars)) $500) or who has paid or is obligated to or has agreed to make payments or other consideration exceeding (((five hundred dollars)) $500) to such entity for lobbying during the current year. (Provided, that membership fees, dues, or other consideration paid to such an entity, but not provided for the specific purpose of lobbying, shall not be regarded as consideration for lobbying under this subsection 2.06.020.A.2.g.2.

3. A written authorization from each of the lobbyist's employers confirming such employment; and

4. The name, business address, business telephone number, and business e-mail address of the person who will have custody of the accounts, bills, receipts, books, papers, and documents required to be kept by Section 2.06.090(±and)).
B. Whenever a change, termination, or modification of the lobbyist's employment with a lobbyist's employer occurs, or whenever there is a change in any of the information required to be supplied by Subsection 2.06.020.A of this section, the lobbyist shall furnish full information regarding the same within thirty (30) calendar days of such termination or modification by filing with the Executive Director an amended registration statement.

C. Persons employed as lobbyists on the effective date of this chapter shall register within 30 days of that effective date. On the date of registering and annually thereafter, if the lobbyist’s employment has not been terminated, a registered lobbyist will pay a registration and reporting fee of $500, except that the fee for a lobbyist representing exclusively a nonprofit organization or nonprofit organizations will be $XXX.

2.06.030 Reporting by lobbyists

A. Each lobbyist not exempted under Section 2.06.060 shall either sign or certify and then file periodic reports of his or her lobbying activities. Such reports must be signed or certified by the lobbyist. The reports shall be made in the form and manner as prescribed by rule adopted by the Commission. The reports shall be filed within fifteen (15) calendar days after the last day of the calendar quarter, except for the January report, which shall be filed within 31 calendar days after the last day of the calendar quarter. The January report shall cover the preceding year; the April, July and October reports shall each cover the preceding calendar quarter.

B. The report shall contain the following information for each of the lobbyist's employers:

1. The name, permanent business address, business telephone number, business e-mail address, and occupation or business of the lobbyist's employer.
2. The totals of all expenditures for lobbying activities made or incurred by such lobbyist and the totals of all expenditures for lobbying activities made or incurred on behalf of such lobbyist by such lobbyist’s employer, lobbying entity, or any other person with the lobbyist’s knowledge. Such total expenditures for lobbying activities shall be segregated by category, and include the following: food and refreshments, living accommodations, travel, entertainment and other expenses or services, including but not limited to minor incidental expenses. Notwithstanding the foregoing, lobbyists are not required to report any unreimbursed expenses incurred for telephone and any office expenses including rent and salaries and wages paid for staff and secretarial assistance.

3. The total compensation paid to the lobbyist for lobbying purposes and any compensation for lobbying purposes provided to a lobbying entity for the lobbyist’s services during the reporting period by each of the lobbyist’s employer(s).

4. The (legislation) binding act that the lobbyist has been supporting or opposing during the reporting period, including council bill, ordinance, resolution, or initiative number, if established.

5. The names of the individuals lobbied, and the dates on which they were lobbied.

6. Other information relevant to lobbying activities as shall be prescribed by rule consistent with this Section 2.06.030.

7. Information regarding any termination, change or modification of the lobbyist’s employment.

8. If, during the quarterly reporting period, the lobbyist provided compensated services, including consulting services, to the campaign of any candidate for elective City office,
or to a campaign for or against any City ballot measure, the name of the candidate, the elective
City office sought by the candidate, the ballot number of the ballot measure, the date of the
election, the amount of compensation earned for the compensated services, and a description of
the nature of the services provided. Such information shall be reported if the lobbyist personally
provided the services, or if the services were provided by a business entity in which the lobbyist
owns at least a ten percent investment, whether the compensation was provided directly to the
lobbyist or to the business entity.

