Lobbyist E-Filing System Training New System to File Registration & Activity Reports and Pay Registration & Late Fees



The Office of the City Clerk

Online Training

House Rules for this WEBEX training:



To help prevent feedback and crosstalk, microphones and cameras are turned off by default except for the presenter.



All questions will be addressed at the end of today's training.



- Please use the Q&A Button to address the host & presenter.
- The host will reply to you privately throughout the presentation.
- Questions posted to the Q&A will be addressed verbally by the presenter during the question-and-answer session at the end of the presentation.
- The Q&A button will be under ____





If you are having technical issues, please email your questions/concerns to lobbyists@austintexas.gov.



This presentation will be made available via download after the training for your review and reference.



Agenda

- New Lobbyist E-Filing System
- New Online Payment System
- New Lobbyist Contact Form
- Accessing E-Filing Account
- Filing Registration Report
- Paying Registration & Renewal Fees
- Filing Quarterly Activity Report
- Future Reports
- July Quarterly Activity Report Deadline



Lobbyist E-Filing System

New Electronic Online Filing System



Lobbyist E-Filing System

When is the new Lobbyist E-Filing System going to launch?

The new Lobbyist E-Filing System will be released in June of 2021 and the first filing deadline will be the July 1 - July 12, 2021 for the July Quarterly Activity Report.

Where do I find the E-Filing System?

The E-Filing System is an online website where you will go to log into your account and file all your lobbyist reports.

How was it created?

The City Clerk's E-Filing System is built using the same vendor that created the Texas Ethics Commission (TEC)'s Electronic Filing Application.





All filers are required to submit Registration and Quarterly Activity Reports using the E-Filing System starting with the July Quarterly Activity Report, due July 1 - July 12, 2021.

How will the E-Filing System Change your Process for Filing Reports and Paying Fees?



The goal of the E-Filing System is to make your filing process quicker and easier. Instead of emailing the City Clerk's Office reports and mailing in fee payments, you will now be able to file reports, pay fees, and print previously filed reports all online from your account in the E-Filing System.

Lobbyist Online Payment System

New System to Pay Registration & Late Fees Online

Online Payment System

What is the new online payment system?

The new E-Filing System will be connected to the City of Austin's new online payment provider. The online payment system is the same system used for many of the City's online payment transactions and is PCI compliant.

What type of payment does the online payment system accept?

The online payment system will accept all major credit cards, including American Express, Visa, MasterCard, and Discover.

Can I still pay by cash or check?

Lobbyists and business entities still have the option to pay by cash or check. Mailing a payment usually takes about 2 weeks and lobbyists and business entities must have all outstanding fees paid *before* they can file a Quarterly Activity Report in the E-Filing System.



New Lobbyist Contact Form

New Online Form to Submit Contact Information



Lobbyist Contact Form

- The City Clerk's Office updated the Lobbyist Contact Form and you can now file your contact form online, via this link.
- Lobbyists who are registered under a business entity will need to now submit their own Lobbyist Contact Form.
- Lobbyists and business entities will now be able to manage their contact information (including email addresses) within the E-Filing System, there will no longer be a need to file an update to the Contact Form.
- A Filer ID and password is created for each account.

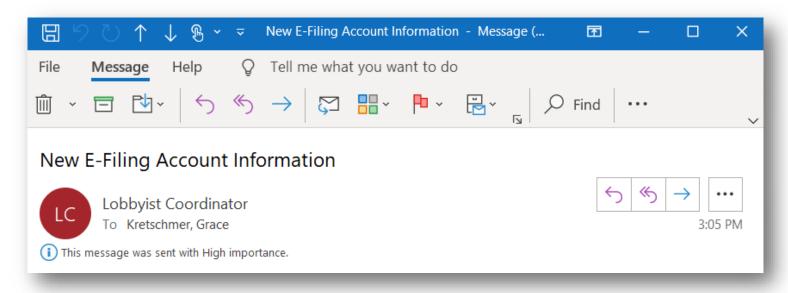


E-Filing Account

Creating E-Filing Account to Access Lobbyist E-Filing System

Registered Lobbyists & Business Entities

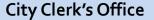
- Currently registered lobbyists and business entities will have E-Filing accounts automatically created for each filer at the beginning of June.
- An email from the Lobbyist Coordinator with your E-Filing Account information will be sent to the primary email address on your Contact Form in early June.



New Registration Process and Fees

To register a NEW lobbyist or business entity, follow the steps below:

Lobbyist Contact Form



E-Filing System

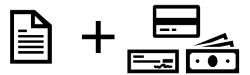




Lobbyist or business entity will submit the new online Lobbyist Contact Form.



