

Recommendation Regarding Pinellas County Lobbying Ordinance

Charter Review Commission Recommendation

After reviewing Pinellas County's ordinances relating to lobbyist registration as well as the lobbyist registration form, the charter review commission makes the following recommendations for amendments:

1. That the definition of lobbying be amended to include any kind of contact, including telephone, and electronic contact. Chapter 112 definitions of "lobbyist" could provide guidance.
2. Any registration forms completed by a lobbyist and any records provided should be copied by the Clerk to each county commissioner upon filing, so that commissioners are aware of what lobbying activity is taking place in the county.
3. All lobbyist registration forms completed by a lobbyist and any records provided should be available on the county's website.
4. Debarment of lobbyists should be an available remedy for failure to comply with the ordinance.