

West Virginia Ethics Commission

# 2016 Annual Report



West Virginia Ethics Commission  
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[ethics.wv.gov](http://ethics.wv.gov)

## Duties of the Ethics Commission

The Ethics Commission interprets and enforces the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act. The purpose of the Act is to preserve the public's confidence in the integrity and impartiality of governmental actions. The Commission also interprets the Open Governmental Meetings Act (W. Va. Code § 6-9A-1 through 6-9A-12); W. Va. Code § 61-10-15, a criminal misdemeanor statute, and W. Va. Code §18-5-1a(a) and (b) relating to eligibility to serve on a county school board.

The Commission enforces the Ethics Act's prohibitions through the Verified Complaint and Initiated Complaint processes; administers lobbyist registration and reporting provisions; publishes an annual Lobbyist Directory; renders formal Advisory Opinions on the meaning and application of the Ethics Act and the Open Governmental Meetings Act; issues formal Advisory Opinions to county school board members and candidates for those boards regarding other elected or appointed positions potentially barring their service; administers the Code of Conduct for State Administrative Law Judges; processes Financial Disclosure Statements, and advises and educates public employees and officials and members of the public regarding the Ethics Act and the Open Governmental Meetings Act. The Commission also grants exemptions from the employment and contract prohibitions in the Ethics Act.

All Complaints are considered by the three-member Probable Cause Review Board, which is an autonomous board not under the direction or control of the Ethics Commission. The Review Board reviews Complaints filed with or initiated by the Ethics Commission to make a threshold determination of whether probable cause exists to believe that a violation of the Ethics Act has occurred.

## Commission Members

The members of the West Virginia Ethics Commission are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. W. Va. Code § 6B-2-1(a). Members serving in 2016 are:

Robert J. Wolfe, Chairperson Man, WV	Jack Buckalew <sup>1</sup> Charleston, WV	Karen Disibbio Bluefield, WV
Michael Greer <sup>2</sup> Bridgeport, WV	Betty Ireland Charleston, WV	Suzan Singleton Moundsville, WV
Larry Tweel Huntington, WV	Terry Walker Kearneysville, WV	Monté Williams Morgantown, WV

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<sup>1</sup> Deceased March 3, 2016

<sup>2</sup> Resigned April 20, 2016

## Probable Cause Review Board Members

The members of the Probable Cause Review Board are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Members serving in 2016 are:

James E. Shepherd, II, Chairperson  
Huntington, WV

Daniel J. Guida  
Weirton, WV

Michael A. Kawash  
Charleston, WV

## Staff

The staff of the Ethics Commission consists of the Executive Director, two full-time attorneys, two part-time attorneys and two full-time administrative assistants.

Rebecca L. Stepto  
Executive Director

Derek A. Knopp  
Staff Attorney

Kimberly B. Weber  
General Counsel

Teri Anderson  
Lobbyist Registrar

Meridith O. Johnstone  
Deputy General Counsel

M. Ellen Briggs  
Executive Assistant

Theresa M. Kirk  
Staff Attorney

## Budget

The Ethics Commission was allocated the following amounts from the General Revenue Fund for the following fiscal years:

2016-2017	\$ 691,813.00
2015-2016	\$ 706,575.00
2014-2015	\$ 720,725.26
2013-2014	\$ 757,879.32
2012-2013	\$ 755,507.00

## Informal advice

Public servants may seek informal advice from the Ethics Commission staff by contacting the Commission or by sending an email to [ethics@wv.gov](mailto:ethics@wv.gov). If staff is unable to answer a question based upon the language in the statute at issue (the Ethics Act, the Open Meetings Act or other statutes which the Commission has jurisdiction to interpret), a Commission Guideline or an Advisory Opinion, a new Advisory Opinion may be requested.

Following is a summary of the number of requests for informal written advice received by the Commission during the past five years:

<b>Fiscal year</b>	<b>Written informal advice</b>
2015-2016	512
2014-2015	448
2013-2014	542
2012-2013	507
2011-2012	453

## Formal Opinions/Exemptions

The Ethics Commission issues formal Advisory Opinions which respond to questions relating to the application of the Ethics Act. It also issues Opinions regarding W. Va. Code § 61-10-15 (relating to county employees' interests in contracts) and regarding W. Va. Code § 18-5-1a (to county board of education members, members-elect and candidates for election to board regarding whether they may hold certain other positions and serve on a county board).

