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Lobbying in the First 10 Months of 2011

Between January and October, \$187,547,798 has been spent on lobbying in New York, about \$26 million short of 2010's record breaking full-year total.¹ An examination of several of the interests involved provides a revealing summary of the top issues and political trends in the state during Governor Cuomo's first year in office.

A full list of the 100 highest spending interest groups begins on page three of this report.

The Executive Budget

Rank	Interest Group	\$ Spent Lobbying, First 10 Months 2011	2010, Entire Year Lobbying \$
1	COMMITTEE TO SAVE NEW YORK, INC.	\$9,767,608.00	\$0.00
2	1199/SEIU & GNYHA HEALTHCARE EDUCATION PROJECT	\$6,802,949.00	\$3,607,738.00

In previous years, the state's top spending interest groups typically ran campaigns opposing the governor's budget proposals. In 2010, for example, the American Beverage Association ran a \$12,892,006 campaign (the largest ever) in a successful attempt to defeat Governor Paterson's proposed soda tax. The 1199/SEIU & GNYHA Healthcare Education Project finished in second place for both 2010 and 2011. Last year, they campaigned against Governor Paterson's proposed budget cuts. This year, after participating in several parts of the budget creation process, such as the Medicaid Redesign Team, they ran a large advertising campaign supporting the final proposal. The 2011-12 proposed budget was also supported by the Committee to Save New York, which entered November approximately \$3.1 million shy of topping last year's record lobby spending effort.

Wal-Mart

Rank	Interest Group	\$ Spent Lobbying, First 10 Months 2011	2010, Entire Year Lobbying \$
4	WAL-MART STORES, INC.	\$2,650,015.00	\$113,432.00

¹ In September and October, a total of \$32,050,960 was spent, so a record breaking year is feasible.

Wal-Mart has not finished in the top ten in any previous year. They have significantly ramped up their spending while hoping to gain approvals to build an outlet in New York City. Most of this lobbying occurred at the local level.

Marriage Equality

Rank	Interest Group	\$ Spent Lobbying, First 10 Months 2011	2010, Entire Year Lobbying \$
5	NEW YORKERS UNITED FOR MARRIAGE	\$1,864,572.00	\$0.00
15	NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MARRIAGE	\$832,510.00	\$0.00
19	HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN	\$726,120.00	\$0.00
62	CATHOLIC CONFERENCE	\$293,438.00	\$387,601.00
97	FREEDOM TO MARRY ACTION, INC.	\$223,409.00	\$0.00

While scores of interest groups took a position on the issue of gay marriage, five who focused heavily on this issue were able to crack the top hundred.² Of these five, three supported Governor Cuomo’s proposal and spent \$2,814,101; two opposed it, and spent \$1,125,948.

Occupy Wall Street

Rank	Interest Group	\$ Spent Lobbying, First 10 Months 2011	2010, Entire Year Lobbying \$
41	BROOKFIELD FINANCIAL PROPERTIES, LP	\$371,477.00	\$362,496.00

Brookfield Financial Properties, owner of the “occupied” Zuccotti Park in Manhattan, finished 41st this year. They did not identify the bills they lobbied on.

Hydrofracking

Chesapeake Appalachia, the top industry supporter,³ spent \$189,183. This places them 116th for the first ten months, a precipitous decline from their 18th place finish in 2010, when they spent \$1,090,958. It appears that groups on both sides of this controversial issue have increasingly focused on advertisements dealing with the general topic of hydrofracking rather than specific legislative proposals, and thus have not needed to report the full expanse of their campaigning.

² Groups like NYSUT, which finished 3rd overall, supported marriage equality, but also focused on dozens of other issues. A majority of the Catholic Conference’s money was spent on “legislative issues associated with timelines for commencing certain civil actions related to sex offenses,” but since they were more publically vocal on the issue of gay marriage than any other, they are included here.

³ Groups such as the Business Council took a position on this issue, but also focused on many other bills.

Redistricting

Congressional Representative	\$ Spent	
	Lobbying	Lobby Firm
HIGGINS FOR CONGRESS	\$55,086.00	LYNCH, PATRICIA ASSOCIATES, INC.
ENGEL FOR CONGRESS	\$30,096.00	EMPIRE STRATEGIC PLANNING, INC.
CROWLEY FOR CONGRESS	\$21,677.00	MEARA, BRIAN R. PUBLIC RELATIONS, INC.
FRIENDS OF CAROLYN MCCARTHY	\$10,206.00	BROWN & WEINRAUB, PLLC
RICHARD HANNA FOR CONGRESS COMMITTEE	\$7,500.00	AVELLA, MICHAEL A.
KATHY HOCHUL FOR CONGRESS	\$0.00 ⁴	BOLTON-ST. JOHNS, LLC

With the 2012 redistricting process looming, six of New York's 29 Congressional delegation members have retained some of Albany's top lobbying firms. This underscores the widely-held belief that the current process results in lines that reflect partisan interests and personal connections.

