



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](mailto:Jim.Levi@osa.state.mn.us)

**ST. PAUL (7/17/2013)** – State Auditor Rebecca Otto today released the 2012 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 2012. The report is intended to inform Minnesota citizens and policymakers on the amount spent by their local governments on lobbying services.

**“There is a traditional pattern of lobbying expenses being higher during the longer legislative budget session and lower during the shorter bonding session,” State Auditor Otto said. “This report covers calendar year 2012, which was a shorter bonding session. Overall lobbying expenses showed the traditional decrease.”**

**Auditor Otto added, “One interesting trend of note is that between 2008 and 2012, expenses for lobbying services by associations have been decreasing.”**

Highlights from the report include:

- Local governments spent a total of \$7,807,135 on lobbying activities in 2012. This represents a decrease of \$495,675, or 6.0 percent, from the amount spent on lobbying services in 2011.
- Eighty-one local governments (one less than in 2011) reported that they directly employed staff or hired contract lobbyists in 2012. These local governments spent a total of \$3,928,419 on staff and contract lobbyists. This was \$67,539, or 1.7 percent, less than in 2011.
- In addition to the \$3.9 million paid directly to staff and contract lobbyists, local governments paid dues of \$10,601,645 in 2012 to local government associations that also represented their interests before legislative, administrative, or other governmental bodies. These associations spent \$3,878,716 on lobbyists and lobbying in 2012. This represents a decrease of 9.9 percent from 2011. Of the \$3.9 million spent on lobbyists and lobbying by these associations, \$3,509,101 was funded exclusively through dues. This represents a decrease of 10.5 percent from the \$3,922,830 in association dues that were spent on lobbying activities in 2011.

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

*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>.*