Contact Form will be sent to the lobbyists@austintexas.gov inbox. City Clerk Staff will create an E-Filing account for the filer. An email with instructions on how to set up an account will be sent to the email address provided on the Contact Form.



Filer will log into the E-Filing System and submit their New Registration Report AND pay their new registration fee, either online or mail/in person by cash or check.

NOTE: Registration payment needs to be received within 10 days of filing a registration report or you will receive a late fee.

Email with E-Filing Account Information

Currently Registered Lobbyists & Business Entities

You will receive an email from lobbyists@austintexas.gov at the beginning of June with your E-Filing account information and instructions will be provided on how to login to the E-Filing system.

Newly Registered Lobbyists & Business Entities

You will receive an email from donotreply@ethicsfile.com with your E-Filing account information and instructions on how to login.



First Time Logging into E-Filing System

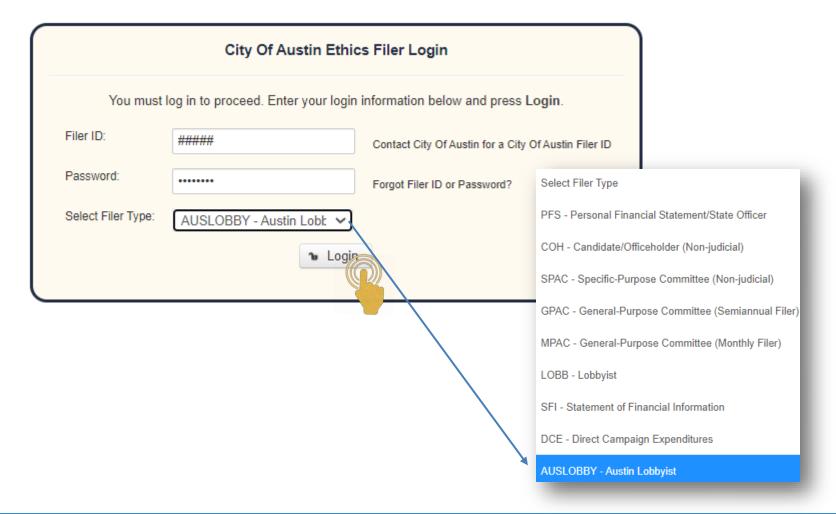
Bookmark this web address:



https://austintexas.ethicsefile.com/EthFile/



First Time Logging into E-Filing System (Cont.)



Password & Security Questions



Security questions are used if you forget your password.



- At least 8 characters long
- 1 special character (!@#\$%^&*)
- 1 lowercase letter



Business & Mailing Addresses Screen



System will prompt you to confirm your addresses:

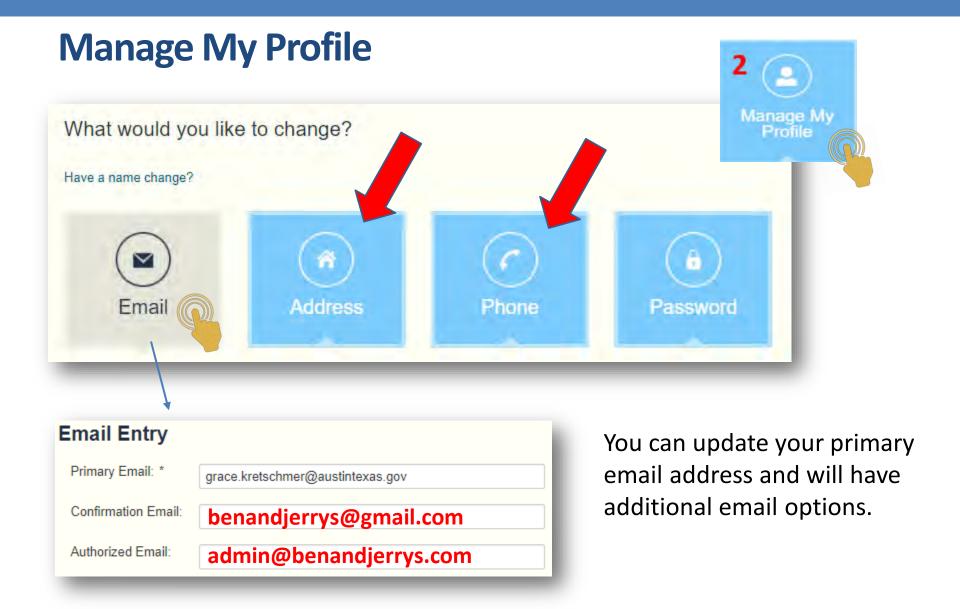
- If correct, select Accept.
- To edit, select *Update*.



