

COLORADANS FOR CLEAN GOVERNMENT
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FACT SHEET

Lobbying \$ in Colorado

Colorado's Lobbying Business is Booming

The amount special interests pay lobbyists to influence legislation has tripled in a decade

Lobbyist Income (2005):	\$22.1 million
Lobbyist Income (1995):	\$7.6 million
Growth of Annual Lobbyist Income (1995-2005):	191%
Total Lobbyist Income (1995-2005):	\$170 million

For example, the pharmaceutical industry paid Colorado lobbyists \$475,000 in 2003 and 2004

Lobbyists Spend Millions to Influence Colorado's Public Officials

Lobbyists spend more than \$1.6 million each year to influence public officials

Lobbyist Spending on Gifts & Entertainment (2005):	\$1,605,326
Lobbyist Spending on Gifts & Entertainment (1995-2005):	\$15.6 million

Colorado has the 4th highest number of lobbyists per legislator in the nation

U.S. Average:	5 lobbyists per legislator
Colorado:	11 lobbyists per legislator
CO Rank:	4 th highest

With 1,054 registered lobbyists, Colorado has more lobbyists than California (1,032 lobbyists), which has a population almost 8 times larger, and has almost twice as many lobbyists as New Jersey (582), although Colorado is about half its size.

Lobbyists Dole out Freebies to Public Officials (2005)

State legislators receive thousands of dollars worth of freebies from lobbyists each year

State Senators:	\$41,101 or \$1,170 average per Senator
State Representatives:	\$102,333 or \$1,570 average per Representative
Governor Owens:	\$57,102

Why is the Ethics in Government ballot initiative necessary?

Ethics in Government

Common-sense approach to ethical government similar to that used in other states:

- Bans lobbyist gifts to public officials
- Prevents public officials from becoming lobbyists for two years after leaving office
- Creates a five-member independent ethics commission

Current Law

- Colorado law places no limits on lobbyists' gifts to public officials
- While outright bribery is a felony, lobbyist gifts are permissible
- State legislators and other public officials are free to receive gifts such as travel, lodging, honoraria, meals and tickets to sporting and other entertainment events

How does Colorado compare to other states in respect to limiting lobbyist gifts?

- 26 states ban or limit lobbyist gifts
 - ✓ 7 states ban lobbyist gifts
 - ✓ 19 states limit gifts and require mandatory reporting by lobbyists
- 24 states neither ban nor limit lobbyist gifts, including Colorado, which simply requires that lobbyists report gifts worth over \$50
- In Colorado, gifts under \$50 are exempt from reporting

How does Colorado compare to other states in respect to “revolving door” provisions?

- 27 states have “revolving door” provisions to prevent former legislators from becoming lobbyists immediately after they leave office and having the “insider-advantage” in lobbying their former colleagues
- Colorado is among 23 states without a “revolving door” provision

Lobbyist Gift Bans & Restrictions in the 50 States
Source: Center for Public Integrity

States with Lobbyist Gift Bans (7)

1. Florida
2. Kentucky
3. Massachusetts
4. Minnesota
5. South Carolina
6. Tennessee
7. Wisconsin

States with Lobbyist Gift Restrictions (19)

1. Alaska
2. Arizona
3. California
4. Connecticut
5. Iowa
6. Illinois
7. Kansas
8. Maryland
9. Michigan
10. Nebraska
11. Nevada
12. New York
13. Ohio
14. Oklahoma
15. Oregon
16. Texas
17. Utah
18. Washington
19. West Virginia

“Revolving Door” Provisions in the 50 States
Source: Center for Public Integrity

States with “revolving door” provision (27)

1. Alabama
2. Alaska
3. Arizona
4. California
5. Connecticut
6. Florida
7. Georgia
8. Hawaii
9. Iowa
10. Kansas
11. Kentucky
12. Louisiana
13. Maryland
14. Massachusetts
15. Mississippi
16. New Jersey
17. New Mexico
18. New York
19. North Carolina
20. Ohio
21. Pennsylvania
22. Rhode Island
23. South Carolina
24. South Dakota
25. Tennessee
26. Virginia
27. Washington