



REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

SUITE 500
525 PARK STREET
SAINT PAUL, MN 55103-2139

(651) 296-2551 (Voice)
(651) 296-4755 (Fax)
state.auditor@osa.state.mn.us (E-mail)
1-800-627-3529 (Relay Service)

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

State Auditor Otto Releases Lobbying Report

Contact: Jim Levi, Office of the State Auditor, (651) 297-3683, Jim.Levi@osa.state.mn.us

ST. PAUL (4/26/2017) – State Auditor Rebecca Otto today released the 2016 Local Government Lobbying Services Report. It is a comprehensive report which shows the expenditures by local governments and their associations for lobbyists and lobbying for calendar year 2016. The report is intended to inform Minnesota citizens and policymakers on the amount spent by their local governments on lobbying services.

Highlights from the report include:

- Local governments spent a total of \$9,110,139 on lobbying activities in 2016. This represents an increase of \$183,353, or 2 percent, over the amount spent on lobbying services in 2015.
- In 2016, 105 local governments (four more than in 2015) reported that they directly employed staff or hired contract lobbyists. These local governments spent a total of \$4,948,577 on staff and contract lobbyists. This was \$274,174, or 6 percent, more than in 2015.
- In addition to the \$4.9 million paid directly to staff and contract lobbyists, local governments paid dues of \$12,012,510 in 2016 to local government associations that also represented their interests before legislative, administrative, or other governmental bodies. These associations spent \$4,161,562 on lobbyists and lobbying in 2016, a decrease of 2 percent from 2015. Of the \$4.2 million spent on lobbyists and lobbying by these associations, \$3,554,109 was funded exclusively through dues. This represents a decrease of 6 percent from the \$3,776,740 in association dues that were spent on lobbying activities in 2015.

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

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20170425.000>.

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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 18th State Auditor. A high-resolution official photo is available for download at 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>.