



The Office of the
**Minnesota
State Auditor**

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State Auditor Julie Blaha Releases 2018 Lobbying Report

The 2018 Local Government Lobbying Report shows that nearly 88 percent of local government had lobbying expenses, amounting to \$8.7 million

St. Paul, MN – The 2018 Local Government Lobbying Services report details lobbying expenditures by Minnesota local governments and their associations during 2018.

“For the second year in a row, local government spent about \$8.7 million dollars for lobbying efforts at the Capitol,” said State Auditor Julie Blaha. “When most people think of lobbying activity, they think of contract or full-time lobbyists. While over 100 entities lobby this way, most local government units lobby through membership in one or more associations.”

Highlights of the report include:

- Local governments spent a total of \$8,714,331 on lobbying activities in 2018. Of the \$8.7 million spent on lobbying in 2018, \$4.6 million was attributable to local governments using their own staff or hired contract lobbyists, while \$4.1 was attributable to the lobbying activities of local government associations. This amount is virtually unchanged from last year.
- In 2018, 113 local governments directly employed staff or hired contract lobbyists. These local governments spent a total of \$4,565,354 on staff and contract lobbyists. Eleven of these 113 local governments that directly employed lobbying staff and/or hired contract lobbyists spent over \$100,000 in lobbying services.

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- Local governments paid dues of \$12,493,014 in 2018 to local government associations that also represented their interests before legislative, administrative, or other governmental bodies. These associations spent \$4,148,977 on lobbyists and lobbying.

To view the complete report, which includes an Executive Summary, charts and graphs, go to:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20190530.000>

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The Office of the State Auditor is the constitutional office that oversees more than \$20 billion in local government finances for Minnesota taxpayers. The Office of the State Auditor helps to ensure financial integrity and accountability in local government financial activities. Julie Blaha is Minnesota's 19th State Auditor. Follow us on Twitter @MNStateAuditor.