



THE LOBBYIST
NEWSLETTER

THE LATEST NEWS IN THE LOBBYING WORLD

2005 WAS "THE YEAR OF THE LOBBYIST" CAPTIVATING MEDIA HEADLINES ALMOST DAILY.

Lobbyists, lobbying, were in the headlines. Investigations, charges, claims and counter focused a negative light on the lobby world.

In spite of all this the practice of **lobbying** remains **AN INDISPENSABLE SUPPORT USED AND RECOGNIZED BY CONGRESSIONAL/ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERS IN EVALUATING THE WORTH OR DANGER OF PENDING LEGISLATION.**

ETHICAL LOBBYING IS NOT DEAD

LOOKING AT THE HEADLINES DURING THE PAST YEAR COULD LEAD ONE TO BELIEVE THAT ETHICAL LOBBYING HAS GONE THE WAY OF THE EDSEL AND THE TRANSISTOR RADIO. INVESTIGATIONS AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT HAVE SHOWN A PATTERN OF **MONEY TAKING THE PLACE OF GRASS ROOTS CONCERNS.** RESPECT FOR LOBBYISTS AS A WHOLE APPEARS TO BE AT AN ALL TIME LOW. HOWEVER, ALL IS NOT LOST!

JUST AS THOSE WHO WANT TO TEACH ARE NOT DISCOURAGED BY TEACHERS WHO ARE CHARGED WITH INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR OR TEST SCORE TAMPERING, THOSE WHO DESIRE TO LOBBY SHOULD NOT BE DISCOURAGED BY THE EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR. ONE EXAMPLE WILL HELP MAKE THE POINT THAT LEGISLATORS STILL LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE.

DONALD TRUMP DECIDED TO BUILD A HIGH RISE COMPLEX IN A PART OF PHOENIX, ARIZONA THAT HAD A SPECIFIC HEIGHT LIMITATION ON BUILDINGS. THE PHOENIX CITY COUNCIL, AFTER NUMEROUS PUBLIC HEARINGS, VOTED A ZONING WAIVER IN FAVOR OF TRUMP. OVER 19,000 VOTERS IN THE AFFECTED DISTRICT SIGNED A PETITION ASKING THE COUNCIL TO RESCIND ITS VOTE. MUCH TO TRUMP'S DISMAY, THE COUNCIL LISTENED TO ITS CITIZENS AND DENIED THE VARIANCE. THIS IS NOT AN ISOLATED INCIDENT. CITY COUNCILS, COUNTY BOARDS , AND STATE LEGISLATURES CONSISTENTLY HARKEN TO THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

IN LIKE MANNER, LOBBYISTS WHO REPRESENT EVERY POSSIBLE SIDE OF AN ISSUE ARE STILL GAINING ACCESS TO DECISION-MAKING BODIES. THEY ARE ASKED TO PRESENT THEIR POINTS OF VIEW. THEN, LEGISLATORS USE THESE WELL-REASONED, COGENT ARGUMENTS AS THE BASIS OF THEIR DECISIONS.

THOSE WHO SEEK TO LOBBY NEED TO LOOK AT THE FOLLOWING. EFFECTIVE, ETHICAL LOBBYING IS PRACTICED BY THOSE WHO HAVE A PASSION FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE, A PASSION FOR A PARTICULAR CAUSE, AND A BELIEF IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT.

AS LONG AS WE HAVE PRIVATE FUNDING OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE THE POSSIBILITY OF CORRUPTION. HOWEVER, THE VAST MAJORITY OF LEGISLATORS AND LOBBYISTS STILL DESIRE A SYSTEM THAT IS OPEN, FAIR AND HONEST.

LEGISLATORS NEED LOBBYISTS TO PRESENT INFORMATION ABOUT LEGISLATION THAT CANNOT BE READILY OBTAINED ANY OTHER WAY. PEOPLE NEED LOBBYISTS TO PRESENT

THEIR FEARS, CONCERNS AND NEEDS TO GOVERNMENT DECISION MAKERS. AS LONG AS LEGISLATORS ARE HONEST ABOUT THE SOURCE OF THEIR CAMPAIGN FUNDS, LOBBYISTS CAN CONTRIBUTE.

THE PEOPLE WILL STILL BE REPRESENTED BY BOTH THE LEGISLATOR AND THE LOBBYIST.

THE REVOLVING DOOR SAGA

Over 250 former members of the U.S. House and Senate, upon retirement or defeat, have accepted employment as Registered Lobbyists.

They quickly found their income doubling or even tripling as registered lobbyists.

They were able to keep many of their “member perks” as well which gives them an advantage most lobbyists do not have.

According to Washington insiders, administrative aides and staff assistants to members of congress are constantly sought for lobbying positions.. Some reportedly offered \$250 - \$300 thousand dollars annually to start.

TO THOSE WHO ARE READING EVERYBODY LOBBIES, OUR SINCERE THANKS AND GOOD WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR. LET US HEAR FROM YOU.