2.06.040 Reports by ((Employers of Registered Lobbyists.)) employers of registered
lobbyists

A. Every employer of a lobbyist not exempted under Section 2.06.070 shall report on
such employment either by:

1. Verifying, by signing or certifying along with the lobbyist, the January report
required to be filed by Section 2.06.030; or

2. Filing with the Commission on or before the last day of February of each year a
statement disclosing for the preceding calendar year the following information:

a. ((the)) The total expenditures made by the employer for lobbying
purposes, whether through or on behalf of a registered lobbyist or otherwise;

b. ((the legislation)) The binding act the employer has been employing a
lobbyist or lobbying entity, or compensating a lobbyist or lobbying entity to support or oppose,
including council bill, ordinance, resolution or initiative number, if established;

c. ((the)) The name, permanent business address, business telephone
number, and business e-mail address of each lobbyist or lobbying entity employed by the
reporting person and the total expenditures made by the employer for each such lobbyist or
lobbying entity for lobbying purposes;

d. Any contract the entity or any of its subdivisions has with the City; and
d. ((such)) Such other information as may be prescribed by rule consistent
with this Section 2.06.040.

2.06.060 Registration and ((Reporting)) reporting—Exemptions ((.))

((A-)) The following persons are exempt from registration and reporting under this Chapter 2.06:

((I-)) A. Lobbyists who limit their lobbying to appearing before public sessions of the
((city council)) City Council or its committees.

((2-)) B. Lobbyists who restrict their lobbying activities to no more than four days or
parts thereof during any ((calendar)) quarter and are paid no more than $5,000 for lobbying in
that quarter. Appearances before public sessions of the ((city council)) City Council and its
committees are not counted as lobbying activities.

((3-)) C. Lobbyists' employers, to the extent that the activities of the lobbyists they
employ are exempt from registration and reporting under this ((section)) Section 2.06.060.

((4-)) D. Elected officials, officers and employees of any local, state, or federal
government agency acting within the scope of their representation of or employment with such
agency; provided, however, that this subsection ((A(4))) 2.06.060.D shall not apply to persons
specifically employed or retained by a government agency to lobby.

2.06.070 Registration and ((Reporting)) reporting—Request for ((Exemption)) exemption

A. An exemption from the registration requirement of ((Section 2.06.020A(2)(g)))
subsection 2.06.020.A.2.g shall be granted by the Commission to a lobbyist's employer if such
lobbyist's employer has applied in writing to the Commission for such exemption and has
demonstrated by a reasonable probability that the compelled disclosure of identifying
information under subsection 2.06.020.A.2.g will subject those persons to threats, harassment, or reprisals from either government officials or private parties.

B. The decision to grant or deny an exemption from disclosure, with the reason or reasons therefor, shall be set out in writing with a copy kept on file with the Executive Director.

2.06.080 Voluntary registration and reporting

Any person exempted under this Chapter from registering and reporting may voluntarily register and report under this Chapter.

2.06.090 Duty to obtain and preserve records; inspection and audit of records

A. Persons required to register or report under this Chapter shall obtain and preserve all records necessary to substantiate all registration statements and reports that this Chapter requires. Records required to be preserved under this Chapter include but are not limited to receipts, bills, invoices, checks, and records of electronic financial transactions. All such records shall be preserved for at least five years after the registration statement or report to which they pertain has been filed.

B. All records required to be maintained under this Section are subject to inspection, copying and audit by the Executive Director, with reasonable prior notice, during regular City business hours.

2.06.100 Employment of unregistered persons

It is a violation of this Chapter for any person to employ a lobbyist who is required to register but is not registered under this Chapter.
2.06.110 Other (Restrictions) restrictions

In addition to other requirements imposed by this Chapter 2.06, a person required to register under this chapter shall not:

A. Engage in any lobbying before registering as a lobbyist under this Chapter 2.06;

B. File any statement or report with the Commission that is incomplete in any material respect or contains a statement that is false or misleading with respect to any material fact;

C. Fail to comply with any of the reporting requirements of this Chapter 2.06.

2.06.115 Grass roots lobbying campaigns

A. Any person who has made expenditures, not otherwise reported by a registered lobbyist under this Chapter 2.06, or a candidate or political committee under Section 2.04.230 or 2.04.260, exceeding $1,500 in the aggregate within any three-month period or exceeding $750 in the aggregate within any one-month period in presenting a program to the public, a substantial portion of which is intended, designed, or calculated primarily to influence a binding act, shall register and report, as provided in subsection 2.06.115.B.2, as a sponsor of a grass roots lobbying campaign.

