

# LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

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# What will we cover?

- What is Advocacy?
- Is Advocacy the same as Lobbying?
- Can local public health lobby?
- How should advocates communicate with legislators and policymakers?
- Where can I find out more?

# Poll

I engage with advocacy efforts in my job

- Yes
- No

# Poll

I engage with lobbying efforts in my job

- Yes
- No

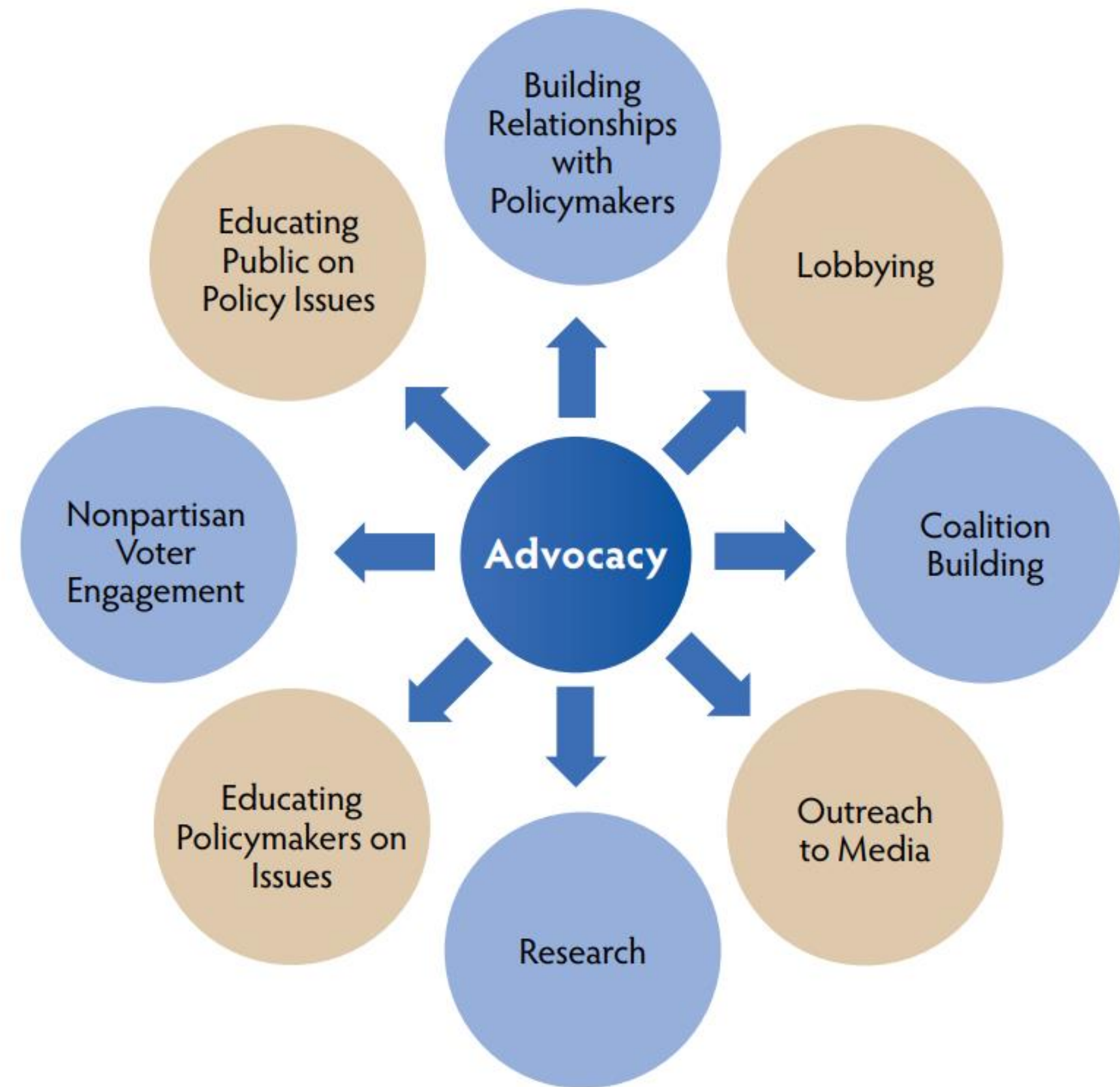
# What is Advocacy?