E-Filing System Homepage Screen



- 1. Manage My Reports: Click here to file reports.
- 2. Manage My Profile: Click here to manage filer info.
- 3. Manage My Fines: Click here to pay registration & late fees.
- 4. Public Notices: Announcements from the Clerk's Office



Registration Report

Reminder: lobbyists and business entities will be required to filed a Registration Report before they can file their July Quarterly Activity Report.

Reports in E-Filing System

Registration Report

- Municipal Question(s)
- Client(s)
- Employee(s)
- Update to Registration Report

Quarterly Activity Report

- Client Compensation
- Expenditure Totals
- Expenditure Details
- Business Entity of City Official
- Correction Report

The E-Filing System will copy your Municipal Question(s), Client(s), and Employee(s) into your Quarterly Activity Report.

Start Registration Report - Manage My Reports



To file a Registration or Quarterly Activity Report in the E-Filing System, select the *Manage My Reports* button on the Homepage, then select *Start Registration/Activity Report* button.

Manage my Reports

Important! Before you start an activity report your registration information must be up-to-date. Click on the Update button next to your most recently filed registration report to update your registration information by adding changing deleting your municipal question(s) client(s) or employee(s)

To terminate registration and submit your final activity report select Start an Activity Report.

Start Registration Report



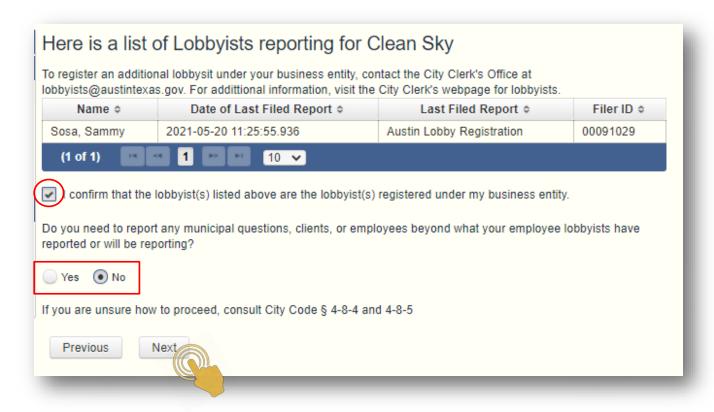
What is this?

The reporting instructions are NOT intended to provide legal advice. Persons responsible for complying with the requirements of Chapter 4-8 are advised to carefully review Austin City Code Chapter 4-8 and to consult with their own legal counsel regarding the requirements of Chapter 4-8.

You have no reports on file, missing or in progress



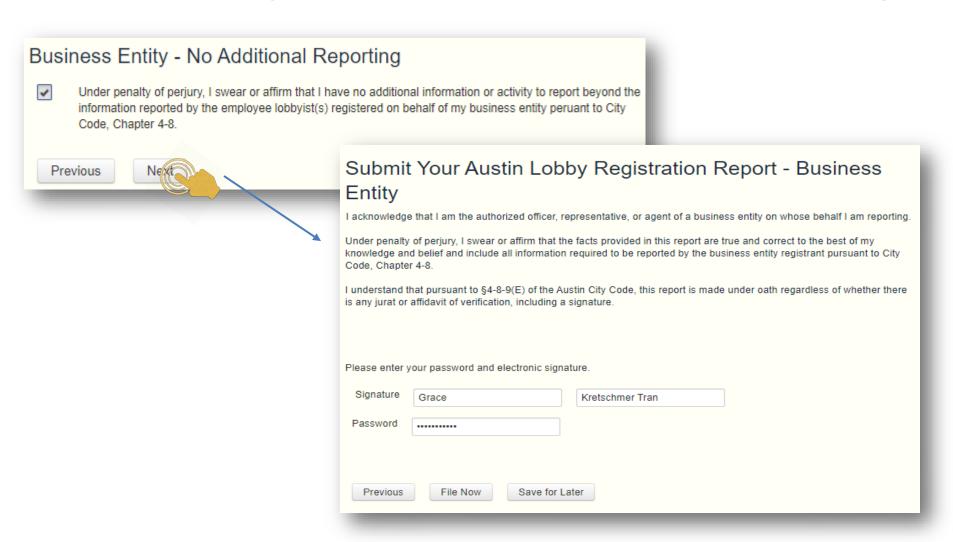
Cover Sheet (Business Entities Only)



Yes – Report Municipal Question(s), Client(s), and Employee(s)

