



State Elections Enforcement Commission

20 Trinity Street, Hartford CT 06106-1628

www.ct.gov/seec

860-256-2940

866-733-2463 (866-SEEC INFO)

REMINDER – NO LOBBYIST \$\$ DURING THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The State Elections Enforcement Commission reminds all concerned individuals of the ban on campaign contributions and the solicitation of such contributions by registered lobbyists and their affiliated political committees to General Assembly and statewide candidates and their affiliated political committees during the legislative session.

There are two different sets of provisions that apply to registered lobbyists: (1) a temporary “sessional” contribution and solicitation ban while the General Assembly is in session that applies to all individuals or entities that are registered with the Office of State Ethics as either a “client lobbyist” or a “communicator lobbyist” and political committees established by or on behalf of such lobbyists; and (2) a permanent (year round) set of restrictions that applies to all individuals or entities registered as a “communicator lobbyist,” their immediate family members and political committees established or controlled by communicator lobbyists or members of their immediate family.

The year round, permanent restriction subjects communicator lobbyists to a \$100 contribution limit to candidates for General Assembly and statewide office, political committees established or controlled by such candidates, legislative leadership and caucus committees, and party committees. In addition, communicator lobbyists are prohibited from bundling¹ contributions for such committees. Finally, communicator lobbyists may not knowingly solicit contributions for such committees from individuals who serve on the board of directors of, are partners of, are employed by, or have a five percent or more ownership interest in any client lobbyist they represent. The Office of State Ethics maintains a list of all client lobbyists and communicator lobbyists.

The sessional ban applies from the opening of the regular legislative session on February 5, 2020 until adjournment *sine die* on May 6, 2020. During this timeframe, candidate committees and exploratory committees established by candidates for statewide office and/or the General Assembly and political committees that failed to certify during the last biennial reregistration period that they were not established (a) for an assembly or senatorial district, (b) by an elected statewide official, a member of the General Assembly or their agent, or (c) in consultation with or at the request or suggestion of any such official, member or their agent, or controlled by such official, member or agent, are prohibited from receiving lobbyist contributions or benefiting from lobbyist solicitations during these periods. See General Statutes § 1-91 (12), (21) and (22) for the definitions of “lobbyist,” “client lobbyist,” and “communicator lobbyist,” and General Statutes § 9-610 (e), (g), (h) and (i), for the application of the bans. In accordance with General Statutes § 9-610 (f), any political committee established by two or more individuals is also subject to these restrictions and included on this list if the committee was in

¹ The statute defines “bundle” as forwarding five or more contributions to a single committee by a communicator lobbyist, lobbyist’s agent or immediate family member or raising contributions for such a committee at a fundraising affair hosted or sponsored by such lobbyist, lobbyist’s agent or immediate family member. General Statutes § 9-601 (27).

existence prior to November 16, 2016 and its treasurer failed to file a biennial registration statement between November 16, 2016 and November 15, 2018.

The State Elections Enforcement Commission has provided to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Senate Minority Leader, the House Minority Leader, and each statewide officer, a copy of its updated list of "Political Committees Established by or on behalf of a Lobbyist," as well as an updated list of "Prohibited Political Committee Recipients." Copies of these lists are available to each legislator from these leaders as well as by accessing the Commission's website located at portal.ct.gov/seec. Any questions concerning application of the lobbyist contribution bans or any other provision of the State's campaign financing laws should be directed to the Commission's Legal Compliance Unit at 860-256-2940.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

cc:

Governor Ned Lamont
Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz
Secretary of the State Denise Merrill
Attorney General William Tong
Comptroller Kevin Lembo
Treasurer Shawn Wooden

Senator Martin M. Looney, Senate President Pro Tempore
Senator Len Fasano, Senate Minority Leader

Representative Joe Aresimowicz, Speaker of the House
Representative Themis Klarides, House Minority Leader