



E-News from State and Federal Communications, Inc.

March 2017

## Professional Development 2017

I cannot express how busy this year is with the new federal administration, new state governors and legislators, and it is hard to keep up with the number of new municipal officials. I keep track of a lot of road warriors on Facebook and Twitter and know how difficult it is to do the next right thing on your huge TO DO list.

Let's not forget we need to take the time for our own learning—for us to be the best we can be at our organization.

Two of my favorite conferences are around the corner.

- 1. Public Affairs Council National PAC Conference** begins Monday in Miami Beach. This conference has for decades provided the tools needed to increase your PAC contributions and stay in compliance with all the reports due for those contributions. More info at [www.pac.org](http://www.pac.org).
- 2. State Government Affairs Council** will host its annual National Summit March 29th to March 31st in New Orleans. I am moderating a session on lobbying where we will discuss specific gifts which can be prohibited in the states. The panel will include Carol Laham from Wiley Rein and Mike Thompson from Personal Care Fragrance Association. More info at [www.sgac.org](http://www.sgac.org).

There are other meetings throughout the year. We list the events we are attending on the left side of the email of Compliance Now, within Compliance Now, as well as on our website. I have always believed in professional development and many of you who see us out and about know this as I travel with an entourage of staff who also attend events for their professional development.

If you ever have any questions about conferences we are attending, do not hesitate to reach out. We will share any information you need so you can join us.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Z. Bartz, President and CEO

[@elizabethbartz](https://twitter.com/elizabethbartz)



# Summary of Changes UPDATE

Note Recent Changes to Compliance Regulations

by Michael Beckett, Esq., Research Manager

Update

**ALBERTA, CANADA:** The Legislative Assembly passed Bill 35, the Fair Elections Financing Act. The bill made several sweeping campaign finance changes affecting the Elections Finance and Contribution Disclosure Act, the Election Act, and the Legislative Assembly Act. Residents of Alberta are now limited to making political contributions of up to \$4,000 per calendar year, in the aggregate, to political parties, constituency associations, nominated candidates, candidates seeking nomination, and party leadership contestants. Third party political advertisers are now required to file quarterly contribution reports. Additionally, the chief electoral officer may serve an administrative penalty requiring payment to the Crown if he or she believes a person, political party, constituency association, or third party fails to comply with a direction of the chief electoral officer.

**FEDERAL:** The Federal Election Commission (FEC) published the 2017-2018 election cycle contribution limits, which have been indexed for inflation. As required by the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002, the FEC must adjust certain contribution limits every two years. The individual and non-multicandidate PAC contribution limit to federal candidates will remain at \$2,700 for both primary and general elections, allowing for a total of \$5,400 for a federal candidate. The limits on contributions by individuals to national party committees have increased from \$33,400 to \$33,900 per calendar year. Individuals may now contribute \$101,700 per calendar year to committees of a national political party for presidential nominating conventions; to committees of a national political party for preparation for and the conduct of election recounts and contests and other legal proceedings; and to committees of a national political party for the construction, purchase, renovation, operation, and furnishing of one or more buildings for party headquarters. The new limits are effective retroactively to January 1, 2017.

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed House Bill 1069 into law. The passage of this bill repeals Initiated Measure 22, which was the voter approved ethics and campaign finance overhaul that established various lobbying and campaign finance restrictions. Initiated Measure 22 was not in effect since it was enjoined by a circuit court on December 8, 2016.

**TENNESSEE:** The Registry of Election Finance recently published updated contribution limits for 2017 and 2018 elections. The changes, mandated by state statute, are based on the changes in the consumer price index. Individuals may now contribute \$4,000 per election to statewide candidates. The limit for individuals contributing to local, state legislative, or other state candidates remains unchanged. PACs may contribute \$7,800 per election to local candidates and to candidates for state House, criminal court judge, circuit court judge, chancellor, probate court judge, district attorney general, or public defender. They may contribute \$11,800 per election to statewide candidates and to candidates for state Senate. The aggregate PAC limit for all non-statewide elections was increased to \$118,100. Primary and general elections are considered separate elections for the purpose of campaign contribution limits.

**VERMONT:** The state has increased contribution limits to candidates, PACs, and political parties. By statute, contribution limits are re-evaluated and adjusted based on the consumer price index. A 2.1 percent increase was implemented allowing statewide candidates and PACs to receive \$4,080 per election cycle; state senator candidates to receive \$1,530; and state representative candidates to receive \$1,020. Each limit applies to contributions from a single source or PAC. This change is effective for two years. Thereafter, increases will apply for the term of two two-year general election cycles.



