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## **\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

### **State Auditor Otto Releases Lobbying Report**

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**ST. PAUL (5/7/2018)** – State Auditor Rebecca Otto today released the 2017 Local Government Lobbying Services Report, a comprehensive report which shows the expenditures by local governments and their associations for lobbyists and lobbying. The report is intended to inform Minnesota citizens and policymakers of the amount spent by their local governments on lobbying services.

Highlights from the report include:

- Local governments spent a total of \$8,768,187 on lobbying activities in 2017. This represents a decrease of \$341,952, or 4 percent, from the amount spent on lobbying services in 2016.
- In 2017, 101 local governments (four fewer than in 2016) reported that they directly employed staff or hired contract lobbyists. These local governments spent a total of \$4,459,652 on staff and contract lobbyists. This was \$488,925, or 10 percent, less than in 2016.
- In addition to the \$4.5 million paid directly to staff and contract lobbyists, local governments paid dues of \$12,186,259 in 2017 to local government associations that also represented their interests before legislative, administrative, or other governmental bodies. These associations spent \$4,308,535 on lobbyists and lobbying in 2017, an increase of 4 percent over 2016. Of the \$4.3 million spent on lobbyists and lobbying by these associations, \$3,647,690 was funded exclusively through dues. This represents an increase of 3 percent over the \$3,554,109 in association dues that were spent on lobbying activities in 2016.

**To view the complete report, which includes tables and graphs, go to:**

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20180503.001>.

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*The Office of the State Auditor is a constitutional office that is charged with overseeing more than \$20 billion spent annually by local governments in Minnesota. The Office of the State Auditor does this by performing audits of local government financial statements, and by*

*reviewing documents, data, reports, and complaints reported to the Office. The financial information collected from local governments is analyzed and is the basis of statutory reports issued by the Office of the State Auditor.*

*Rebecca Otto is Minnesota's 18<sup>th</sup> State Auditor. A high-resolution official photo is available for download at [http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/images/otto\\_hires.jpg](http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/images/otto_hires.jpg). To learn more about State Auditor Otto, see <http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=bio>.*