

## Why the Need to Register with the County if You Lobby?

Chapter 39, Article VI, Sections 39-36 through 39-40 of the Cecil County Code require all lobbyists to file a Lobbyist Registration Statement and, where applicable, a Lobbyist Gift Disclosure Report, with the Cecil County Ethics Commission on or before the latter of January 31<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year or within five (5) days after first performing an act that requires registration in the calendar year. The Cecil County Lobbyist Registration Statement and Lobbyist Gift Disclosure Report are available at <http://www.ccgov.org/government/boards-and-commissions/ethics-commission>.

A "lobbyist" is a person who appears before a County official or employee with the intent to influence that person in the performance of the official duties of the official or employee and, in connection with the intent to influence, expends or reasonably expects to expend in a given calendar year in excess of \$100 on food, entertainment or other gifts for officials or employees of Cecil County, Maryland. Lobbyists must register by completing the Lobbyist Registration Statement (Form L-1) and, when applicable, the Lobbyist Gift Disclosure Report (Form L-2). A County "official" is an elected official or a person appointed to any County agency, board, commission, or similar entity, whether or not paid in whole or in part with County funds, and whether or not compensated. The term "elected official" does not include the Sheriff, State's Attorney, Register of Wills, or the Clerk of the Court.

The County recognizes that our system of representative government is dependent in part upon the people maintaining the highest trust in their public officials and employees, and that our citizens have a right to be assured that the impartiality and independent judgment of public officials and employees will be maintained. This confidence and trust is eroded when the conduct of the County's business is subject to improper influence and even the appearance of improper influence. Accordingly, for the purpose of guarding against improper influence, the County has enacted the Public Ethics Law to set minimum standards for the conduct of local government business, including the registration of people engaged in lobbying in Cecil County.

We invite you to learn more about lobbyist registration and disclosure by referring to Chapter 39, Article VI, Sections 39-36 through 39-40 of the Cecil County Code, which can be obtained by visiting <http://www.ccgov.org/government/boards-and-commissions/ethics-commission>. Completed Lobbyist Registration Statements (Form L-1) and Lobbyist Gift Disclosure Reports (Form L-2) may be filed with the Cecil County Ethics Commission, c/o Cecil County Department of Human Resources, 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Suite 2800, Elkton, Maryland 21921. For questions or comments, please contact the Cecil County Ethics Commission through the Cecil County Department of Human Resources at 410-996-5250.

Thank you for assisting us in protecting the public trust.