## Legislation We Are Tracking

At any given time, more than 1,000 legislative bills, which can affect how you do business as a government affairs professional, are being discussed in federal, state, and local jurisdictions. These bills are summarized in State and Federal Communications' digital encyclopedias for lobbying laws, political contributions, and procurement lobbying and can be found in the client portion of our website.

Summaries of major bills are also included in monthly email updates sent to all clients. The chart below shows the number of bills we are tracking in regard to lobbying laws, political contributions, and procurement lobbying.

	Total bills	Number of Jurisdictions	Passed	Died	Carried over to 2018
Lobbying Laws	141	30	4	0	0
Political Contributions	207	37	1	0	0
Procurement Lobbying	200	33	4	0	0

# Denver Amends Lobbyist Registration and Reporting Requirement

Katlin Newman JD  
Research Associate

You  
Should Know



Denver City Council has passed an ordinance amending the city's lobbying rules. Council Bill No. CB16-0920 narrows the definition of lobbying and makes changes to registration and reporting requirements. The ordinance, signed by the mayor on January 4, is retroactively effective beginning January 1, 2017.

The new definition of lobbying provides for an additional exception to registration requirements. Persons not otherwise required to register as lobbyists are not required to register if limiting their activity to giving testimony or providing information to council, at public hearings, or at the request of public officials or employees. The exception applies provided the persons clearly identify themselves and the entity for whom they are testifying or providing the information. For those required to register, a lobbyist registration renewal will no longer be required on the registrant's anniversary date. Rather, every lobbyist will be required to renew his or her registration annually by January 15.

The ordinance also replaced a monthly reporting requirement with a bimonthly requirement. Reports are due on the 15th day of each even-numbered month, covering the 60 days prior to the bimonthly report deadline. Such reports must include an itemized list and the estimated value of all gifts, entertainment, and direct or indirect expenditures to, on behalf of, or benefitting a covered official for lobbying purposes.

Denver lobbyists should also expect one additional reporting requirement. Although there is no mention of it in the city code or in the revised lobbying ordinance, the city clerk and recorder will require an annual report to be filed beginning with the 2017 calendar year. The first annual report will be due January 15, 2018. An annual report form is expected to be available closer to the 2018 due date.

*[The details for this article can be found on our website under the Lobbying Compliance Laws and Procurement Lobbying Compliance Laws for Denver, Colorado.]*



## Jurisdiction Added to our Website

The number of municipalities and regional governments our research associates track continues to grow. We now cover almost 300 municipalities and local governments. This is part of a continuous effort to better serve the needs of our clients.

In that effort, we have added abridged jurisdictions to our website. These entries, condensed due to the limited number of relevant local laws, provide the core information our clients need for their government relations work.

The new jurisdiction is:

**Will County, Illinois**

Could your corporate PAC contributions cancel your government contracts?  
We know!

**LET US HELP YOU!**

Check out our website:  
[www.stateandfed.com](http://www.stateandfed.com)

Contact us by email at  
[marketing@stateandfed.com](mailto:marketing@stateandfed.com)  
or call us at 330-761-9960.

Many jurisdictions have pay-to-play laws affecting both your contracts and corporate contributions. If you have a corporate PAC and are involved in government procurement, you need

**Procurement Lobbying Compliance Laws**  
for Government Relations Professionals.™

This is one of our four online publications that will help you stay compliant.

State and Federal Communications, Inc.  
80 S. Summit Street, #100, Akron, Ohio 44308  
330-761-9960

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## ASK THE EXPERTS

### State and Federal Communications' Experts Answer Your Questions -

Here is your chance to "Ask the Experts" at State and Federal Communications, Inc. Send your questions to [experts@stateandfed.com](mailto:experts@stateandfed.com). (Of course, we have always been available to answer questions from clients that are specific to your needs, and we encourage you to continue to call or email us with questions about your particular company or organization. As always, we will confidentially and directly provide answers or information you need.) Our replies are not legal advice, just our analysis of laws, rules, and regulations.

Q

***My company is in the process of retaining a lobbying firm in New York City. Are there any steps I must take to ensure the firm is properly registered on our behalf?***

A

New York City has some unique requirements when it comes to client filings. Your company must select a designated person, called a principal officer, to certify and submit all filings on its behalf. There is a two-step process for the initial registration of lobbyists and employers. The first step is enrollment in New York City's e-Lobbyist system, as electronic filing is mandatory. Enrollment must be completed by both the lobbyist and the client before a lobbyist may file a statement of registration. To begin the process, the principal officer must obtain her login information for the e-Lobbyist system and submit an enrollment for the company.