In addition, two of the Commission's Committees are authorized to issue Advisory Opinions. The Committee on Open Governmental Meetings issues Advisory Opinions which interpret the Open Governmental Meetings Act. The Committee on Standards of Conduct for State Administrative Law Judges issues Advisory Opinions regarding the Code of Conduct for Administrative Law Judges.

Following are five-year totals of formal Opinions issued regarding the Ethics Act, the Open Governmental Meetings Act, the ALJ Code of Conduct and county school board eligibility as well as formal Contract and Employment Exemptions granted or denied by the Commission during 2016.

<b>Subject Matter</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Ethics	50	64	29	24	15
Open Meetings	5	4	6	3	3
ALJ Code of Conduct	2	0	0	0	0
Contract Exemptions	6	8	4	3	5
Employment Exemptions	24	24	22	18	47
Property Exemptions	1	0	0	0	0
School Board	0	0	4	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>70</b>

### **Ethics Act Advisory Opinions**

#### **AO 2016-01 City**

A City requires no approval from the Ethics Commission in the absence of the City Engineer participating in the types of decisions contemplated by 7 CSR 1-12.4(g).

#### **AO 2016-02 Former Legislative Research Analyst**

A former Legislative Research Analyst may register as a lobbyist after the termination of his employment without being subject to the one-year post-employment waiting period.

#### **AO 2016-03 Municipal Board Member**

A Municipal Board Member may vote on whether to grant a variance to a real estate developer who may receive a letter of support or favorable public comment from a non-profit organization on whose board he also serves.

#### **AO 2016-04 City**

A city may continue to employ its mayor as city administrator. The city may not show favoritism or give special treatment in making employment or personnel decisions affecting the mayor in his capacity as city administrator. The mayor must recuse himself from the vote and deliberation on personnel matters which directly affect him.

The Ethics Commission overrules AO 2006-05 and AO 2012-04, in part.

#### **AO 2016-06 County Public Service District**

A contract exemption is not required when board members' pecuniary interests are de minimis.

#### **AO 2016-07 State Board Member**

A State Board Member may testify as an expert witness in a civil action against a defendant that has previously appeared before the State Board when the testimony would not be based upon test results or other information gained from the Board Member's public position. The Board Member may not improperly use his position on the Board for his personal benefit, a plaintiff's benefit or to the detriment of a defendant who may appear before the Board as this would result in improper private gain. The

Board Member is prohibited from knowingly and improperly disclosing any confidential information acquired in the course of his official duties and from using such information to further his personal interests or the interests of another person.

**AO 2016-08 County Commission**

W. Va. Code § 61-10-15 prohibits a county commission from leasing office space in a county building to an appointed assistant prosecuting attorney.

**AO 2016-09 State Agency Manager**

State agencies may use public funds, within reason, to purchase kitchen appliances such as water coolers, including water for the coolers, coffee makers, microwave ovens, toaster ovens and refrigerators for use by state employees at work because the individual private gain to employees is counterbalanced by an overriding public benefit to state agencies.

**AO 2016-10 County Clerk**

A County Clerk may authorize private organizations to use her name and public job title when recognizing her for personal donations she makes to charitable events. Public officials/employees may not use public job titles if employed by a charitable organization on whose behalf they are soliciting. Public officials/employees may not solicit gifts for a charitable purpose if there is a direct pecuniary benefit to an immediate family member.

**AO 2016-11 State Legislator**

A State Legislator may purchase business cards with private funds that replicate his State-issued business card on one side and display his campaign information on the other provided that both sides of the business cards state that they are paid for by the Legislator.

The Opinion cautions that the Ethics Act prohibits any use of state resources, including the Legislator's state telephone and email address, in furtherance of his personal re-election campaign.

**AO 2016-12 County Prosecutor**

A County Prosecutor does not have a prohibited financial or pecuniary interest in his mother-in-law's building's sales agreement; therefore, the purchase of the building by the County Commission is permissible under W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(d) and W. Va. Code § 61-10-15.

**AO 2016-13 City Council Member**

A City Council member who is also a member of a neighborhood association and in a class of five or more similarly situated homeowners may vote on whether the city approves the development of a hilltop.

