



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@state.mn.us (E-mail)  
1-800-627-3529 (Relay Service)

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

### **State Auditor Otto Releases 2008 Lobbying Report**

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

**ST. PAUL (6/10/2009)** – State Auditor Rebecca Otto today released the 2008 Local Government Lobbying Services Report. It is a comprehensive report on the costs of lobbying services provided to Minnesota local governments and their associations for calendar year 2008. The report is intended to inform Minnesota citizens and policy makers on the amount spent by their local governments on lobbying services.

The operation and funding of local governments can be greatly affected by decisions made by the state legislature. Therefore, it is understandable that those affected by these decisions would want to have representation during the legislative process. This report documents the level of expenditures made by local governments and their associations to perform this function.

Highlights from the report include:

- Local governments spent a total of \$8,550,018 on lobbying activities in 2008. This represents an increase of \$732,398, or 9.4 percent, over the amount spent in 2007.
- Sixty-four reporting local governments (one less than in 2007) directly employed staff or hired contract lobbyists in 2008. These local governments spent a total of \$3,910,101 on staff and contract lobbyists. This was \$327,319, or 9.1 percent, more than in 2007.
- In addition to the \$3.9 million paid directly to staff and contract lobbyists, local governments paid dues of \$10,252,234 in 2008 to local government associations that also represented their interests before the legislature. These associations spent \$4,639,917 on lobbyists and lobbying in 2008. This represents an increase of 9.6 percent over 2007. Of the \$4.6 million spent on lobbyists and lobbying by these associations, \$4,287,411 was funded exclusively through dues. This represents an increase of 10.1 percent over the \$3,895,819 in association dues that were spent on lobbying activities in 2007.

**To view the complete report, which includes tables and graphs, go to:**  
<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20090610.000>.

*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>.*