

### **New Transparency for Lobbyists**

The City of Columbus has an opportunity to enhance transparency and accountability for agents who actively advocate before municipal legislative and executive offices. In 2006, the City of Columbus created a lobbyist registration which provided greater transparency in the legislative process. Today, the City of Columbus is significantly expanding and enhancing lobbyist registration requirements.

- Mirror state law definition of who must register with the city clerk as a lobbyist, including those who lobby any city elected official or department.
- Require a new disclosure report for registered lobbyists, increasing the number of annual reports to three.
- Increase penalties for violation of city lobbyist registry.

### **Increased Ethics Disclosure for Elected Officials**

Ohio's ethics laws are comprehensive in many respects – but we have the opportunity to pass some of the toughest city ethics laws in the state. The City of Columbus has already passed tougher ethics laws in our city charter; established prohibited uses of public funds; and enhanced transparency for contracts and legislation. Today, we're taking the next step.

- Require a new semiannual financial disclosure form for all city elected officials, in addition to the current annual filing required under state law.
- In addition to other state law requirements, city officials must provide a description of all gifts received.
- Each officeholder must establish a model ethics policy, including annual ethics training.
- Each officeholder must designate an ethics officer to coordinate ethics issues within that office.
- Increase penalties for violation of financial disclosure laws.

### **Shining a Light on Campaign Finance**

Columbus' existing campaign finance disclosure requirements already exceed those required by the Ohio Revised Code, but today we will go one step further by increasing reporting requirements and working to increase public access to campaign finance reports.

- Require two additional campaign finance disclosures a year.
  - For election years, candidates would file 9 reports – 5 required by the state and 4 required by the city.
  - For non-election years, candidates would file 4 reports – 2 required by the state and 2 required by the city.
- City Clerk must work with the Franklin County Board of Elections to create an online database of all city campaign finance reports.