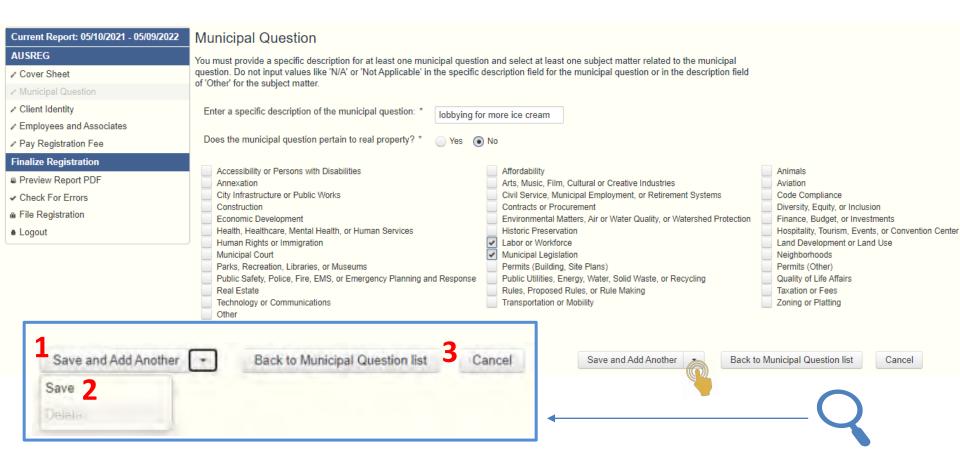
No – File No Additional Reportable Information Affidavit

No Additional Reportable Information (Business Entities Only)





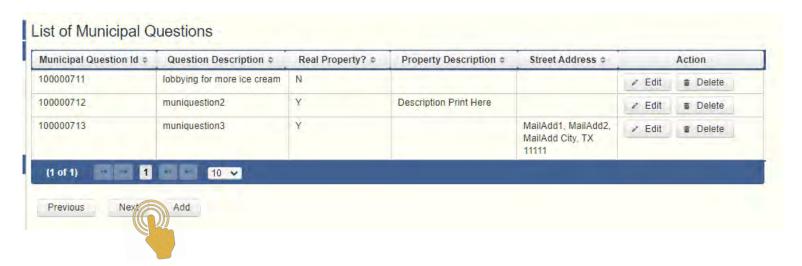
Municipal Question (Lobbyists & Business Entities)



- **1. Save and Add Another** Save entry and clear form to add another entry
- **2. Save** Save and return to the table of entries
- **3.** Back to Municipal Question list or Cancel Cancel current entry and return to table of entries



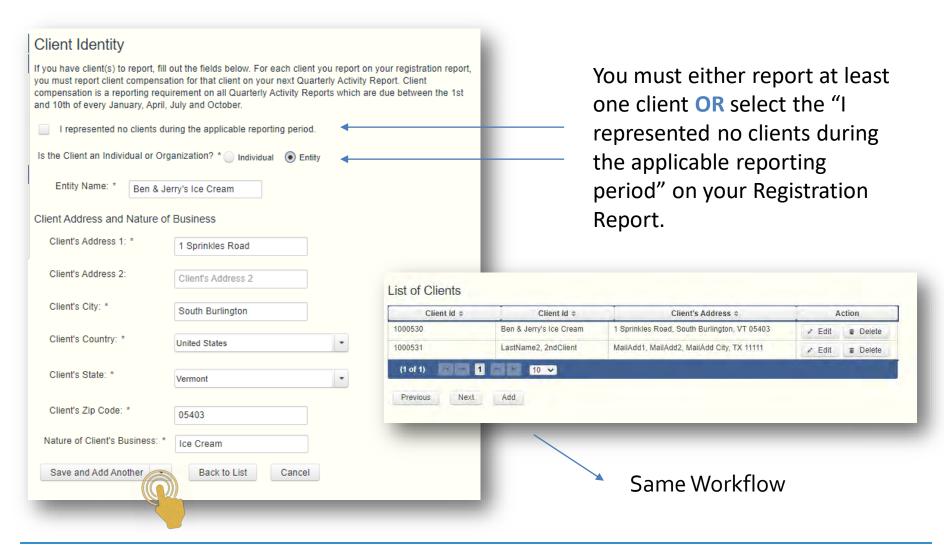
Municipal Question (Cont.)



- After adding/saving all your municipal questions, you will be able to see all your entries on a list.
- Verify the information. You can delete and edit.
- To go to next section, select the Next button.

Please remember that you must report at least <u>one municipal question</u> and <u>one subject matter</u> on your Registration Report.

