

# State Lobbying

## Interest groups are playing an increasingly larger role in state capitals.

- ▶ In 2005, lobbying at the state level became a billion dollar business for the first time. State lobbyists reported spending almost \$1.3 billion in 2006.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Of 43 states reporting lobbying expenditures for 2006, there was almost a 10 percent increase in reported spending from 2005. In those 43 states, the average spent per legislator on lobbying was more than \$200,000.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ More than 56,000 companies in 2006, compared to just fewer than 50,000 in 2005, sent representatives to statehouses to lobby. The total number of lobbyists was about 40,000, averaging about 5 lobbyists for each lawmaker.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Annual lobby spending in nine states grew by 20 percent or more in 2004.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ In 2005, California, Texas and New York were the states with the highest reported lobby spending in the nation for the third year in a row.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ In 2006, due to a new Florida law mandating disclosure of lobbyists' salaries and fees, that state moved into the third spot for most spending reported, from 27th when lobbyists were only required to report other spending.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Five states had a 10-to-1 or greater ratio of lobbyists to legislators in 2006.<sup>1</sup>



## Concerns about interest groups and lobbyists have led to ongoing efforts to regulate them.

- ▶ All 50 states have lobby disclosure laws and regulatory bodies to enforce them.<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Twenty eight states require that the salaries and fees paid to lobbyists be disclosed.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Since 2003, at least 24 states have taken steps either to strengthen their laws or to implement or improve electronic disclosure systems.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Washington, Kentucky, South Carolina, Connecticut and New York all have extensive lobbying disclosure laws while Pennsylvania, Wyoming, New Hampshire, South Dakota and Illinois have the least stringent lobbying disclosure laws, according to a 2003 study by the Center for Public Integrity.<sup>1</sup>

## State capital lobbyists have become more diverse.

- ▶ Contract lobbyists make up from 15 to 25 percent of the state capital lobbying community.<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Employees of associations and other organizations who act as lobbyists constitute from 40 to 50 percent of the lobbying community—the largest category in almost all state capitals.<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Employees of state and local governments who represent their agency are estimated to be between 25 and 40 percent of the lobbying community.<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Individuals who represent citizen and community organizations are estimated to comprise 10 to 20 percent of the state lobbying community.<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Those acting on their own behalf and not designated by any organization are probably less than 5 percent of the lobbying community.<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Businesses and professions are the most effective interests groups in the states, as in Washington, D.C.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Center for Public Integrity

<sup>2</sup> The Council of State Governments, *The Book of the States*, 2008.