**AO 2016-14 Municipal Fire Department**

A Municipal Fire Department may purchase coffee with public funds for its guests in its main lobby as long as purchasing coffee is an authorized expenditure under the

relevant state laws, rules and opinions. Fire Department's expenditure of funds for coffee for its employees is de minimis. Ethics Commission did not determine whether purchasing coffee for public employees in general is permissible.

### **AO 2016-16 State Agency**

A State Agency may produce and sell calendars because the calendars fall within the usual and customary duties of the State Agency to provide information and education to the public. The State Agency may donate a de minimis amount of proceeds from the calendars to a memorial fund that aids in providing plaques and maintenance to the West Virginia Fallen Firefighter Memorial. The agency may solicit donations on behalf of the memorial fund because providing plaques and maintenance to the West Virginia Fallen Firefighter Memorial constitutes a charitable purpose. The agency may not solicit donations to underwrite its duty to provide public education and information. This Opinion is based upon the specific facts of this request and may not be relied upon in other situations.

### **AO 2016-18 Prosecutor-elect**

The Prosecutor-elect, upon becoming Prosecutor, may not consider hiring the outgoing former Prosecutor to serve as a special prosecutor in a position funded by a grant the former Prosecutor assisted the county and a local nonprofit organization in obtaining.

## **Open Meetings Act Advisory Opinions**

The Commission's Committee on Open Governmental Meetings issues written Advisory Opinions to governing bodies, or to its members, on whether an action or a proposed action violates the Open Meetings Act. The Commission issued three Open Meetings Act Advisory Opinions in 2016.

### **OMAO 2016-01 City Manager for the City of Morgantown**

- Half-day holidays may be included for purposes of calculating business days under the Open Meetings Act.
- The posting deadline for a half-day holiday is the close of business on that day.
- In calculating time for purposes of complying with the Open Meetings Act notice requirements, governing bodies must calculate time periods in days, not by 24-hour periods. In counting days, the day of the meeting as well as Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays are excluded. The posting deadline is by close of business.

### **OMAO 2016-02 Pocahontas County Commission**

Proposed policy and procedures should be revised to exclude the day of the meeting from the regular and special meeting notice period calculation. Proposed policy and procedures should also be revised to state that a governing body shall post an emergency meeting as soon as practicable prior to the meeting and that an emergency meeting agenda shall include the facts and circumstances of the emergency. Once these revisions have been made, the proposed policy and procedures satisfy the minimal requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

### **OMAO 2019-03 Pocahontas County Commission**

The Pocahontas County Commission's revised policy for the issuance of meeting agendas for all regular, special and emergency meetings is consistent with the provisions of the Open Governmental Proceedings Act.

### **School Board Advisory Opinions**

The Ethics Commission is authorized to issue written Advisory Opinions to county Board of Education members, members-elect and candidates for election to the board as to whether they may hold certain other positions and also serve on a county board under W. Va. Code § 18-5-1a. The Commission issued no School Board Advisory Opinions in 2016.

### **Contract Exemptions**

The Ethics Act prohibits elected public officials and full-time public employees from having a financial interest in certain contracts, purchases or sales over which their public position gives them control. The Commission has authority to grant a governmental entity an exemption from the Act's contract provisions.

The Commission granted Contract Exemptions during 2016 in the following matters:

#### **CE 2016-01 City of Cameron**

Granted an exemption to allow the City of Cameron to make incidental purchases from Cameron Hardware, which is owned by its Mayor, in an amount not to exceed \$2,500 in a calendar year.

#### **CE 2016-02 Wyoming County Health Department**

Granted an exemption authorizing the Department to continue contracting with Family Healthcare Associates, Inc. for a contract period not to exceed two years. The Board of Health's Chairperson and its Health Officer may not be involved in decisions affecting the contract.

#### **CE 2016-03 City of Belington**

Not required to seek an exemption where neither the City nor the Mayor exercises authority and control over tow requests made pursuant to the County Emergency Communications Standard Operating Procedures Manual. The City is also not required to seek an exemption when it does not spend more than \$1,000 annually at the Mayor's wrecker service.



**CE 2016-04 Town of Rowlesburg**

Granted an exemption allowing its Mayor to make an unsecured, interest-free loan to the Town to pay an outstanding bill for required updates to the Town's sewer and storm water system.