Following this electronic submission, the principal officer must send proof of corporate filing, together with an e-mail confirmation of enrollment, to the city clerk within 10 days after the initial enrollment. The proof of corporate filing is used to verify the entity's legal name. Proof of corporate filing may include a print-out from the appropriate department of state website, such as the New York State Department of State, or a corporate document such as your Articles of Incorporation. The entity name listed on the enrollment must match the name in the proof of a corporate filing. Once your enrollment has been accepted by the City Clerk's Office, the second step consists of your lobbying firm submitting its statement of registration. The firm will be required to provide proof that it is authorized to lobby on your behalf, which can be in the form of an authorization letter.

A principal officer may designate up to two designees in e-Lobbyist, who may enter information into reports, communicate with the City Clerk's Office, and submit extension requests. A designee must not certify reports or have access to the principal officer's e-Lobbyist password. As a client in New York City, you will be required to submit reports on an annual basis by January 15, covering the previous year's activity. Work with your firm closely to obtain the necessary information for this filing.

***James Warner, Esq., Sr. Compliance Associate***

*[The information from this response can easily be found on our website in the "Registration" section of the New York City entry. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions.]*



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# Scrapbook

## State and Federal Communications, Inc.



Elizabeth Z. Bartz is always proud to share her connection to two important people; her father, James Bartz and her friend and fellow Ohioan, Senator Sherrod Brown.



At the WGR Governors Reception held at The National Press Club, Elizabeth Z. Bartz caught up with Katrina Iserman, Sunovion and Fred Zeytoonjian, Apple.

# Scrapbook

## State and Federal Communications, Inc. Celebrates Employee Anniversaries



Ren Koozer, Executive Director,  
celebrating 19 years of service.



Sarah Gray, Compliance Assistant Coordinator,  
celebrating 8 years of service.



Renae Bomba, Esq., Research Associate,  
celebrating her first year.



Ken Kelewae, I.T. Assistant,  
reached his 8 year mark.

Each month at our staff meeting, Elizabeth acknowledges the employment anniversaries of our staff.  
In January and February we acknowledged four team members.  
These employees are essential members of the staff. Congratulations to you all.

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## See Us in Person

Plan to say hello at future events where **State and Federal Communications, Inc.** will be attending and/or speaking regarding compliance issues.

### Events

<b>March 1, 2017</b>	<b>Ohio Birthday Party</b> , Washington, DC
<b>March 1, 2017</b>	<b>Money in Politics, Polarization, and a Way Forward with Former FEC Commissioner Ann Ravel</b> , Washington, DC
<b>March 2, 2017</b>	<b>AEI: The vital role of government statistics: Strengthening research, governance, and innovation</b> , Washington, DC
<b>March 3, 2017</b>	<b>POLITICO's Playbook Interview with Nancy Pelosi</b> , Washington, DC
<b>March 6 - 9, 2017</b>	<b>PAC National PAC Conference</b> , Miami Beach, Florida
<b>March 7, 2017</b>	<b>NCSL Foundation Lunch</b> , Washington, DC
<b>March 7, 2017</b>	<b>Women in Government Relations Leadership Program Session #3</b> , Washington, DC
<b>March 9, 2017</b>	<b>Montgomery County Council - African Affairs Advisory Group Meeting</b> , Silver Spring, Maryland
<b>March 12 - 14, 2017</b>	<b>NASPO Exchange - How to Market to State Governments</b> , St. Louis, Missouri
<b>March 14, 2017</b>	<b>WGR Toastmasters</b> , Washington, DC
<b>March 23, 2017</b>	<b>NCSL Foundation and SGAC Annual Roundtable</b> , Washington, DC
<b>March 23 - 25, 2017</b>	<b>American Copy Editors Society National Conference</b> , St. Petersburg, Florida
<b>March 28, 2017</b>	<b>WGR Toastmasters</b> , Washington, DC
<b>March 29-31, 2017</b>	<b>SGAC National Summit</b> , New Orleans, Louisiana



## W E B S I T E T I P



Every month subscribers to the State and Federal Communications website receive the Summary of Changes, which is a list of all the changes and additions made to the website in the course of the prior month. In all publications, a year's worth of Summary of Changes can be accessed by clicking on the "Summary of Changes" link on the left-hand side of the entry's website page. Below the link is a convenient chart entitled "Year End Summary," which reviews the highlights and major changes of 2016.