

Exposing Current Tobacco Industry Lobbying, Contributions, Meals, and Gifts



Speakers



Doug Matheny

Programs Manager, State and Local Policy at
TSET Health Promotion Research Center
University of Oklahoma Stephenson Cancer
Center



Gabrielle Ballweg

Human Rights Policy and Communications Intern
at Action on Smoking and Health



Beth Rotman

National Director of Money in Politics &
Ethics at Common Cause

Moderator



Laurent Huber
ASH Executive Director



Global action for *everyone's* health.

“Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants”

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis. 1913 *Harper's Weekly*; “What Publicity Can Do.”

Federal Racketeering (RICO) Verdict

- In 2006, a federal court ruled that Altria, Philip Morris USA, R.J. Reynolds, and other tobacco companies had committed at least 145 violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO)
- The court found that the companies “have not ceased engaging in unlawful activity” and that they would likely continue to commit fraud “indefinitely into the future”
- After 11 years of legal appeals, the tobacco companies began publishing court-ordered corrective statements in November 2017
- The federal RICO case is still active, with tobacco companies now fighting to avoid placement of the corrective statements at retail points-of-sale



Tobacco Industry Interference (TII) in Lawmaking



Doubt & Controversy (creating & spreading disinformation)



Control at the Top (requiring corporate-level guidance & approval)



Boots on the Ground (hiring influential lobbyists & lobbying firms)



Contributions & Gifts (donating directly & indirectly)



Front Groups (building & nurturing strategic alliances)



Proactive Legislation (writing laws – e.g., preemption)

“Public opinion and media coverage are only important insofar as they affect the government – we will never be liked and what we want is to be ignored.”

Philip Morris Tobacco Company. February 4, 1992. Bates #2024705949-2024705981

Why shine a light on TII?

1. The tobacco industry aggressively promotes tobacco use, the top cause of disease and early death
2. The most effective tool for reducing tobacco use is public policy
3. The greatest barrier to enacting public policy is tobacco industry interference
4. Exposing tobacco industry interference limits its influence



tobaccomoney

February 20, 2018 · 🌐



According to Oklahoma Ethics Commission records, 13 persons have registered to lobby in Oklahoma during 2018 on behalf of tobacco companies or tobacco industry trade associations. Eight of these lobbyists are representing major U.S. cigarette companies found guilty of multiple violations of the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act. Most also lobby for a variety of other client organizations. See the updated listings here...

http://tobaccomoney.com/Tobacco_Lobbyists.html



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[Learn More](#)

"The debate on the measure turned into a showdown between Sen. Frank Simpson, R-Ardmore, the only senator to sign a pledge to refuse all contributions, meals and gifts from the tobacco industry, and Sen. Rob Johnson, who is listed as the No. 1 recipient on a website that tracks legislators receiving money from tobacco lobbyists."



NEWSOK.COM

Oklahoma committee kills anti-smoking bill

A measure killed by the Oklahoma Senate Monday would have changed state law to allow cities to pass their own smoke-free ordinances.

A sidebar in today's story. Perhaps worth noting that the three members of the General Government Committee who were most critical of the bill and who delivered almost all negative commentary during yesterday's hearing are also the top three recipients on the Committee of tobacco lobbyists' contributions and gifts.

NEWSOK.COM

At a glance: Tobacco connections

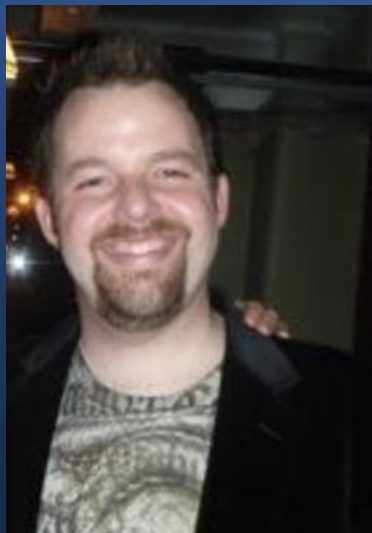
"It's a victory for the tobacco industry and tobacco lobbyists and a defeat for anyone who cares about saving lives and improving health in Oklahoma," said Alex Weintz, Governor Fallin's spokesman.



JOURNALRECORD.COM

Simpson smoking bill goes down in flames

A bill that would have allowed cities and towns to regulate the use of tobacco went down in flames during a terse Senate committee Monday morning.