**CE 2016-05 Sheriff of Hardy County**

Granted an exemption authorizing Sheriff to purchase two emergency lighting equipment units from a Deputy for cruisers. Deputy's business may not be paid to service the units. CE was necessary as the Deputy exercised influence and control over decisions regarding the purchase of lighting units. There is insufficient information to consider Sheriff's request for an exemption to make purchases from other businesses owned by Deputy.

**Property Exemptions**

A full-time public official or full-time public employee who would be adversely affected by the Ethics Act's prohibitions against purchasing, selling or leasing real or personal property to certain persons or entities may apply to the Ethics Commission for an exemption from the prohibition. The Commission issued no Property Exemptions in 2016.

**Employment Exemptions granted**

The Ethics Act prohibits full-time public servants from seeking or accepting employment from persons or businesses that they or their subordinates regulate, or from seeking or accepting employment from vendors if the public servant, or his or her subordinates, exercise authority or control over a public contract with that vendor.

Public servants may request an exemption from the Ethics Commission to seek employment with vendors or regulated persons with whom they or a subordinate exercise control at present or in the prior 12 months.

The following Employment Exemptions were granted during 2016:

- EE 2016-01** Michael D. Riley, Insurance Commissioner, Offices of the Insurance Commissioner
- EE 2016-02** Emily E. McCoy, Director of the Medicaid Management Information System, DHHR
- EE 2016-03** Chuck Joseph, Environmental Inspector, WV DEP Office of Environmental Enforcement
- EE 2016-04** Karen Villanueva-Matkovich, General Counsel, Department of Health and Human Resources
- EE 2016-05** Andrew R. Pauley, Esq., CPCU General Counsel, Office of the Insurance Commission

**EE 2016-06** Ronald G. Smith, Deputy State Highway Engineer, Division of Highways  
**EE 2016-07** Mark A. Imbrogno, Esq., Deputy General Counsel, Office of the Governor  
**EE 2016-08** Brittany Leah Vascik, Esq., Deputy General Counsel, Office of the Governor  
**EE 2016-09** Lawrence J. Malone, Director of Policy, Office of the Governor  
**EE 2016-10** Charles O. Lorensen, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor  
**EE 2016-11** Robert Queen, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of the Governor  
**EE 2016-12** Joshua L. Jarrell, Deputy Secretary & General Counsel, Department of Commerce  
**EE 2016-13** Trina Crowder, Director, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, WVDHHR Office of Inspector General  
**EE 2016-14** Henry Haslebacher, Administrative Law Judge, Workers' Compensation Office of Judges  
**EE 2016-15** Mark A. Hooker, Chief Market Conduct Examiner, Offices of the Insurance Commissioner  
**EE 2016-16** Jamie Taylor, Chief Financial Analyst, Offices of the Insurance Commissioner  
**EE 2016-17** Sherrie L. Stone, Director of Advance and Scheduling, Office of the Governor  
**EE 2016-18** Joseph D. Garcia, Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor  
**EE 2016-19** Randy C. Huffman, Cabinet Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection  
**EE 2016-20** Chris Stadelman, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor  
**EE 2016-21** Beth Nogay Carenbauer, Acting Deputy Executive Director, Workforce West Virginia  
**EE 2016-22** Carolyn L. Stuart, Ph.D., Executive Director of HHOMA, Office of the Governor  
**EE 2016-23** Jacqueline A. Proctor, Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Senior Services, Office of the Governor  
**EE 2016-24** Joseph C. Thornton, Cabinet Secretary, Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety  
**EE 2016-25** Peter G. Markham, General Counsel & Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor  
**EE 2016-26** Kay Goodwin, Cabinet Secretary, Department of Education and the Arts  
**EE 2016-27** Martha B. McKee, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Department of Education and the Arts  
**EE 2016-28** Karen L. Bowling, Cabinet Secretary, Department of Health and Human Resources  
**EE 2016-29** Mark W. Matkovich, Tax Commissioner, State of West Virginia  
**EE 2016-30** Robert W. Wilson, Environmental Resources Analyst, DEP, Division of Mining and Reclamation  
**EE 2018-31** Robert E. Roswall, Commissioner, WV Bureau of Senior Services  
**EE-2016-32** John F. Herholdt, Jr., Department of Commerce, Division of Energy  
**EE-2016-33** Robert S. Kiss, Cabinet Secretary, Department of Revenue  
**EE-2016-34** Dixie M. Billheimer, CEO, Center for Professional Development