B. Within 30 days after becoming a sponsor of a grass roots lobbying campaign, the sponsor shall register by filing with the Executive Director a registration statement, in such detail as the Commission shall prescribe, showing:

1. The sponsor's name, address, and business or occupation, and, if the sponsor is not an individual, the names, addresses, and titles of the controlling persons responsible for managing the sponsor's affairs:
2. The names, addresses, and business or occupation of all persons organizing and
managing the campaign, or hired to assist the campaign, including any public relations or
advertising firms participating in the campaign, and the terms of compensation for all such
persons;

3. The names and addresses of each person contributing $25 or more to the
campaign, and the aggregate amount contributed;

4. The purpose of the campaign, including the specific binding act or acts that are
the subject matter of the campaign;

5. The totals of all expenditures made or incurred to date on behalf of the
campaign segregated according to financial category, including but not limited to: advertising,
segregated by media, and in the case of large expenditures (as provided by rule of the
Commission), by outlet; contributions; entertainment, including food and refreshments; office
expenses including rent and the salaries and wages paid for staff and secretarial assistance, or the
proportionate amount paid or incurred for lobbying campaign activities; consultants; and printing
and mailing expenses.

C. Every sponsor who has registered under this Section 2.06.115 shall file monthly
reports with the Commission by the tenth day of the month for the activity during the preceding
month. The reports shall update the information contained in the sponsor's registration statement
and in prior reports and shall show contributions received and totals of expenditures made during
the month, in the same manner as provided for in the registration statement.

D. When the campaign has been terminated, the sponsor shall file a notice of termination
with the final monthly report. The final report shall state the totals of all contributions and
expenditures made on behalf of the campaign, in the same manner as provided for in the
registration statement.

E. On the date of registering, and annually thereafter if the campaign has not been
terminated, a sponsor of a grass roots lobbying campaign will pay a registration and reporting fee
totaling $500, except that the fee for a sponsor that is a nonprofit organization will be $XXX.

2.06.120 Complaints and (Investigations) investigations
Enforcement under this Chapter 2.06, including complaints, hearings and investigations, shall be
governed by the provisions of (SMC) Sections 2.04.060 through 2.04.090. The prohibitions and
penalties set forth in this Chapter 2.06 are not exclusive((e)) and are not intended to limit or
preclude other prohibitions that may be applicable or remedies that may be available under the
law.

2.06.130 Civil (Remedies and Sanctions) remedies and sanctions
Upon determining pursuant to (SMC) Sections 2.04.060 through (SMC) 2.04.090 that a
violation of this (chapter) Chapter 2.06 has occurred, the Commission may issue an order
requiring the party to take particular action in order to comply with the law, and in addition, or
alternatively, may impose sanctions up to ((Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000))) $5,000 per
violation. Any person who fails to file a properly completed registration or report within the time
required by this (chapter) Chapter 2.06 may also be subject to a civil penalty of ((Seventy Five
Dollars ($75)) $75 per day for each day each such delinquency continues, except that during the
last 30 days before any election such fine shall be at least ((Two Hundred Fifty Dollars ($250))
$250 per day and up to $1,000 per day in the discretion of ((SEEC)) the Commission, for each
day such delinquency continues.

2.06.140 Enforcement (e)
The Executive Director shall have the authority to enforce this Chapter 2.06 as provided in SMC Section 2.04.510.

**2.06.150 Limitation on Actions**

Any action brought under the provisions of this Chapter 2.06 must be commenced within five years after the date when the violation occurred, or the date when the violation reasonably should have been discovered.
Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

Passed by the City Council the ______ day of ______________________, 2019, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this _____ day of ______________________, 2019.

________________________________________
President ___________ of the City Council

Approved by me this _______ day of ______________________, 2019.

________________________________________
Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

Filed by me this _______ day of ______________________, 2019.

________________________________________
Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)