



City of Bowie Ethics Commission
15901 Fred Robinson Way, Bowie, MD 20716
P: 301-809-3075
F: 301-809-2302
www.cityofbowie.org/ethics

ARE YOU A LOBBYIST? YOU MIGHT BE.

Under the Bowie Public Ethics Ordinance members of the public who engage in certain activities may be defined as “lobbyists”. If an individual satisfies the requirements for being a lobbyist, the Ethics Ordinance requires that the individual file a Lobbying Registration Form, and periodically file certain reports, with the Bowie Ethics Commission.

Lobbying is defined in the Ethics Ordinance as:

1. Communicating in the presence of a City official or employee with the intent to influence any official action of that official or employee; or
2. Soliciting others to communicate with a City official or employee with the intent to influence that official or employee.

Registration as a lobbyist is required if a person who engages in lobbying:

1. Spends, exclusive of personal travel and subsistence expenses, a minimum of \$200 during the calendar year in furtherance of lobbying activities; or
2. Receives compensation in excess of \$100 in connection with lobbying activities during the calendar year.

In an effort to assist you in determining whether you are subject to filing a Lobbyist Registration Form, the Bowie Ethics Commission has prepared a document entitled “General Information About Lobbying”. This document is posted on the Ethics Commission’s web page at the City of Bowie website. Please read this information carefully since there are exemptions to the registration requirements even when the above conditions are met.

The State of Maryland requires most counties, cities and towns to include lobbying provisions in their local ethics ordinances and mandates the enforcement of the lobbying requirements. The City of Bowie includes the lobbying requirements in the City Ethics Ordinance to comply with the State mandate.

If you have any questions about lobbying, please contact Daniel Mears, Assistant City Manager and Liaison to the Bowie Ethics Commission, at 301-809-3075 or at dmears@cityofbowie.org.