THELOSTOGGLE.COM

Surprise: Lawmakers who receive \$12,000 from tobacco lobbyists like to help protect the tobacco indu

The guy pictured above with the Affliction shirt and velvet sports jacket is not some dork trying to fit in at Rok Bar or Twin Peaks on a Friday Night. It's actually State Senator Rob Johnson...

Letter to the editor in which Mr. Tim Elrod of Oklahoma City suggests that Senator Rob Johnson "should worry more about representing citizens and less about cashing checks from out-of-state tobacco companies."



NEWSOK.COM

Sen. Johnson helps tobacco companies

Since 2006, state Sen. Rob Johnson, R-Edmond, has taken campaign donations from tobacco lobbyists. Earlier this year, Johnson introduced Senate Bill 802, which would've imposed an unwarranted sin tax on the...

Letter to the editor in which Mr. Daniel Self of Tulsa observes that Senator Rob Johnson "is trying his best to show the tobacco companies his appreciation."

TULSAWORLD.COM

Letter to the Editor: At it again

Big Tobacco is up to its same old dirty tricks, and this time, it's trying to hurt small businesses in Oklahoma and keep smokers from quitting. R.J. Reynolds (of Camel ...

"There are 13 lobbyists registered in Oklahoma who represent tobacco companies; their influence at the Capitol must be impressive to have retained a statute so advantageous to cigarette makers and harmful to legislators' own constituents."

Read more: [http://journalrecord.com/.../editorial-no-smoking.../...](http://journalrecord.com/.../editorial-no-smoking.../)

THE
JOURNAL
RECORD

JOURNALRECORD.COM

Editorial: No smoking, please

Only 10 states foster smoking in public places. Oklahoma, a frequent dweller near the bottom of the healthy states lists, is one.

"Two years ago, Fallin backed a proposal to allow local governments to enact smoking rules that are more restrictive than state law. A legislative committee snuffed that idea. We suspected the influence of Big Tobacco lobbyists in that decision at the time, and still do."



TULSAWORLD.COM

Tulsa World Editorial: Smoking issue smolders

To her credit, Gov. Mary Fallin has been a stalwart advocate for improving the health of Oklahomans by fighting public smoking.

"...the pro-tobacco forces in the state, notably tobacco lobbyists and PACs, have gotten their way in the Legislature for decades, and there was no reason to believe that would change this session, given the amount of money they've been sprinkling around the Capitol over the past year. What was a little surprising was the ludicrous rationale put forth by those who are cozy with the tobacco industry..."