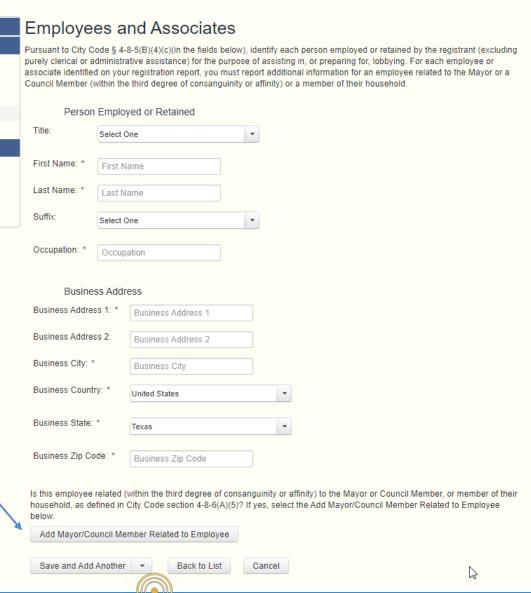
Client Identity (Lobbyists & Business Entities)



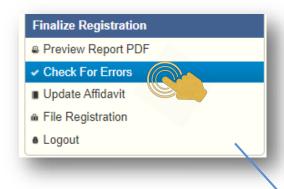
Employees & Associates (Lobbyists & Business Entities)

If the employee you are reporting is related to the Mayor or Council Member, or member of their household, then select Add Mayor/Council Member Related to Employee button.





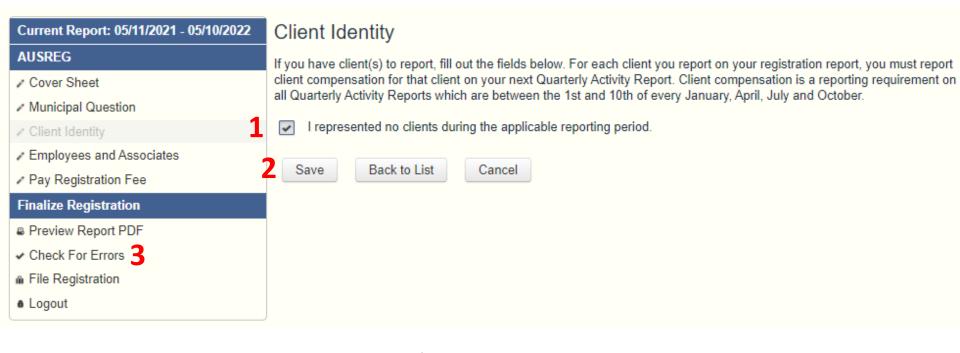
Ready to File Report - Error Check



HIGH error(s) must be fixed before a report can be filed. To fix an error, click on the link in the Error Record Box to navigate to the area of the report causing the error. The information in the Message box will give you guidance onto how to fix your HIGH error.



Fixing High Error



- Fix the HIGH error.
- 2. Select the Save button.
- 3. Select Check For Errors on the Left Pane.

File Registration Report

Report Error Check

This report passed the error check. The error check reviews the structure and format of the data you entered and makes sure that required fields such as name and address were completed. The error check DOES NOT verify whether you have reported all information that was legally required of you.

Continue

Submit Your Austin Lobby Registration Report - Lobbyist

Under penalty of perjury, I swear or affirm that the facts provided in this report are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and include all information required to be reported by me pursuant to City Code, Chapter 4-8.

I understand that pursuant to §4-8-9(E) of the Austin City Code, this report is made under oath regardless of whether there is any jurat or affidavit of verification, including a signature.

Signature Grace Kretschmer Tran

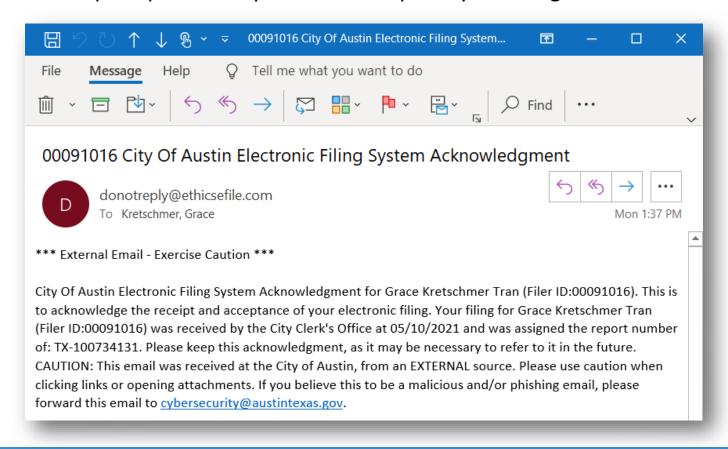
Password

Please enter your password and electronic signature.

