



New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics

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Additional Time to File and What's New for the 2021 Bi-Monthly Filings

Additional Time to File

On or about February 24, 2021, the Commission plans to open the online Lobbying Application ("LA") and post updated paper forms for the submission of Bi-Monthly Reports.

Due to the breadth of the changes to the lobbying regulations (effective January 1, 2021) and the corresponding changes to the online filing system, the Commission is allowing additional time to file Bi-Monthly Reports due in March. **Bi-Monthly Reports covering the January-February 2021 reporting period will be considered timely if submitted by March 22, 2021.**

What's New for 2021 Bi-Monthly Reports

In addition to incorporating changes to the lobbying regulations, JCOPE staff has improved the functionality of the LA in order to promote transparency for the public and streamline the filing process for the regulated community. Below is a brief description of the key enhancements or changes you should expect when filing your Bi-Monthly Report:

- Revised Lobbyist, Public Corporation, and Disbursement of Public Monies Bi-Monthly writable PDF forms will be available for paper filers on the JCOPE website.
- Lobbying Activities reported on your Registration will **NO LONGER** populate to your Bi-Monthly Report.
- To streamline lobbying activity disclosures and increase transparency to the public, LA was enhanced to:
 - allow Filers to add additional information to an existing 'Party Name' in the Lobbying section of the LA, rather than being allowed to immediately free-type information. This enhancement will eliminate inaccurate, duplicate, or inconsistent Party Names. **As such, the functionality to add a 'new party' has been eliminated.**
- A more comprehensive selection of Expense Purposes has been added to the drop-down menu relating to Itemized Expenses. Therefore, **Filers may no longer manually enter their own Expense Purposes.**

- To streamline reporting of parties lobbied, over 200 Boards, Commissions and Divisions within New York City have been added to the LA Parties Lobbied Database, including the names of NYC Council Members and Borough Presidents.
- To further simplify the reporting process, filers may now select an entire group of County Legislators instead of listing each County Legislator separately on a Bi-Monthly Report.
- Finally, changes were made relating to disclosure of Coalition activity, including the addition of a user-friendly Expense chart for the reporting of Coalition Contributions by Members of Unstructured Coalitions. (For more details about changes to Coalition reporting requirements, see the *2021-2022 Coalition Filings Requirements* document posted on the JCOPE website).

Contact Us

If you have any questions about navigating the LA or for technical assistance, please contact the JCOPE Helpdesk at helpdesk@jcope.ny.gov or by phone at 518-474-3973.

For questions related to the:

- Lobbyist Statement of Registration – email us at registrations@jcope.ny.gov
- Bi-monthly and Disbursement of Public Monies Reports – email us at bimonthlies@jcope.ny.gov
- Client Semi-Annual Report and Source of Funding – email us at CSA@jcope.ny.gov
- Reportable Business Relationship Report – email us at discrepancies@jcope.ny.gov

To speak to the JCOPE Attorney of the Day, email them at legal@jcope.ny.gov or call the JCOPE Hotline at phone at 1-800-87-ETHICS (873-8442) and press '2'.

PLEASE NOTE: we anticipate experiencing a larger than normal call volume due to enhancements in the Lobbying Application, in addition to the start of a new biennial. **The preferred method of contact is via the email addresses listed above.** Emails are responded to in the order they are received. We appreciate your patience during this busy filing period.