Advocacy is simply identifying, embracing and promoting a cause





# Advocacy Activities



# Poll

Can Local Public Health Staff Engage in Lobbying Activities

- Yes, with proper registration
- Never
- It Depends

# Poll - Select all that are lobbying

- Meeting with an elected official to discuss the negative impacts of Tobacco
- Asking a legislator to vote Yes or No on a House Bill or Senate Bill
- Provide arguments for public comment in the House and Senate
- Tell your constituents to contact their representatives to vote yes on a bill
- Sharing model legislation with an elected official
- Providing comments or research on administrative/agency rules or regulations



# Lobbying – Rules are Important

- The Lobby Act defines “lobbying” as “communicating directly with an official in the executive branch of state government or an official in the legislative branch of state government **for the purpose of influencing legislative or administrative action.**”
- A “lobbyist” is an individual, business, committee, or any other organization or group of persons, whose expenditures (i.e., payments for labor or similar) for lobbying either:
  - (a) exceed **\$2,525.00 in value in any 12-month** period; or
  - (b) exceed **\$650.00 in value, expended on a single public official**, in any 12-month period
- Thus, a local government entity that meets the definition of a lobbyist either based on its expenditures or by contracting with a lobbyist agent, as well as each employee that qualifies as a lobbyist agent, is subject to the Lobby Act’s registration and reporting requirements.

# Lobbying – Rules are Important

- State and local government employees are not prohibited from lobbying state legislators under the Michigan Lobby Act.
- They have to register as a lobbyist agent and the County would need to register as a lobbyist and report its expenditures.
- As a local appointed official whose term of office is prescribed by statute, a **health officer** is excluded from the definition of a lobbyist. Thus, the health officer may lobby without having their salary reported as a lobbying expenditure. (Secretary of State Letter to Schindler, Sept. 3, 1981. )

# Lobbying – Rules are Important

- Counties likely have specific requirements for employees engaging in activities to influence legislation or state policy.
- The terms and conditions of any grants or federal or state contracts may themselves prohibit use of funds for lobbying, or they may require compliance with federal regulations or cost principles that prohibit lobbying.
- **Please check with your supervisor or human resources department before engaging in these activities during workhours.**

# Lobbying – Rules are Important



Ideas. Experience. Practical answers.



## Lobbying and Other Political Activity by Government Employees in Michigan

The appropriate role for public health professionals in politics and policy-making is long debated. Some argue that public health professionals should avoid engaging in politics because politicization undermines the field, while others argue that politics are inextricable and therefore unavoidable in public health.<sup>1</sup> But even within the narrowest conception of public health practice, there are many ways in which politics and therefore advocacy are relevant to effectively assuring the public's health, ranging from seeking adequate funding for local health services to answering questions from community members about proposed ballot measures affecting health. Thus, beyond normative, ethical, and strategic questions about advocacy, public health departments and practitioners must consider the complex array of federal, state, and local laws that govern and limit public bodies' political activities and use of public resources. This fact sheet describes Michigan state laws and regulations that govern public bodies and employees with regard to several categories of activity: (1) lobbying of state government officials; (2) public employees' participation in political activities; and (3) use of public funds for political activities.