Previous File No Save for Later

Email Receipt

After clicking **File Now**, an email confirmation will be sent. If you do not receive an email, the Registration or Quarterly Activity Report has NOT been filed. Retain a copy of the email receipt as proof that you filed the report by the filing deadline.



Pay Registration & Late Fees

How to pay both Registration & Late Fees in the Online Payment System

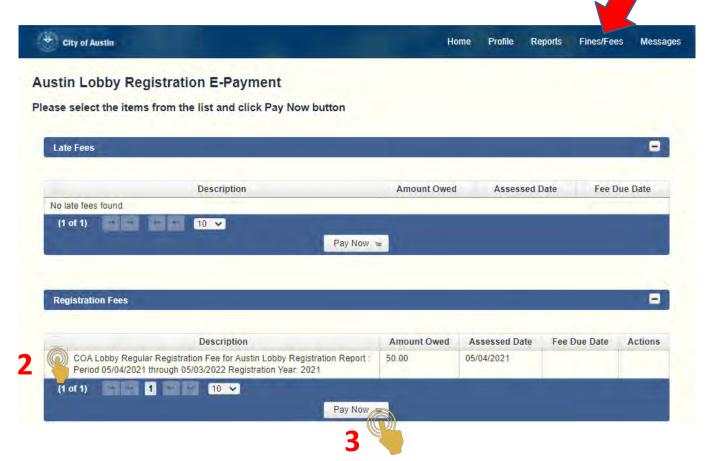
Registered Lobbyists & Business Entities

- When filing your Registration Report, the E-Filing System will automatically generate a registration fee.
- Please DO NOT PAY this Registration Fee if you have registered as a lobbyist or business entity before June 1, 2021.
- After you have submitted your Registration Report, the City Clerk's Office
 will mark the Registration Fee as paid using the information from your most
 recently paid Registration Fee.
- The Lobbyist Coordinator will send each registered lobbyist and business entity an email with instructions about how to navigate the fee process for their fee situation.

Registration Anniversary Fees

- According to City Code Section 4-8-5 (D), on the date of registering, and on the anniversary of the date each year thereafter until the registration is terminated, a registrant shall pay to the City, and the city clerk shall collect, an annual registration fee.
- Each time a lobbyist or business entity logs into the E-Filing System, the system will display a reminder of when you will need to pay your renewal fee next.
- You cannot file a Quarterly Activity Report until all registration and late fees has been paid.
- You can pay online via credit card or in person/mail by cash or check.

Pay Registration Fee in Online Payment System

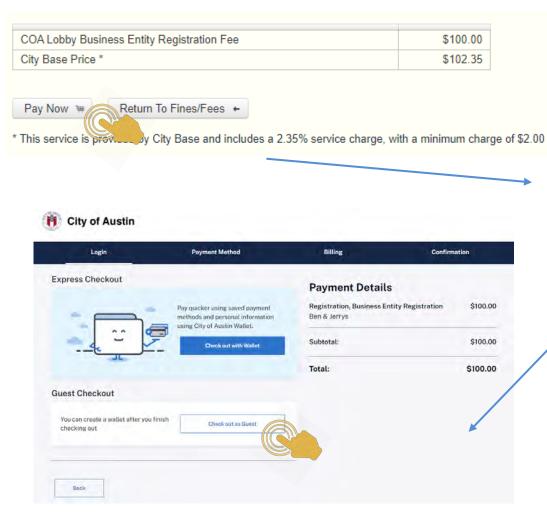




After a new lobbyist or business entity files their New Registration Report, they will need to pay their New Registration Fee. To pay their fee, the filer needs to select the *Manage My Fines* button on the Homepage Screen, then select the checkbox next to the fee they want to pay followed by the *Pay Now* button.

Note: This is the same workflow if you are paying a New Registration Fee, Registration Anniversary Fee, or Late Fee.

Pay Registration Fee in Online Payment System (Cont.)





- When selecting the Pay Now button, you will be redirected to the Online Payment System website.
- Select the Check out as Guest button to start payment process.

Pay Registration Fee in Online Payment System (Cont.)



Thank you for your payment!

Your transaction number is 70014896.

We've sent a confirmation email to grace.kretschmer@austintexas.gov. If you do not receive a receipt, check your spam folder.

Please contact customer service at lobbyists@austintexas.gov or (512) 974-2210 if you have questions about your payment.



- An email receipt will be sent to the email address you input in the Online Payment System.
- Save a copy of the receipt as record that you paid your registration fee.
- Select the Continue button.
 You will be rerouted back to the E-Filing System.
- Note: You are not required to register for Wallet.



