

Lobbyists

Lobbyist - a person who takes part in an organized attempt to influence legislators.

Lobbyists are intermediaries between client organizations and lawmakers:

On the National Level there are 535 legislators (100 Senators and 435 House of Representatives).

In 2021, the total number of unique, registered lobbyists who have actively lobbied in the United States amounted to **12,137**. This is on the Federal level.

In 2021, the total lobbying spending in the United States amounted to **\$3.7 billion**. This is an increase from the \$3.5 billion spent on lobbying in 2020

Analyst James A. Thurber estimated that the actual number of working lobbyists was close to 100,000 and that the industry brings in \$9 billion annually

Companies that spend the most in lobbying efforts.

- Business Roundtable. ... **an association of chief executive officers**
- American Medical Association. ...
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield. ...
- American Hospital Association. ...
- Pharmaceutical Research Manufacturers of America. ...
- National Association of Realtors. ...
- American Chamber of Commerce.

The activity of lobbying has been interpreted by court rulings as constitutionally protected [free speech](#) and a way to petition the government for the redress of grievances, two of the freedoms protected by the [First Amendment](#) of the [Constitution](#). Since the 1970s, lobbying activity has grown immensely in terms of the numbers of lobbyists and the size of lobbying budgets, and has become the focus of much criticism of American governance.

Political scientist [Thomas R. Dye](#) once said that [politics](#) is about battling over scarce governmental resources: who gets them, where, when, why and how.^[9] Since government makes the rules in a complex economy such as the [United States](#), it is logical that various organizations, businesses, individuals, nonprofits, trade groups, religions, charities and others—which are affected by these rules—will exert as much influence as they can to have rulings favorable to their cause.

It's my job to advance the interests of my association or client. Period. — comment by a lobbyist

Access is vital in lobbying. If you can't get in your door, you can't make your case. Here we had a hostile senator, whose staff was hostile, and we had to get in. So that's the lobbyist safe-cracker method: throw fundraisers, raise money, and become a big donor. — Lobbyist [Jack Abramoff](#) in 2011

Cash gifts payable by check can only be made to campaign committees, not to a candidate personally or to his or her staff; it is not permitted to give cash or stock.

Today around 50% of senators and 42% of representatives become lobbyists after leaving Congress.

Is lobbying a good or bad or neutral activity?

Is it wrong to try to advance your interests with legislators?

Is this any different than an individual citizen talking to her congressman?

Should lobbying be banned or reduced?

Does the average citizen get screwed?

Why does Medicare pay full price for drugs?

Citizens United decision allows Super PACs to spend unlimited amount of money.