

“AM I A LEGISLATIVE AGENT?”

Revised Sept. 2016

You **are** a legislative agent and **are** required to register if you are an:

Individual who engages at least five (5) percent of his or her compensated time to “actively advocate” to persuade members of government to enact legislation to benefit his or her client(s) or employer. “Actively advocate” means to “promote, advocate, or oppose the passage, modification, or defeat, or mayoral approval or veto of any legislation by direct communication. “Actively advocate” does not include any individual not engaged by a client who has a direct interest in legislation if the person, acting under Section 3 of Article I, Ohio Constitution, assembles together with other persons to consult for their common good, instructs a public officer or employee of the state or any of its subdivisions, or petitions that public officer or employee for the redress of grievances.

You **are not** a legislative agent and **are not** required to register if:

- you are an elected official or a member of the staff of any elected official

You **are not** a legislative agent and **are not** required to register if you are engaged in the following activities exclusively:

- you are a reporter gathering or furnishing information
- you are an individual appearing before an elected official during a public meeting
- you are an individual advertising or making statements in any media
- you are a publication that caters to a specific association, charitable or non-profit organization
- you are an individual providing professional services relating to legislation and are not receiving compensation to advocate for the specific legislation

Will recent changes in the legislative agent ordinance require area residents to register as legislative agents/lobbyists in order to meet with their elected officials about legislation?

No, being a legislative agent/lobbyist means that “actively advocating” is one of his or her main purposes. In order to actively advocate, a legislative agent/lobbyist must be hired and paid by a client who has an interest in the legislation in question. Unpaid citizens will be able to advocate for issues and legislation they are passionate about without registering as a legislative agent/lobbyist.

I’m the CEO of a company, executive director of a nonprofit, or a small business owner, do I have to register as a legislative agent with the City of Columbus?

No, unless you spend more than five (5) percent of your compensated time “actively advocating” for/against legislation.

If I am currently employed at a business, and my employer changes my job description to include lobbying City of Columbus officials regarding legislation (making up at least 5 percent of my time), when do I have to register as a legislative agent?

The City of Columbus will apply the same registration standard applicable to legislative

agents that is required by the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (JLEC). The date of engagement will be the date the legislative agent starts to actively advocate for a client or employer.