Quarterly Activity Report

Due on the 10th of January, April, July, and October Each Year

Registration Must be Up-to-Date Before Starting an Activity Report

- Before starting your Quarterly Activity Report, please make sure that your most recently filed Registration Report contains all your municipal question(s), client(s), and employee(s).
- The E-Filing System will copy your Municipal Question(s), Client(s), and Employee(s) into your Quarterly Activity Report from your last filed Registration.
- Once you have started your Quarterly Activity Report, you cannot update your registration report information.

Start Activity Report



Manage my Reports

Important! Before you start an activity report your registration information must be up-to-date. Click on the Update button next to your most recently filed registration report to update your registration information by adding changing deleting your municipal question(s) client(s) or employee(s)

To terminate registration and submit your final activity report select Start an Activity Report.

Start Registration Repor

Start Activity Report What is this?

If you are unsure if you need to terminate your registration, please consult City Code §4-8.

Lobbyist Quarterly Activity Report

This is the quarterly report that is currently due.

Are you terminating your registration with this activity report?

Yes (No

Start an Activity Report



Cover Sheet (Business Entities Only)



Yes – Report Client Compensation, Expenditure Totals, Expenditure Details, and Business Entity of City Officials

No – File No Additional Reportable Information Affidavit

If you select **No**, you will file a No Additional Reportable Information Affidavit along with your Quarterly Activity Report.

Cover Sheet (Lobbyists Only)

Lobbyist Quarterly Activity Report

Do you have any of the following information to report for this reporting period: client compensation or reimbursement; expenditures; a reportable relationship or substantial economic interest between a City official and a business entity with whom a registrant has exchanged \$500 or more; employees who are related or a household member of the mayor or a council member; or a change of information in regard to municipal questions or client identities?

If you are unsure on how to proceed, you can review the municipal question(s), client(s), or employee(s) listed in your registration report by selecting Municipal Question, or Client Compensation, or Employees on the left navigation pane or consult City Code Chapter § 4-8-6



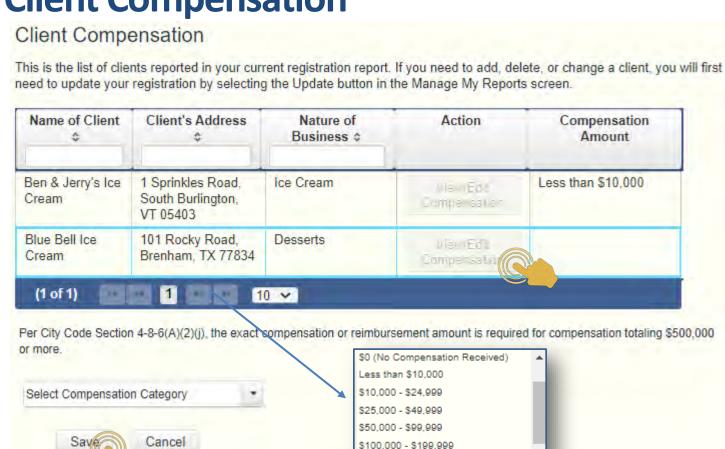
Yes – Report Client Compensation, Expenditure Totals, Expenditure Details, and Business Entity of City Officials

No – File Statement of No Activity Affidavit

If you select **No**, you will file Statement of No Activity Affidavit, then file your Quarterly Activity Report.

Client Compensation

Go to Manage My Reports



You must report a client compensation for each of your reported client(s).

\$200,000 - \$299,999

Next



Back

Employees, Expenditure Totals/Details, and Business Entity of City Official



To report Expenditures or other required information, select each section listed on the Left pane.

If nothing to report, click on Check for Errors to finalize the report.

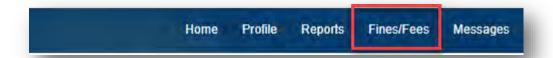


Reminder! Pay Your Fees Before Filing an Activity Report

Submit Your Austin Quarterly Lobby Activities Report - July - Nonprofit

City Of Austin records show that your registration fee has not been paid. Activity reports may not be filed until payment is received. Please visit the fines and fees page to pay the registration fee.

- You will not be able to file an activity report until all registration and late fees have been paid.
- If you forget, you can continue working on the report later, the report will be automatically saved.
- Navigate to Fines/Fees on top of the screen to pay your outstanding fee.



Please Plan Ahead!

- You must submit your registration report before filing your Quarterly Activity Report. Note: This will not impact your registration date.
- Error Check/Validation will happen before filing report, please plan ahead.
- You can pay your registration fee and late fee online within the E-Filing System.
- You will not be able to file an activity report until all registration and late fees have been paid.