TULSAWORLD.COM

Big Tobacco wins again in Oklahoma | Tulsa World



tobacomoney

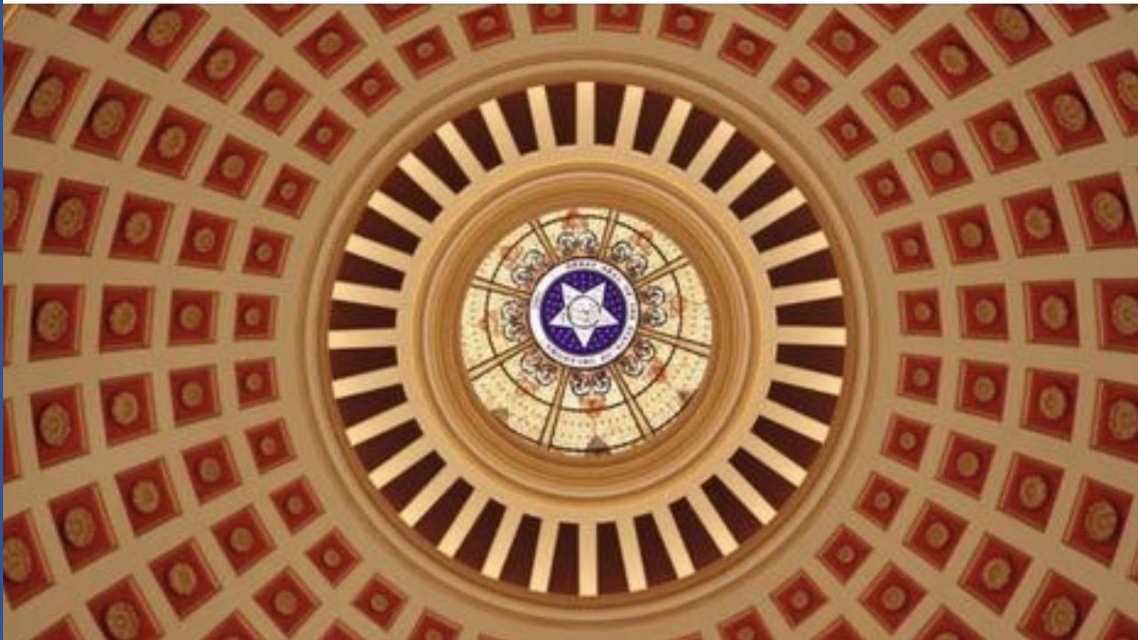
February 7, 2013 · 🌐

...

Rep. Anastasia Pittman (District 99, Oklahoma City) is the first member of the House of Representatives to pledge to refuse all campaign contributions, meals and other gifts from any tobacco company political action committee (PAC) or from any individual registered as a lobbyist for a tobacco company or tobacco trade association. Please join me in thanking Rep. Pittman for her leadership and courage!



"State Rep. Anastasia A. Pittman announced today that she is returning campaign money received from a major tobacco company and is 'respectfully' encouraging other Oklahoma lawmakers to take the same action."



Congratulations to the Oklahoma House of Representatives for adamantly rejecting the R.J. Reynolds Bill after an extensive and healthy debate. Thanks especially to Reps. Cox, Dank, Inman, McDaniel, Ownbey, Sears, and Shelton!

TULSAWORLD.COM

www.tulsaworld.com

House members voted 66-29 against House Bill 2097 by Rep. Mike Jackson, R-Enid, which among other things would have classified snus, sometimes called Swedish snuff, as a nontobacco product.

"There is no bigger lobby than the tobacco lobby," said Rep. Doug Cox, R-Grove, who introduced a measure earlier this session to increase the cigarette tax. "It's a lobby of convicted racketeers—that's a fact—and that's a scary group of folks to deal with."

<http://oklahomawatch.org/.../up-in-smoke-cigarette-tax.../>



OKLAHOMAWATCH.ORG

Up In Smoke? Cigarette Tax Faces Lobbying Headwinds

Tobacco industry lobbyists and conservative tax opponents are working to defeat a propos...

*Thanks to
Action on Smoking and Health (ASH)
for expanding tobaccomoney.com
to all 50 states!*



U.S. TOBACCO LOBBYIST AND LOBBYING FIRM REGISTRATION TRACKER

SOME STATES REPORT LOBBYIST NAMES...

Registered Lobbyists Representing the Tobacco Industry in Connecticut

REGISTERED LOBBYISTS REPRESENTING THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY										
LOBBYIST NAME	ALTRIA	REYNOLDS AMERICAN	JUUL	CIGAR ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA	SWISHER INTERNATIONAL	GENERAL CIGAR	VAPOR TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION	SWEDISH MATCH	OTHER	
									ORGANIZATION NAME	NUMBER
SEAN COLLINS	1									
DAN COMBS	1									
DALLAS DODGE	1									
MICHAEL DOYLE	1									
STEPHEN KINNEY	1									
CRAIG LEROY	1									
ANDREW NEHRING	1									
PAUL NUÑEZ	1									
NICOLE VENEZIA	1									
MICHAEL BZDYRA		1								
JOSEPH ERB		1								
MICHAEL MARTONE		1								
JAMES PAOLINO		1								
PAUL J. VANCE		1								
ALAN WEISSEN		1								
JASON WOOD		1								
NICHOLAS CARTON			1							
LIZ CONNELLY			1							
JOSH HUGHES			1							
JIM O'BRIEN				1						
RICHARD BALDUCCI					1					
JOHN DOYLE					1					
CHRISTOPHER VANDEHOEF						1		X		
LIAM SWEENEY						1		X		
ARMANDO PAOLINO									CONNECTICUT PREMIUM CIGAR RETAILERS ASSOCIATION	1
NICOLE GRIFFIN									SMOKE FREE ALTERNATIVE TRADE ASSOCIATION	1

SOME STATES REPORT LOBBYING FIRM NAMES...

