

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 9, 2023

CT Office of State Ethics

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ADVISORY: Office of State Ethics to Select Lobbyists for 2024 Audit

Hartford – On Thursday, November 16, 2023, the Citizen’s Ethics Advisory Board (“CEAB”) will randomly select 30 client lobbyists to be audited in 2024 by the Office of State Ethics (“OSE”). The selection will be conducted during the CEAB regular meeting to be held at 1:00 p.m., in Conference Room B on the Ground Floor of 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT. The meeting will also be accessible by videoconference or teleconference.

What: Lottery Selection for 2024 Lobbyist Audits

When: Thursday, November 16, 2023 during the CEAB Meeting (which starts at 1:00 PM)

Where: State Office Building (165 Capitol Ave, Ground floor, Conference Room B)

Teleconference: (Toll Free) 1-877-309-2703, Access Code 876-153-309

Videoconference: <https://meet.goto.com/876153309>

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, 2021 thru December 31, 2023.

*A *client lobbyist* is the party paying for lobbying services on its behalf. A 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. In the course of auditing the selected client lobbyists, the OSE will also audit all their associated communicator lobbyists.

Of interest, and based on our current lobbyist registrations, there are: 1,039 registered client lobbyists, 505 in-house communicators and 178 individual communicators. Further, based on our disclosure statements for the first two quarters of 2023 a total of \$33.5M was spent on lobbying, and of that total, \$31.8M went to compensation for lobbyists. The remaining lobbying disclosure reports for the third and fourth quarter of 2023 are due January 10, 2024.

To date, the top five issue areas lobbied are (1) Government - financing, taxation, revenue, budget, appropriations, bids, fees, funds, contracts; (2) Health and hospitals, health care systems, medical organizations; (3) Human Services - adult, families, and children; (4) Environment - recycling, packaging, pollution, waste; and (5) Economic and community development.

Connecticut’s lobbying laws are in place to prevent corruption and provide transparency by providing data to Connecticut citizens on who is spending money on lobbying, what issues are being targeted, and what activities or actions that money is supporting.

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 ct.gov/ethics or call us at (860) 263-2400.

A list of lobbyists selected to be audited will be available on the OSE web site, ct.gov/ethics, after the drawing.

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BACKGROUND:

The Office of State Ethics holds its annual Audit Lottery at the November regular meeting of the CEAB. Like all CEAB meetings, this lottery is open to members of the public including the lobbying community and media. Interested persons can attend in person or can join remotely.

The lottery and the audit processes are important functions of the Office of State Ethics in providing transparency and oversight to the lobbying community as part of the office's enforcement of the Code of Ethics.

Since last year's lottery, the overall number of lobbyists registered has decreased (-61), but the amount of money spent has increased (+\$6M).