Filing Future Reports

Filing future Quarterly Activity Reports, Update to Registration Reports, and Correction Reports

Future Activity Reports

Manage my Reports

Important! Before you start an activity report your registration information must be up-todate. Click on the Update button next to your most recently filed registration report to update your registration information by adding changing deleting your municipal question(s) client(s) or employee(s)

To terminate registration and submit your final activity report select Start an Activity Report.



The reporting instructions are NOT intended to provide legal advice. Persons responsible for complying with the requirements of Chapter 4-8 are advised to carefully review Austin City Code Chapter 4-8 and to consult with their own legal counsel regarding the requirements of Chapter 4-8.

- You can log into the E-Filing System and print your previously filed reports at any times.
- The Start Activity Report button will be enabled when you get closer to the next filing deadline. You will select the Start Activity Report button each time you need to file your Quarterly Activity Report.

Filed Reports
What is this?

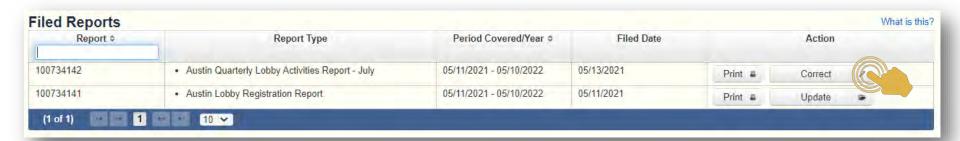
Report >	Report Type	Period Covered/Year	Filed Date	Action
100734142	Austin Quarterly Lobby Activities Report - July	05/11/2021 - 05/10/2022	05/13/2021	Print Correct
100734141	Austin Lobby Registration Report	05/11/2021 - 05/10/2022	05/11/2021	Print Update 🕒
(1 of 1) 12 12 10 V				

Update to Registration Reports



- If you need to update your registration information (municipal question(s), client(s), or employee(s)), select the *Update* button next to your most recently filed Registration Report to start an Update to Registration Report.
- Note: Before starting your Quarterly Activity Report, please make sure that your most recently filed Registration Report contains all your municipal question(s), client(s), and employee(s).

Correction Reports



• If you need to correct a previously filed Quarterly Activity Report, select the *Correct* button next to the Quarterly Activity Report you need to correct.

Note: If you need to add or delete a municipal question, client, or employee, you will need to file an Update to Registration Report before you file your Correction Report.

• We recommend that you coordinate with the City Clerk's Office before you file a Correction Report so that we can help guide you through the process.

July Quarterly Activity Report Filing Deadline

Navigating the Summer Launch of the E-Filing System



2021 Spring and Summer Timeline

May

- Attend lobbyists trainings.
- Fill out new online Lobbyist Contact Form.

June

- Lobbyists and business entities receive email to set up their e-filing account.
- Lobbyists and business entities refile their Registration Report.

*Note: Renewal fees can be paid via credit card in the E-Filing System. If a lobbyist or business entity needs to mail their renewal fee payment using cash or check, they must mail the payment to the City Clerk's Office at least two weeks before the deadline.

July

- File and submit
 July Quarterly
 Activity Report
 using the new
 e-filing system by
 July 12 Deadline.
- Pay renewal fee if applicable to submit report.
 System will not allow you to submit the report with outstanding fees.*



Reminder! Please Plan Ahead!

- Give yourself plenty of time to file your July Quarterly Activity Report, since this will be a new system and process.
- If you are paying by check or cash, plan to mail the payment at least two weeks in advance of the July filing deadline.
- ✓ If you need to come into the City Clerk's Office, please email lobbyists@austintexas.gov before coming to City Hall. Appointments are required as the office is open by appointment only due to COVID.

DON'T FORGET!

- If you have registered as a lobbyist or business entity before June 1, 2021, the E-Filing System will generate a Registration Fee automatically. Please DO NOT PAY this Registration Fee.
- After you have submitted your Registration Report, the City Clerk's Office will mark the Registration Fee as paid using the information from your most recently paid Registration Fee.
- The Lobbyist Coordinator will be sending each registered lobbyist and business entity an email with instructions about how to navigate the fee process for their fee situation.

We are Here to Help You!

Please don't hesitate to reach out to the City Clerk's Office if have any questions or struggling to navigate the E-Filing System.

Call: (512) 974-2210

Email: lobbyists@austintexas.gov

Questions?

Disclaimer: This presentation is NOT legal advice.

Please consult with your attorney and review the express terms of <u>City Code Chapter 4-8</u> when filing lobbyists reports.