Agenda Item #: 6F-1

**PALM BEACH COUNTY**
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Meeting Date:** | **May 5, 2026** | **[ ] Consent [X] Regular**<br>**[ ] Public Hearing** |
| **Department:** | Intergovernmental Affairs | |

## I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

**Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to:**

**A) approve on preliminary reading and permission to advertise for public hearing on June 9, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING SECTION 2-353(a) OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY CODE TO INCREASE THE LOBBYIST REGISTRATION FEE TO ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00) PER PRINCIPAL ON AN ANNUAL BASIS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; and

B) **receive and file** the Business Impact Estimate for the proposed Ordinance, prepared in accordance with Florida Statutes §125.66(3)(a).

**Summary**: Since 2009, the lobbyist registration ordinance has provided for a one (1)-time registration fee of $25 with each registration form submitted. The existing registration fee no longer reflects the administrative costs associated with maintaining and administering the Central Lobbyist Registry. As such, and to bring the County in congruence with similarly situated governments, staff recommends amending Section 2-353(a) of the Palm Beach County Code to increase the lobbyist registration fee to $100 per principal paid annually. Countywide (DB).

**Background and Policy Issues**: The lobbyist registration fee of in Section 2-353(a) has not been updated since 2009. The proposed change in lobbyist registration fee more accurately reflects the administrative costs associated with maintaining the registry.

**Attachment(s)**:
1. Ordinance
2. Business Impact Estimate

**Recommended by:** _____ 4/27/26
**Deputy County Administrator** **Date**

**Approved by:** _____ 4-28-26
**County Administrator** **Date**

## II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

**A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

| Fiscal Years | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Capital Expenditures | | | | | |
| Operating Costs | | | | | |
| External Revenues | | (36,000) | (36,000) | (36,000) | (36,000) |
| Program Income | | | | | |
| In-Kind Match | | | | | |
| NET FISCAL IMPACT | | (36,000) | (36,000) | (36,000) | (36,000) |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| # ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative) | | | | | |

**Is Item Included In Current Budget?** **Yes** _____ **No** X
**Does this Item include the use of Federal funds?** **Yes** _____ **No** X
**Does this Item include the use of State funds?** **Yes** _____ **No** X

Budget Account No.: 2925

Fund 0001 Dept 645 Unit 6450 Object Lobbying Fee Program Code/Period 2925

**B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Fiscal Impact will be based annually on the $100 lobbying registration fee.

**C. Departmental Fiscal Review:** _____

## III. REVIEW COMMENTS

**A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Development and Control Comments:**

4/21/26
OFMB

4/22/26
Contract Development and Control

**B. Legal Sufficiency:** 4/24

4/23/26
Assistant County Attorney

**C. Other Department Review:**

Department Director

**(THIS SUMMARY IS NOT TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR PAYMENT)**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026 -**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING SECTION 2-353(a) OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY CODE TO INCREASE THE LOBBYIST REGISTRATION FEE TO ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00) PER PRINCIPAL ON AN ANNUAL BASIS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS,** Article VIII, Section 1(g) of the Florida Constitution and Chapter 125, Florida Statutes, grant counties broad home rule powers to enact ordinances for county purposes; and

**WHEREAS,** Palm Beach County has adopted a countywide lobbyist registration ordinance codified in Chapter 2, Article VIII of the Palm Beach County Code to promote transparency, accountability, and public confidence in governmental decision-making; and

**WHEREAS,** Section 2-353 of the Palm Beach County Code currently requires lobbyists to register and pay a registration fee for each principal represented; and

**WHEREAS,** the Board of County Commissioners finds that the existing registration fee no longer reflects the administrative costs associated with maintaining and administering the Central Lobbyist Registry; and

**WHEREAS,** the Board of County Commissioners desires to amend the Palm Beach County Code accordingly;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:**

**<u>SECTION 1. Modification of Lobbyist Registration Fee</u>**

Section 2-353(a), Palm Beach County Code, entitled "Registration and expenditures" is hereby amended to read as follows (additions are <u>underscored</u>, deletions are ~~stricken~~):

(a) *Registration required.* Prior to lobbying, all lobbyists shall submit an original, fully executed registration form to county administration, which shall serve as the official location for countywide lobbyist registration and which shall be known as the "Central Lobbyist Registry." The registration may be submitted in paper or electronic form pursuant to countywide policies and procedures. Each lobbyist is required to submit a separate registration for each principal represented.

~~A registration fee of twenty-five dollars ($25.00) must be included with each registration form submitted.~~

A registration fee of one hundred dollars ($100.00) per principal shall be paid on an annual basis and must be included with each registration. Beginning October 1, 2026, and each October 1 thereafter, annually, each lobbyist is required to renew their registration for each principal registered.

Registrations in effect on the effective date of this ordinance shall remain subject to the registration fee in effect at the time of registration until the registrant's next required renewal, at which time the amended registration fee shall apply.

A registrant, or principal who is represented by the registrant, shall promptly send a written statement to county administration canceling the registration for a principal upon termination of the lobbyist's representation of that principal. This statement shall be signed by the lobbyist or principal. Lobbying prior to registration is prohibited. It is the responsibility of the lobbyist to keep all information contained in the registration form current and up to date.

**SECTION 2. Severability**

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, inoperative, or void, such holding shall not affect the remainder of this ordinance.

**SECTION 3. Inclusion in the Code of Laws and Ordinances**

The provisions of this ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Laws and Ordinances of Palm Beach County, Florida. The sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article," or any other appropriate word.

**SECTION 4. Repeal of Laws in Conflict**

All local laws and ordinances in conflict with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 5. Effective Date**

This ordinance shall become effective upon filing with the Department of State.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, Florida, this ___ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

MIKE CARUSO,
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT
COURT & COMPTROLLER

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY ITS
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
Sara Baxter, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

By: _____
County Attorney

Filed with the Department of State on the ____ day of _____, 2026.

# BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATE

**Meeting Date: June 9, 2026 Public Hearing**

**Proposed Ordinance Title/Reference: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING SECTION 2-353(a) OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY CODE TO INCREASE THE LOBBYIST REGISTRATION FEE TO ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00) PER PRINCIPAL ON AN ANNUAL BASIS; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**Summary of Proposed Ordinance and Statement of Public Purpose to be Served:**

Since 2009, the lobbyist registration ordinance has provided for a one-time registration fee of twenty five dollars ($25.00) with each registration form submitted. The existing registration fee no longer reflects the administrative costs associated with maintaining and administering the Central Lobbyist Registry. As such, and to bring the County in congruence with similarly situated governments, the proposed ordinance amends Section 2-353(a) of the Palm Beach County Code to increase the lobbyist registration fee to one hundred dollars ($100.00) per principal paid annually.

**Estimate of Direct Economic Impact on Private, For Profit Businesses:**

a. Estimate of Direct Business Compliance Costs: This change will result in an increase in the current registration fee for the lobbyists registered to lobby on behalf of principals in Palm Beach County.

b. New Charges/Fees on Businesses Impacted: The registration fee paid annually will be increased for businesses subject to the proposed ordinance or for which businesses will be financially responsible.

c. Estimate of Regulatory Costs: There will be no additional regulatory costs, and there will be additional revenues since there will be an increased registration fee that will be imposed on businesses.

**Good Faith Estimate of Number of Businesses Likely Impacted:** There are currently 900 lobbyists registered to lobby on behalf of principals in the county lobbyist registration system.

**Any Additional Information:** None