Registered Lobbying Firms Representing the Tobacco Industry in New York

FIRM NAME	REGISTERED LOBBYING FIRMS REPRESENTING THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY								OTHER	
	ALTRIA	REYNOLDS AMERICAN	JUUL	CIGAR ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA	SWISHER INTERNATIONAL	GENERAL CIGAR	VAPOR TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION	SWEDISH MATCH	ORGANIZATION NAME	NUMBER
ALTRIA CLIENT SERVICES LLC AND ITS AFFILIATES	1									
JOHN J. BOLTZ CONSULTING	1									
DCI GROUP AZ, L.L.C.	1									
CONNECTIVE STRATEGIES INC.	1									
OSTROFF ASSOCIATES, INC.	1									
FEATHERSTONHAUGH, WILEY & CLYNE, LLP	1									
THE CARNELIAN GROUP LLC	1									
POTOMAC COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIES	1									
BOLTON ST. JOHN, LLC		1							TOP TOBACCO, LP	X
HARRIS, STEVEN W., LLC		1								
JEM ASSOCIATES NY, LLC		1								
CARL ANDREWS & ASSOCIATES, INC.		1								
RAI SERVICES COMPANY		1								
MULTICULTURAL HEALTHCARE MARKETING GROUP LLC		1								
M3L GLOBAL STRATEGIES GROUP LLC		1								
MCKINLEY STRATEGIES, LLC		1								
DAVIDOFF HUTCHER & CITRON, LLP				1						
ERO ADVISORS, LLC				1						
JUUL LABS, INC.				1						
CORDO & COMPANY, LLC					1					
CARSON ASSOCIATES, INC.						1				
PARK STRATEGIES, LLC								1		
BROWN & WEINRAUB, PLLC									NEW YORK TOBACCONIST ASSOCIATION, INC.	1
VAPOR ASSOCIATION, INC (NYS)									VAPOR ASSOCIATION, INC (NYS)	1

SOME STATES REPORT BOTH!

Registered Lobbyists and Lobbying Firms Representing the Tobacco Industry in Nebraska

REGISTERED LOBBYISTS REPRESENTING THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY										
LOBBYIST NAME	ALTRIA	REYNOLDS AMERICAN	JUUL	CIGAR ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA	SWISHER INTERNATIONAL	GENERAL CIGAR	VAPOR TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION	SWEDISH MATCH	OTHER	
									ORGANIZATION NAME	NUMBER
ALSTON, GARTH	1									
RADCLIFFE, WALTER	1									
KINGERY, SHANNON		1								
LAUTENBAUGH, SCOTT									NEBRASKA VAPE VENDORS ASSOCIATION	1
TOTAL	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		1
TOTAL REGISTRATIONS	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		1

TOTAL LOBBYISTS	4
LOBBYIST REGISTRATION TOTAL	4

REGISTERED LOBBYING FIRMS REPRESENTING THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY										
FIRM NAME	ALTRIA	REYNOLDS AMERICAN	JUUL	CIGAR ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA	SWISHER INTERNATIONAL	GENERAL CIGAR	VAPOR TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION	SWEDISH MATCH	OTHER	
									ORGANIZATION NAME	NUMBER
JENSEN ROBERT ASSOCIATES INC.	1									
KRUSE COMPANY		1								
HUSCH BLACKWELL STRATEGIES			1							
KELLEY PLUCKER LLC				1						
TOTAL	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0		0
TOTAL REGISTRATIONS	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0		0

TOTAL FIRMS	4
FIRM REGISTRATION TOTAL	4

**13 STATES AND D.C.
REQUIRE OR ALLOW
LOBBYING FIRMS TO
REGISTER RATHER
THAN INDIVIDUAL
LOBBYISTS**



LOBBYISTS/LOBBYING FIRMS CAN REGISTER TO REPRESENT MULTIPLE TOBACCO COMPANIES, TRADE ASSOCIATIONS OR RETAILERS

Registered Lobbyists Representing the Tobacco Industry in Maine

TOTAL TOBACCO LOBBYISTS AND FIRMS	11
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TOTAL LOBBYIST AND FIRM REGISTRATIONS	12
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REGISTERED LOBBYISTS REPRESENTING THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY										
LOBBYIST NAME	ALTRIA	REYNOLDS AMERICAN	JUUL	CIGAR ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA	SWISHER INTERNATIONAL	GENERAL CIGAR	VAPOR TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION	SWEDISH MATCH	OTHER	
									ORGANIZATION NAME	NUMBER
EDWARD PINEAU	1									
CATHERINE SONNIER	1									
JOSH TARDY	1									
EMILY RODERICK	1			X						
NICOLE KENDELL	1									
SUZANNE HARMON	1									
DANIEL P. RILEY		1								
ELIZA LA WOODCOCK		1								
NICHOLAS CARTON			1							
CHRIS JACKSON				1						
CHERYL TIMBERLAKE					1					
TOTAL	6	2	1	1	1	0	0	0		0
TOTAL REGISTRATIONS	6	2	1	2	1	0	0	0		0