## STATE LOBBYING DATA

| State          | Lobby Spending 2006 | Number of Registered Lobbyists 2004 | Spending Per Legislator | Ratio of Lobbyist to Legislators 2006 | Lobby Disclosure Ranking 2003 |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Alabama        | No Total            | 603                                 | N/A                     | 4                                     | 40                            |
| Alaska         | \$26,272,631        | 342                                 | \$437,877               | 5                                     | 16                            |
| Arizona        | \$2,602,866         | 800                                 | \$28,921                | 8                                     | 21                            |
| Arkansas       | No Total            | 452                                 | N/A                     | 3                                     | 30                            |
| California     | \$271,680,365       | 1267                                | \$2,264,003             | 10                                    | 8                             |
| Colorado       | \$24,396,668        | 670                                 | \$243,967               | 6                                     | 25                            |
| Connecticut    | \$38,419,882        | 635                                 | \$205,454               | 3                                     | 3                             |
| Delaware       | \$136,200           | 270                                 | \$2,197                 | 4                                     | 30                            |
| Florida        | \$121,760,708       | 2029                                | \$761,004               | 12                                    | 33                            |
| Georgia        | \$1,202,269         | 1506                                | \$5,094                 | 6                                     | 18                            |
| Hawaii         | \$4,413,155         | 312                                 | \$58,068                | 4                                     | 36                            |
| Idaho          | \$869,664           | 392                                 | \$8,283                 | 3                                     | 38                            |
| Illinois       | \$1,279,213         | 2195                                | \$7,227                 | 12                                    | 45                            |
| Indiana        | \$21,999,739        | 684                                 | \$146,665               | 4                                     | 12                            |
| Iowa           | \$7,802,064         | 849                                 | \$52,014                | 5                                     | 42                            |
| Kansas         | \$938,745           | 560                                 | \$5,689                 | 3                                     | 18                            |
| Kentucky       | \$14,424,699        | 653                                 | \$104,527               | 4                                     | 2                             |
| Louisiana      | \$1,113,298         | 531                                 | \$7,731                 | 3                                     | 33                            |
| Maine          | \$3,227,761         | 279                                 | \$17,354                | 1                                     | 26                            |
| Maryland       | \$37,085,356        | 637                                 | \$197,263               | 3                                     | 10                            |
| Massachusetts  | \$78,960,743        | 569                                 | \$394,804               | 2                                     | 6                             |
| Michigan       | \$22,692,687        | 1283                                | \$153,329               | 8                                     | 21                            |
| Minnesota      | \$53,287,186        | 1385                                | \$265,110               | 6                                     | 20                            |
| Mississippi    | \$17,697,439        | 422                                 | \$101,709               | 2                                     | 14                            |
| Missouri       | \$1,074,258         | 1116                                | \$5,453                 | 5                                     | 21                            |
| Montana        | \$6,924,175         | 536                                 | \$46,161                | 3                                     | 30                            |
| Nebraska       | \$9,993,827         | 345                                 | \$203,956               | 7                                     | 21                            |
| Nevada         | No Total            | N/A                                 | N/A                     | N/A                                   | 38                            |
| New Hampshire  | No Total            | 227                                 | N/A                     | 1                                     | 48                            |
| New Jersey     | \$55,321,166        | 935                                 | \$461,010               | 7                                     | 14                            |
| New Mexico     | No Total            | 855                                 | N/A                     | 7                                     | 27                            |
| New York       | \$151,000,000       | 5117                                | \$712,264               | 24                                    | 5                             |
| North Carolina | \$14,146,337        | 726                                 | \$83,214                | 4                                     | 37                            |
| North Dakota   | \$1,875             | 154                                 | \$13                    | 1                                     | 44                            |
| Ohio           | \$349,417           | 1401                                | \$2,647                 | 10                                    | 11                            |
| Oklahoma       | \$161,652           | 362                                 | \$1,085                 | 2                                     | 42                            |
| Oregon         | \$16,148,614        | 629                                 | \$179,429               | 6                                     | 33                            |
| Pennsylvania   | \$54,090,812        | 355                                 | \$213,798               | 1                                     | 50                            |
| Rhode Island   | No Total            | 201                                 | N/A                     | 1                                     | 27                            |
| South Carolina | \$19,815,024        | 385                                 | \$116,559               | 2                                     | 3                             |
| South Dakota   | No Total            | 625                                 | N/A                     | 5                                     | 47                            |
| Tennessee      | \$10,000            | 512                                 | \$76                    | 3                                     | 45                            |
| Texas          | \$120,215,500       | 1489                                | \$664,174               | 8                                     | 12                            |
| Utah           | \$228,668           | 351                                 | \$2,199                 | 3                                     | 9                             |
| Vermont        | \$5,943,594         | 425                                 | \$33,020                | 2                                     | 36                            |
| Virginia       | \$15,367,800        | 987                                 | \$109,770               | 7                                     | 16                            |
| Washington     | \$38,717,055        | 964                                 | \$263,381               | 6                                     | 1                             |
| West Virginia  | \$329,267           | 458                                 | \$2,457                 | 3                                     | 40                            |
| Wisconsin      | \$26,826,964        | 815                                 | \$203,235               | 6                                     | 6                             |
| Wyoming        | \$159,325           | 365                                 | \$1,770                 | 4                                     | 49                            |

Source: The Center for Public Integrity. Data is taken from an on-going report that evaluates different factors each year. Data is the latest available.