- EE-2016-35** Jennelle H. Jones, Deputy General Counsel, Department of Administration
- EE 2016-36** Jeremiah Samples, Deputy Secretary, DHHR
- EE 2016-37** Seth S. Gaskins, Chief Counsel to the Committee on Energy, House of Delegates
- EE 2016-38** J. Keith Burdette, Cabinet Secretary, Department of Commerce
- EE 2016-39** Harry O. Yates, Jr., Attorney 11/Disclosure Officer, Tax Department
- EE 2016-40** E. Ashley Summitt, General Counsel, Secretary of State's Office
- EE 2016-41** Loarie H. Butcher, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Tourism
- EE 2016-42** Sheryl Webb, Deputy Secretary, Secretary of State's Office
- EE 2016-43** Chris Ferro, Chief of Staff, Department of Agriculture
- EE 2016-44** Natalie E. Tennant, Secretary of State
- EE 2016-45** David Nichols, Legal Assistant/Legislative Liaison, Secretary of State's Office
- EE 2016-46** Paul A. Mattox, Jr., Cabinet Secretary, Department of Transportation
- EE 2016-47** John Doyle, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Department of Revenue

## Enforcement

The Ethics Commission enforces the West Virginia Ethics Act through an administrative Complaint process. Anyone may file a Complaint, and the Commission itself may initiate Complaints against a person subject to the Ethics Act.

All Complaints are considered by the three-member Probable Cause Review Board, which initially determines whether the allegations in the Complaint, if taken as true, state a material violation of the Ethics Act. Complaints which do state a material violation of the Act are investigated, and those that do not are dismissed.

Complaints which allege trivial or inconsequential violations or were filed outside of the statute of limitations are dismissed.

Public hearings are held in matters in which probable cause to believe that a violation of the Act has occurred. However, persons against whom Complaints are filed may enter into a settlement of the allegations through a Conciliation Agreement with the Commission.

Persons found to have violated the Ethics Act may be publicly reprimanded, fined up to \$5,000 per violation, ordered to pay restitution and/or ordered to reimburse the Commission for its costs of investigation and prosecution. The Commission also may recommend that the person be removed from office or that his or her employment be terminated.

## Complaints

Calendar Year	Total Filed	Initiated by Commission (of Total Filed)	Dismissed without investigation	Investigated	Dismissed After Investigation (no probable cause found)	Resolved via Conciliation Agreement
2016	108	0	58	49	54	7
2015	153	0	100	49	59	17
2014	143	14	68	68	64	7
2013	127	3	90	32	33	9
2012	120	2	47**	73**	9**	18**

\*Note that Complaints may not have been resolved in the year in which they were filed.

\*\*Includes Conciliation Agreements for Complaints filed in preceding year(s).

### Public Hearing Results in 2016

No public hearings regarding complaints were held during 2016.

### Conciliation Agreements Approved in 2016

**VCRB 2015-090: John P. Aman, Former General Manager of Central West Virginia Transit Authority**

Aman violated the Ethics Act by having a prohibited interest in the profits of a contract over which he had control and by directing a subordinate to make a trolley car available to a County Commissioner when it was already booked and not to charge the Commissioner the standard rate.

W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(1) prohibits the use of public office for private gain. W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(d)(1) prohibits public officials from having an interest in the profits of a contract which the official may have direct authority or control over.

On August 4, 2016, the Ethics Commission entered an Order approving a Conciliation Agreement in which Aman was issued a public reprimand and agreed to pay a fine of \$500.

**VCRB 2015-148: Michael D. Blair, President, Wetzel County Board of Education**

Blair voted in favor of approving nine items listed on the Wetzel County Board of Education agenda under Personnel Matters, which included the selection of his sister for the position of Beginning Principal Mentor for Valley High School.

W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(1) prohibits the use of public office for his/her private gain or that of another person. W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-3 prohibits nepotism, showing favoritism by a public official to relatives.