TOTAL LOBBYISTS	11
LOBBYIST REGISTRATION TOTAL	12



RESEARCH METHODS & LIMITATIONS

[Home](#) > [U.S. Tobacco Lobbyist and Lobbying Firm Registration Tracker](#)

Lobbyist records were obtained by visiting the lobbying registration websites for all 50 states and the District of Columbia (DC). These public records were searched for tobacco companies, tobacco industry trade associations, and tobacco retailers currently employing lobbyists or lobbying firms.

Keywords searched included Altria, Philip Morris, RAI, Reynolds American, RJR, Juul, Swisher, SI, Swedish, cigar, tobacco, vape, vaping, vapor, and others suggested by state or local partners to identify tobacco industry activity in their respective states.

For each lobbyist principal identified, the names of all lobbyists/lobbying firms registered to represent them were tabulated. Because lobbyists/lobbying firms sometimes register to represent more than one tobacco company, trade association or retailer, total registrations were also tabulated. Online links to the lobbying registration sites for each state were cited.

Lobbying firms often employ multiple lobbyists. For some states, we were unable to determine from online records how many lobbyists within lobbying firms perform work on behalf of a tobacco company, association, or outlet. Therefore, the actual number of tobacco industry lobbyists in these states is likely much greater than these data suggest.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Tobacco Companies Tracked](#)[Research Methods and
Limitations](#)[Social Media](#)[Press Release](#)[Feedback on Tracker](#)

View detailed instructions at <https://ash.org/tobacco-money/methods-limitations/>



RESEARCH METHODS & LIMITATIONS

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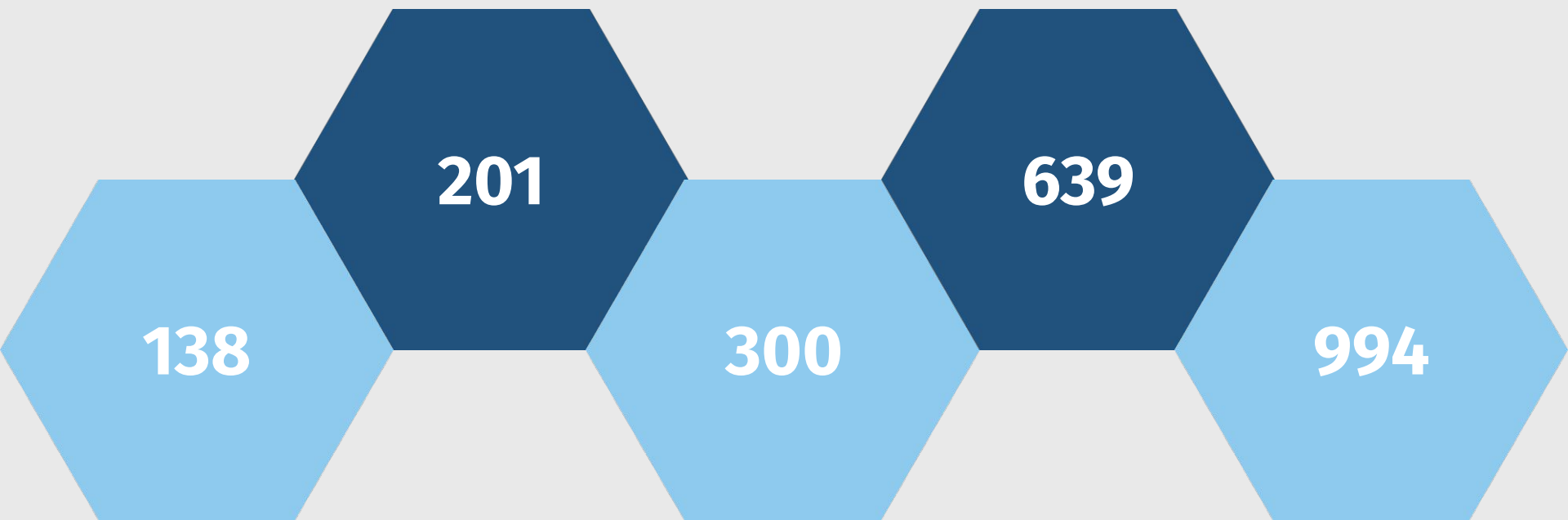
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Tobacco Companies Tracked](#)[Research Methods and
Limitations](#)[Social Media](#)[Press Release](#)[Feedback on Tracker](#)