This fact sheet does not discuss federal law, but it is important to remember that federal restrictions on lobbying and other political activities are generally tied to federal funding. The terms and conditions of any grants or federal or state contracts may themselves prohibit use of funds for lobbying, or they may require compliance with federal regulations or cost principles that prohibit lobbying. Readers should be sure to consider all funding sources and applicable terms and conditions of any grant, whether federal, state, or other, to determine applicable laws. Readers should also review local laws since Michigan local governments may adopt ordinances or resolutions concerning lobbying as long as they are not more restrictive than the Lobby Act provisions.<sup>2</sup>

### Lobbying State Officials



# How to find your elected officials



[michigan.gov/micrc/mapping-process/final-maps/district-maps-by-county](https://michigan.gov/micrc/mapping-process/final-maps/district-maps-by-county)

[bit.ly/48PPWkG](https://bit.ly/48PPWkG)



# How to find your elected officials

State of MI = Lansing

[house.mi.gov/AllRepresentatives](https://house.mi.gov/AllRepresentatives)

[senate.michigan.gov/senators/senatorinfo\\_complete.html](https://senate.michigan.gov/senators/senatorinfo_complete.html)

Federal = D.C.

[senate.gov/senators/](https://senate.gov/senators/)

[house.gov/representatives](https://house.gov/representatives)

# How to get updates on bills / laws

Committee work for State of MI:

[legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(q1busk3co4ummym4lhjx0go\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=listserverSignup](https://legislature.mi.gov/(S(q1busk3co4ummym4lhjx0go))/mileg.aspx?page=listserverSignup)

# How to read a bill

<https://legislature.mi.gov>

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NAVIGATE  
HOUSE BILLS

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**Syndication**

**House Bill 6101 (2022)** [rss?](#)  
[friendly link](#)  
[printer friendly](#)  
**Friendly Link:** <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2022-HB-6101>

**Sponsors**  
[Jeff Yaroach](#) (district 33)  
[Daire Rendon](#)  
(click name to see bills sponsored by that person)

**Categories**  
[Property: land sales](#); [Environmental protection: sewage](#); [Consumer protection: other](#);  
  
[Property: land sales](#); [inspection of septic tanks](#); [require at time of sale](#). Creates new act.

**Bill Documents**  
[Bill Document Formatting Information](#)  
(gray icons indicate that the action did not occur or that the document is unavailable)

**Documents**

**House Introduced Bill**  
Introduced bills appear as they were introduced and reflect no subsequent amendments or changes.

**As Passed by the House**  
As Passed by the House is the bill, as introduced, that includes any adopted House amendments.

**As Passed by the Senate**  
As Passed by the Senate is the bill, as received from the House, that includes any adopted Senate amendments.

**House Enrolled Bill**  
Enrolled bill is the version passed in identical form by both houses of the Legislature.

**Bill Analysis**  
**House Fiscal Agency Analysis**

**Summary as Introduced (9/27/2022)**  
This document analyzes: [HB6101](#)

**History**  
(House actions in lowercase, Senate actions in UPPERCASE)  
NOTE: a page number of 1 indicates that the page number is soon to come.

| Date      | Journal | Action                                                                                    |
|-----------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5/17/2022 | HJ 44   | Pg. 695 introduced by Representative Jeff Yaroach                                         |
| 5/17/2022 | HJ 44   | Pg. 695 read a first time                                                                 |
| 5/17/2022 | HJ 44   | Pg. 695 referred to Committee on <a href="#">Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation</a> |
| 5/18/2022 | HJ 45   | Pg. 698 bill electronically reproduced 05/17/2022                                         |

# How to watch the legislature

State of MI = Lansing

[house.mi.gov/VideoArchive](https://house.mi.gov/VideoArchive)

[cloud.castus.tv/vod/misenate](https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/misenate)

Federal = D.C.

[live.house.gov/](https://live.house.gov/)

[senate.gov/legislative/floor activity\\_pail.htm](https://senate.gov/legislative/floor_activity_pail.htm)

# Poll

What subjects are you are interested in advocating around?



**Save the Date!**

**April 10<sup>th</sup> 2024**  
**- Lansing -**



# Poll

What additional information do you need to know in order to feel prepared for the Day at the Capitol next year?

# Questions?

