



Washington State Public Disclosure Commission

PO Box 40908 | Olympia, WA 98504-0908

(360) 753-1111 | (877) 601-2828

www.pdc.wa.gov

Public Agency Lobbying

Presented by:

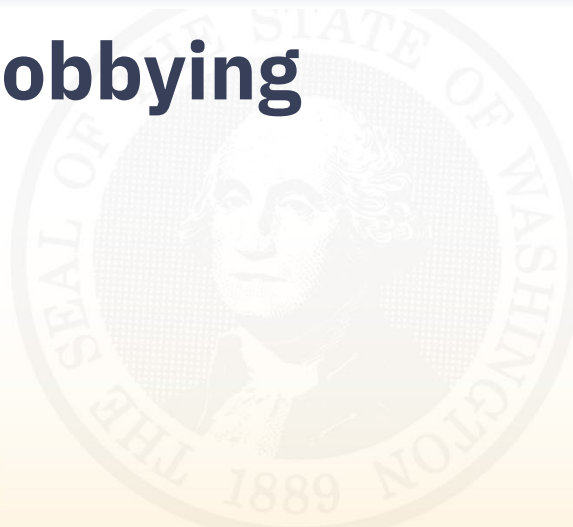
PDC Disclosure Specialists

Ashley Carlson

Ladelle Fuquay

Scott Haley

Diana Izaguirre



1

Zoom Logistics

- Cameras & microphones
- Using the chat box
- Chat is saved
- Class not recorded



Washington State Public Disclosure Commission

2

Why This Class?



Empower agencies to act within the law



Help public agencies file accurate reports



Washington State Public Disclosure Commission

www.pdc.wa.gov

3

Today's Agenda

- What is the PDC?
- What is lobbying?
- What is my agency allowed to do?
- What activities are prohibited?
- Which activities do I have to report?
- Quick demonstration



Washington State Public Disclosure Commission



4

About the PDC

- 1972 ballot
- Initiative 276

RCW 29B

WAC 390

“The public’s right to know of the financing of political campaigns and lobbying and the financial affairs of elected officials and candidates far outweighs any right that these matters remain secret and private.”

5

About Lobbying Law

- Goal to inform the public
- PDC regulates state-level
- Agencies have expenditure restrictions
- Agencies have reporting requirements

6

What is Lobbying?

Acting with the intent to influence, in a material way, the adoption or rejection of specific proposed or reasonably anticipated bills, resolutions, motions, amendments, nominations, and other like matters before the state legislature or governor.



Washington State Public Disclosure Commission

www.pdc.wa.gov

7

Which Lobbying Activities are Allowed?

- ✓ Communicate about official agency business
- ✓ Advocate for the agency's position or interests
- ✓ Communicate with legislature upon request
- ✓ Use proper channels to request necessary action
- ✓ Lobby for/against initiatives **once before legislature**

RCW 29B.50.090(3)



Washington State Public Disclosure Commission

www.pdc.wa.gov

8

Which Lobbying Activities are Prohibited?

- ✗ Can't use public funds for grassroots lobbying
- ✗ Can't ask stakeholders to lobby
- ✗ Can't use public resources to support or oppose an effort to **get to the legislature**
- ✗ Can't spend public funds on campaigns or gifts

RCW 29B.50.090(4)

9

Key Point

*Agencies **must report** some lobbying activities.*

*Agencies **don't** need to report others.*

It's important to know the difference.

10

Reporting Lobbying

- If no lobbying, no reporting
- Quarterly L-5 Report
- One or more people report for the agency
- Submitted electronically through PDC website

L-5 Public Agency Lobbying Report

[File Now](#)

Purpose

Names employees who lobby on behalf of government agencies. Includes general description of activities and discloses the total lobbying expenditures made in a calendar quarter, including employees' salaries, travel, printing and lobbying contractor payments. RCW 29B.50.090*

Reports are required to be filed electronically. You may request a hardship exemption if you are unable to file electronically. Email your request to pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Due Date

At the end of a calendar quarter during which an agency's in-person lobbying activities exceeds 4 days or parts of 4 days. File no later than the last day of the following month. An agency that contracts for lobbying services must file the quarterly report.

11

Agencies don't report to PDC...

- phone calls,
- written correspondence,
- reports required by law,
- a report/study in response to a direct request, or
- attempts to influence federal or local legislation.



12

Agencies don't report to PDC...

- appropriation requests to OFM,
- communication between or within state or local agencies,
- policy positions within an agency or group of agencies, or
- in-person lobbying by an elected official (unless over \$100.)

13

Key Point

*Personal funds **over \$100** (spent by anyone) in connection with **agency lobbying** must be reported. This includes money spent to entertain or buy gifts for state officials or employees.*

14

L-5 Agencies should report...

- spending of personal funds over \$100, and
- in-person lobbying to include:
 - testifying at hearings,
 - talking with legislators or staff, and
 - conversations with governor or staff.

15

L-5 Agencies should report...

- video calls (Zoom, Teams, etc.),
- travel and per diem costs,
- cost of lobbying materials, and
- payments to consultants.



16



Washington State Public Disclosure Commission

PO Box 40908 | Olympia, WA 98504-0908

(360) 753-1111 | (877) 601-2828

www.pdc.wa.gov

Demonstration Time

Accessing and completing the L-5



17

★ Key Point

***True public disclosure** requires timely and accurate reports.*

*The Commission **may impose penalties** for late, inaccurate, or missing reports.*



Washington State Public Disclosure Commission

www.pdc.wa.gov

18



Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
 PO Box 40908 | Olympia, WA 98504-0908
 (360) 753-1111 | (877) 601-2828
www.pdc.wa.gov

Contacting us

ONLINE >
www.pdc.wa.gov


- Forms
- Manuals
- Electronic filing

EMAIL >
pdc@pdc.wa.gov

PHONE >
 (877) 601-2828
 or (360) 753-1111




19



Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
 PO Box 40908 | Olympia, WA 98504-0908
 (360) 753-1111 | (877) 601-2828
www.pdc.wa.gov

Thank you!

Remaining Questions?



20