100 Highest Spending Interest Groups

Rank	Interest Group	\$ Spent Lobbying, First 10 Months 2011	2010, Entire Year Lobbying \$
1	COMMITTEE TO SAVE NEW YORK, INC.	\$9,767,608.00	\$0.00
2	1199/SEIU & GNYHA HEALTHCARE EDUCATION PROJECT	\$6,802,949.00	\$3,607,738.00
3	UNITED TEACHERS (NYS)	\$4,076,582.00	\$4,769,502.00
4	WAL-MART STORES, INC.	\$2,650,015.00	\$113,432.00
5	NEW YORKERS UNITED FOR MARRIAGE	\$1,864,572.00	\$0.00
6	UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS	\$1,457,361.00	\$1,211,760.00
7	GREATER NEW YORK HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, SUBSIDIARIES & AFFILIATE	\$1,301,350.00	\$1,797,443.00
8	UNITED FEDERATION OF TEACHERS	\$1,241,894.00	\$1,358,838.00
9	HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION OF NYS	\$1,181,056.00	\$1,489,348.00
10	VERIZON NEW YORK	\$1,021,727.00	\$1,314,306.00
11	ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS (NYS)	\$954,547.00	\$254,706.00
12	ALTRIA CLIENT SERVICES INC. AND ITS AFFILIATES	\$917,927.00	\$1,067,502.00
13	MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NY	\$909,422.00	\$1,200,295.00
14	GOLDMAN, SACHS & CO.	\$840,788.00	\$1,118,312.00
15	NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MARRIAGE	\$832,510.00	\$0.00
16	CABLEVISION (CSC HOLDINGS, INC.)	\$816,077.00	\$980,191.00
17	GENTING NEW YORK LLC	\$774,475.00	\$75,000.00
18	WEGMANS FOOD MARKETS, INC.	\$734,657.00	\$1,014,698.00

⁴ Kathy Hochul for Congress signed a contract with Bolton-St. Johns on November 9th, 2011. They will be representing her campaign for nine months at the cost of \$5,000 per month.

19	HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN	\$726,120.00	\$0.00
20	TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, INC. (NYS)	\$709,290.00	\$775,568.00
21	LIFE INSURANCE COUNCIL OF NY, INC.	\$667,230.00	\$607,896.00
22	PUBLIC EMPLOYEES FEDERATION (NYS)	\$647,419.00	\$795,626.00
23	GLENWOOD MANAGEMENT CORP.	\$641,382.00	\$828,347.00
24	UNIVERSITY (NEW YORK)	\$594,969.00	\$420,259.00
25	STRONG ECONOMY FOR ALL COALITION	\$575,523.00	\$0.00
26	BANKERS ASSOCIATION (NY)	\$564,291.00	\$650,768.00
27	T. ROWE PRICE ASSOCIATES INC.	\$562,241.00	\$0.00
28	PROPERTY CASUALTY INSURERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (PCIAA)	\$550,848.00	\$546,625.00
29	PFIZER INC.	\$514,173.00	\$553,026.00
30	RUDIN MANAGEMENT COMPANY, INC.	\$511,669.00	\$61,000.00
31	NURSES ASSOCIATION (NYS)	\$507,059.00	\$472,779.00
32	SIEBERT BRANDFORD SHANK & CO., L.L.C.	\$503,270.00	\$147,192.00
33	EMBLEMHEALTH SERVICES COMPANY, LLC	\$502,345.00	\$617,359.00
34	BUSINESS COUNCIL OF NYS, INC. (THE)	\$494,117.00	\$720,887.00
35	AT&T INC. AND ITS AFFILIATES	\$438,403.00	\$418,358.00
36	ZUFFA LLC	\$436,543.00	\$211,199.00
37	ENTERGY NUCLEAR OPERATIONS, INC.	\$429,935.00	\$460,770.00
38	PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH AND MANUFACTURERS OF AMERICA	\$427,694.00	\$382,681.00
39	SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (NYS)	\$399,982.00	\$449,333.00
40	TIME WARNER CABLE	\$389,584.00	\$391,004.00
41	BROOKFIELD FINANCIAL PROPERTIES, LP	\$371,477.00	\$362,496.00
42	YESHIVA UNIVERSITY	\$358,678.00	\$234,323.00
43	COCA COLA REFRESHMENTS USA, INC. (FKA THE COCA-COLA COMPANY)	\$353,786.00	\$471,293.00
44	1199 SEIU UNITED HEALTHCARE WORKERS EAST	\$352,998.00	\$343,250.00
45	AMERICAN BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION	\$351,313.00	\$12,891,045.00
46	COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA - DISTRICT ONE	\$349,687.00	\$172,437.00
47	REAL ESTATE BOARD OF NEW YORK	\$347,501.00	\$292,599.00
48	UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY	\$339,410.00	\$387,924.00
49	EXCELLUS HEALTH PLAN, INC.	\$337,596.00	\$492,185.00
50	VISITING NURSE SERVICE OF NEW YORK	\$328,245.00	\$399,543.00
51	CABLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION OF NEW	\$324,585.00	\$624,179.00
52	DELAWARE NORTH COMPANIES, INC.	\$322,332.00	\$516,646.00
53	RETAIL COUNCIL OF NEW YORK STATE	\$318,300.00	\$349,800.00
54	CONFERENCE OF MAYORS & MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS (NYS)	\$317,425.00	\$382,715.00
55	HEALTH PLAN ASSOCIATION (NY)	\$315,853.00	\$605,553.00
56	INDUSTCO HOLDINGS, LLC	\$310,757.00	\$146,689.00
57	MADISON SQUARE GARDEN LP	\$308,680.00	\$371,315.00