View detailed instructions at <https://ash.org/tobacco-money/methods-limitations/>



Across all 50 states and D.C., how many lobbying registrations for the tobacco industry were identified?





RESULTS

994 state-level lobbying
registrations for the tobacco
industry were identified

A person wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and blue tie is shown from the chest up, behind vertical metal prison bars. Their hands are clenched into fists and are gripping the bars. The image has a dark blue, slightly desaturated color scheme.

RESULTS

About **two-thirds** (639) of the total lobbyist and lobbying firm registrations represented a company owned wholly or in part by **adjudicated racketeers**

RESULTS

Altria

300 REGISTERED LOBBYISTS
OR LOBBYING FIRMS

Present in all 50 states and D.C.

JUUL

138 REGISTERED LOBBYISTS
OR LOBBYING FIRMS

Present in 49 states and D.C.

Reynolds American

201 REGISTERED LOBBYISTS
OR LOBBYING FIRMS

Present in 49 states

WWW.TOBACCOMONEY.COM



Dedicated to **ZERO** Tobacco Deaths



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BREAKING → HIDDEN COSTS: THE ECONOMIC BURDEN OF CIGARETTE SMOKING ON U.S. HEALTHCARE SPEN...



U.S. TOBACCO LOBBYIST AND LOBBYING FIRM REGISTRATION TRACKER

Tobacco companies spend millions of dollars lobbying in the U.S. every year. In 2020, while we faced a global respiratory pandemic, tobacco companies spent \$28,156,312 at the federal level attempting to weaken public health and tobacco control policies ([source](#)). As of July 23, 2021, they've already spent \$13,700,000 in 2021 ([source](#)).

At the federal level, the tobacco industry has 236 lobbyists registered in 2021, 78.39% of whom are former government employees likely to have more access to highly influential people ([source](#)). They can permeate the House of Representatives, the Senate, and our Federal Agencies.

At the state level for 2021, a total of 994 lobbying registrations for the tobacco industry were identified, involving at least 918 lobbyists or lobbying firms. About two-thirds (639) of the registrations represented a company owned wholly or in part by adjudicated racketeers, including Altria and Reynolds American, Inc (RAI).

Altria (previously known as Philip Morris USA) had a total of 300 registered lobbyists or lobbying firms, covering all 50 states and DC. Juul, of which Altria owns a 35% stake, employed a total of 138 registered lobbyists or firms covering 49 states and DC. Reynolds American had a total of 201 registered lobbyists or lobbying firms covering 49 states. Most tobacco industry lobbyists and lobbying firms also serve a variety of other clients.

Notably, public records indicate that 13 states and DC require or allow lobbying firms to register, instead of individual

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Tobacco Companies Tracked](#)

[Research Methods and Limitations](#)

[Social Media](#)

[Press Release](#)

[Feedback on Tracker](#)

THANK YOU



Email Address

INFO@ASH.ORG



ASH Tracker Website

<https://ash.org/tobacco-money/>

Q&A

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Recordings from **previous webinars** here:

ash.org/webinars



Email
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Have you seen tobacco industry interference in public health policymaking? Email us the details at info@ash.org!

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SECTION

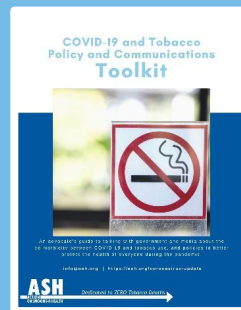
ON SMOKING & HEALTH

Dedicated to ZERO Tobacco Deaths

Next Webinars:

November 4th – U.S. Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2021

Registration links will be emailed soon.



Toolkit for Advocates

Talking with government and media about the COVID-19 and tobacco use co-morbidity and policies to protect the health of everyone during the pandemic.

[ash.org/covid19](https://www.ash.org/covid19)