Agenda Item #: 4A-1

PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: **June 9, 2026** **[ ] Consent [ ] Regular [X] Public Hearing**

Department: **County Administration**

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to approve on 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 TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS ($200.00) PER PRINCIPAL ON AN ANNUAL BASIS AND PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE REGISTRATION FEE BASED ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AND TO REVISIT THE REGISTRATION FEE BY THE BOARD NOT TO EXCEED FIVE YEARS; 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.

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 $200 per principal paid annually and providing for annual adjustments to the registration fee based on the Consumer Price Index, to ensure that the fee remains reasonable over time and avoids the need for frequent future amendments. The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) may revisit and consider changes to the lobbyist registration fee at any time and shall do so at least every five years. Countywide (DB).

Background and Policy Issues: The lobbyist registration fee 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

Recommended by: _____ 5/14/26
Deputy County Administrator **Date**

Approved by: _____ 6/1/26
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		($72,000)	($72,000)	($72,000)	($72,000)
Program Income					
In-Kind Match					
NET FISCAL IMPACT		($72,000)	($72,000)	($72,000)	($72,000)

# 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 annually based on the $200 lobbying registration fee.

C. Departmental Fiscal Review: _____

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

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

5/7/2026
OFMB

5/11/26
Contract Development and Control

B. Legal Sufficiency: ESW 5.7.26 VS 5/7

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 TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS ($200.00) PER PRINCIPAL ON AN ANNUAL BASIS AND PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE REGISTRATION FEE BASED ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AND TO REVISIT THE REGISTRATION FEE BY THE BOARD NOT TO EXCEED FIVE YEARS; 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:

SECTION 1. Modification of Lobbyist Registration Fee

Section 2-353(a), Palm Beach County Code, entitled "Registration and expenditures" is hereby amended to read as follows (additions are underscored, 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 two hundred dollars ($200.00) 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. Beginning October 1, 2026, and each October 1 thereafter, annually, the registration fee shall be automatically adjusted based on the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), U.S. City Average, All Items, as published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, for the twelve-month period ending June 30 of the preceding year. The adjusted fee shall be rounded to the nearest whole dollar. County administration shall publish the adjusted registration fee annually.

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.

The Board of County Commissioners may revisit and consider changes to the lobbyist registration fee at any time, and shall do so at least every five years.

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.

USA TODAY CO.

LocaliQ

PO Box 631244 Cincinnati, OH 45263-1244

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Jillian Zalewska
Board Services/Minutes, 2nd floor, Room 203.2
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller
PO Box 4036
West Palm Beach FL 33402

STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF BROWN

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared, who on oath says that he or she is the Legal Coordinator of the Palm Beach Post, published in Palm Beach County, Florida; that the attached copy of advertisement, being a Public Notices, was published on the publicly accessible website of Palm Beach County, Florida, or in a newspaper by print in the issues of, on:

WPB Palm Beach Post 05/22/2026
WPB palmbeachpost.com 05/22/2026

Affiant further says that the website or newspaper complies with all legal requirements for publication in chapter 50, Florida Statutes.
Subscribed and sworn to before me, by the legal clerk, who is personally known to me, on 05/22/2026

Legal Clerk

Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

My commission expires

Publication Cost:	$196.67	
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VICKY FELTY
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT AT 9:30 A.M. ON JUNE 9, 2026, in the Palm Beach County Governmental Center, Jane Thompson Memorial Chambers, 6th Floor, 301 North Olive Avenue, West Palm Beach FL., the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, FL., intends to hold a public hearing for the purpose of considering the following proposed Palm Beach County Ordinance (s):

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 TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS ($200.00) PER PRINCIPAL ON AN ANNUAL BASIS AND PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE REGISTRATION FEE BASED ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AND TO REVISIT THE REGISTRATION FEE BY THE BOARD NOT TO EXCEED FIVE YEARS; 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.

A copy of the above-referenced proposed ordinance is available for inspection in the Minutes Department, 2nd floor, Room 203.2, Governmental Center. All interested parties may appear at the meeting and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance(s).

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by this commission with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing they will need to have a record of the proceeding, and for that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.

MIKE CARUSO,
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller
Board of County Commissioners
5/22/26 #12317472