58	AETNA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.	\$303,011.00	\$144,450.00
59	IROQUOIS HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE	\$300,523.00	\$342,533.00
60	COUNTY OF MADISON	\$296,443.00	\$359,739.00
61	GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY	\$296,021.00	\$583,485.00
62	CATHOLIC CONFERENCE	\$293,438.00	\$387,601.00
63	CONSORTIUM FOR WORKER EDUCATION	\$292,691.00	\$185,492.00
64	ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, INC. (NYS)	\$289,459.00	\$287,697.00
65	MICROSOFT CORPORATION	\$289,069.00	\$207,919.00
66	GTECH CORPORATION	\$288,309.00	\$307,692.00
67	VORNADO REALTY L.P.	\$288,005.00	\$494,209.00
68	UNITED HEALTHCARE SERVICES, INC.	\$281,032.00	\$357,903.00
69	KPMG LLP	\$278,488.00	\$324,777.00
70	AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION	\$276,928.00	\$342,080.00
71	AFL-CIO (NYS)	\$275,974.00	\$265,380.00
72	ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES & ITS AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS (NYS)	\$275,965.00	\$704,770.00
73	NORTHROP GRUMMAN CORPORATION	\$273,547.00	\$277,472.00
74	SPECTRA ENERGY	\$273,405.00	\$265,487.00
75	MBIA, INC. (OPTINUNITY ALLIANCE RESOURCES CORPORATION)	\$272,409.00	\$250,226.00
76	HOSPITALS INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.	\$271,844.00	\$313,624.00
77	NATIONAL GRID	\$258,432.00	\$185,941.00
78	BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY	\$257,150.00	\$350,763.00
79	YONKERS RACEWAY	\$256,746.00	\$226,597.00
80	ALLIANCE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION	\$256,696.00	\$268,155.00
81	CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK	\$255,046.00	\$268,066.00
82	NRG ENERGY, INC.	\$253,878.00	\$443,225.00
83	WELLPOINT, INC.	\$253,513.00	\$658,635.00
84	DURST ORGANIZATION (THE)	\$251,585.00	\$65,216.00
85	R.A. REAL ESTATE, INC.	\$249,869.00	\$0.00
86	ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS OF THE STATE OF NY	\$248,530.00	\$231,272.00
87	STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES	\$247,627.00	\$366,238.00
88	CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES POLITICAL ACTION FUND	\$246,304.00	\$325,184.00
89	EXTENDED HOME CARE	\$245,177.00	\$160,907.00
90	COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS	\$244,823.00	\$288,200.00
91	FINANCIAL SERVICE CENTERS OF NEW YORK, INC.	\$242,926.00	\$220,587.00
92	249 W 28TH STREET PROPERTIES, LLC	\$242,637.00	\$49,028.00
93	LAFARGE NORTH AMERICA, INC.	\$241,086.00	\$150,972.00
94	MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.	\$239,143.00	\$248,171.00
95	COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE	\$235,448.00	\$295,739.00
96	HOME CARE ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE	\$234,205.00	\$253,491.00

97	FREEDOM TO MARRY ACTION, INC.	\$223,409.00	\$0.00
98	LEG ASTORIA LLC	\$221,427.00	\$174,291.00
99	WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY (THE)	\$221,174.00	\$281,315.00
100	ACE GROUP - NORTH AMERICA	\$220,709.00	\$134,708.00