

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sean McMorris  
**Date Submitted:** 08/04/2022 04:26 PM  
**Council File No:** 22-0560  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please see attached California Common Cause's written public comment for the Council File 22-0560. Sincerely Sean McMorris

**August 04, 2022**

Los Angeles Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee  
200 N. Spring Street  
City Hall, Room 340  
Los Angeles, CA 90012



**Re: Council File: 22-0560 - Municipal Lobbying Ordinance / Updates**

Honorable Chair Martinez and Fellow Councilmembers,

We applaud the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission (LACEC) and City Council for prioritizing an overhaul of the City's lobbying laws. The Los Angeles Municipal Lobbying Ordinance (MLO) has not received a comprehensive update since its implementation in 1994. Over the last two and a half decades, a lot has changed. Much has been learned about deficiencies in current law and about general regulatory best practices.

The impetus for LACEC's recommended updates to the MLO are greater trust and accountability in Los Angeles government, which is needed, especially amidst ongoing multiple corruption scandals at City Hall. LACEC's proposed amendments are comprehensive and address issues of clarity and scope as well as potential loopholes in the current outdated MLO. LACEC's proposed amendments also provide greater transparency, which is essential for public trust in democratic institutions.

Lobbying plays an important role in democracy, but guardrails and protections for the public interest are necessary, especially when those with greater means have greater lobbying power. Therefore, if an amendment presents the likelihood of increased responsibility upon the lobbying community in exchange for greater transparency and accountability for the public, we tend to hold the view that those particular ends justify those particular means. Democracy is not unburdensome, and those with greater means to influence policies that affect the community at large bear a greater responsibility to be transparent for equity, fairness, and democracy's sake. That said, LACEC's proposed MLO updates strike an appropriate balance between filer burden and improved transparency and accountability.

For these reasons, we strongly encourage the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee to review LACEC's proposed amendments to the Los Angeles Municipal Lobbying Ordinance (MLO) and move the updates forward to the full City Council for discussion and a vote.

Sincerely,

Sean McMorris  
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