On March 14, 2016, the Ethics Commission entered an Order approving a Conciliation Agreement in which Blair was fined \$250 and agreed to complete training on the Ethics Act.

**VCRB 2015-089: Bernard L. Fazzini, Former Secretary of the Central West Virginia Transit Authority Board of Directors**

Fazzini used his public position to facilitate a contract prohibited by the Ethics Act and personal gain to a public official and the public official's wife. Fazzini also admitted to using his public position to allow use of a trolley car when it had already been booked and at less than the standard rate.

W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(1) prohibits the use of public office for private gain. W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(d)(1) prohibits public officials from having an interest in the profits of a contract which the official may have direct authority or control over.

On August 4, 2016, the Ethics Commission entered an Order approving a Conciliation Agreement in which Fazzini was issued a public reprimand and agreed to pay a fine of \$500.

**VCRB 2015-123: Joseph S. Gollie, Former Vice President, Board of Directors, Boone County Ambulance Authority**

Gollie violated the Ethics Act by using his public position for the private financial gain of the Executive Director of the Boone County Ambulance Authority, who was loaned \$103,000, interest free, to allow the Executive Director to participate in a retirement plan.

W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(1) prohibits the use of public office for the private gain of another person.

On February 4, 2016, Gollie was publicly reprimanded, fined \$1,000 and ordered to take training on the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act.

**VCRB 2015-122: Harold D. Green, Former President, Board of Directors, Boone County Ambulance Authority**

Green violated the Ethics Act by using his public position for the private financial gain of the Executive Director of the Boone County Ambulance Authority, who was loaned \$103,000, interest free, to allow the Executive Director to participate in a retirement plan.

W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(1) prohibits the use of public office for the private gain of another person.

On February 4, 2016, Green was publicly reprimanded, fined \$1,000 and ordered to take training on the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act.

**VCRB 2015-109: Randy W. Lengyel, Executive Director, Boone County Ambulance Authority**

Lengyel requested and accepted an interest free loan of \$103,000 from the Boone County Ambulance Authority to participate in a retirement plan.

W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(1) prohibits the use of public office for the private gain of another person.

On January 7, 2016, Lengyel was publicly reprimanded, fined \$5,000 and ordered to take training on the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act.

**CIC 2013-01: Danny Milam, Former Recorder, Town of Rainelle**

Milam used his private company to do work for the Town without any competitive bidding, placed his private employees on the Town's payroll, and was involved in the Town Council discussion of hiring his private construction company.

W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(1) prohibits the use of public office for the private gain of another person. W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(d) prohibits elected officials from having a financial interest in a public contract. Legislative Rule § 158-6-3 prohibits nepotism.

On April 7, 2016, Milam was publicly reprimanded, fined \$1,000 and ordered to take training on the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act.

## Lobbyists

The Ethics Commission conducts the registration of lobbyists in West Virginia. It also processes and enforces lobbyists' reporting of their lobbying activities and expenditures. The Commission also retains a Certified Public Accountant to conduct annual audits of randomly selected lobbyists' activity reports.

### Lobbyist registrations by calendar year:

2016 – 406  
2015 – 409  
2014 – 370  
2013 – 331  
2012 – 332

### **Lobbyist spending by calendar year:**

2016 – \$525,846.50  
2015 – \$523,642.66  
2014 – \$405,532.55  
2013 – \$403,312.40  
2012 – \$566,785.00

## **Financial Disclosure Statements**

The Ethics Act requires certain public officials and candidates to file Financial Disclosure Statements with the Commission. All Disclosures are available for public inspection and copying. Disclosures filed by members of the Legislature, elected members of the executive department, justices on the Supreme Court of Appeals and candidates for these positions are placed on the Commission’s website.

Following are the numbers of Disclosures processed during the prior five calendar years:

2016 – 3,512  
2015 – 2,388  
2014 – 2,784  
2013 – 2,609  
2012 – 3,614

## **Training – Public Servants and Lobbyists**

The Ethics Commission staff provides training on the Ethics Act and the Open Governmental Meetings Act to lobbyists and to large groups of public officials and employees. In addition to “live” training sessions, the Commission provides videos of training on the Ethics Act, the Open Governmental Meetings Act, and lobbyist provisions on its website.

The Commission trained 1,623 public employees and lobbyists in 2016.

*Report issued 7/31/2020*