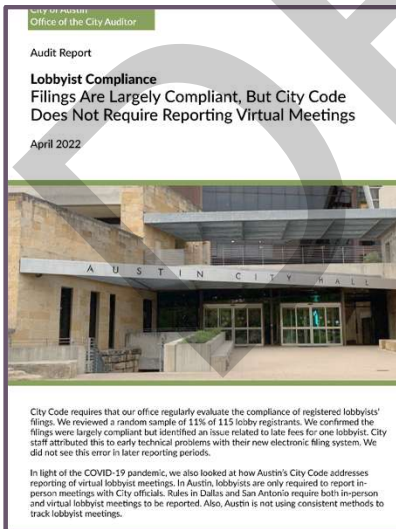


Lobbyist Compliance 2025

OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

1



Background

In our previous lobbyist compliance audits, we noted issues with **transparency** and **accessibility**

In response, the **lobbyist meeting requirement** and **review by the City Auditor** sections were adjusted and clarified in City Code


City Code directs our office to review information related to lobbyist meetings to check for **compliance**

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Finding 1

Some City Departments do not provide a reasonable way to record information from lobbyists as required by City Code.

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City Department Requirement:

Provide a method for lobbyists to report about scheduled meetings

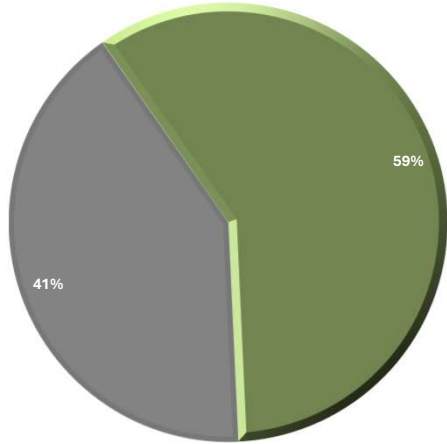
City Duty

Most surveyed City Departments and offices provide a method, but **some** do not

All City Council offices and the City Manager's office provide a method

DOES YOUR DEPARTMENT OR OFFICE HAVE A METHOD FOR LOBBYISTS TO REPORT?

■ Yes ■ No



Response	Percentage
Yes	59%
No	41%

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Lobbyist Requirement:

Report information about scheduled meetings with City officials

City's Sign-In Sheet

Does not require all information **needed** to check compliance

Written sheet:

- May have **incomplete** or **illegible** information
- Does not work for **virtual** meetings

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CITY'S LOBBYIST SIGN-IN SHEET

Visitor Sign-in Sheet
ALL visitors must complete Columns A-C

Visitors who:
1) Are appearing on behalf of a client or another person for a scheduled meeting on a "Municipal Question" under the terms of the Lobbying Ordinance **AND**
2) Have received or expect to receive compensation for attending this meeting **AND**
3) Are not a government employee or official
Must complete ALL Columns. Definitions and additional information can be found on the other side of this sheet.

Source: Austin City Code §4-8-8(C) and (E), §4-8-2(10).

A	B	C	D	E	F
Date	Visitor Name	Name of City Official meeting with	Representing (client, organization or name of department)	Visitor's Address	Have you or do you expect to receive compensation for this meeting?
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

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Finding 2

Current City Code lobbying Provisions limit reporting and make transparency hard to achieve.



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Peer Cities

Definition of “City Officials” applies to **fewer** people

Require **more** reporting:

- Dallas, El Paso, and San Antonio require reporting of **all contacts** with city officials on a municipal question
- Austin limits reporting to **scheduled meetings**

Require **lobbyists** to report contacts in their quarterly activity reports



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Recommendation

The City Manager should:



(A)

Ensure City departments are compliant with current City Code lobbying requirements



(B)

Identify and present possible revisions to City Code lobbying regulations to Council for consideration

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