

ORDINANCE

TO PROHIBIT GREENVILLE COUNTY FROM USING PUBLIC FUNDS TO ENGAGE LOBBYISTS OR PUBLIC RELATIONS REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, Greenville County funds should never be paid to private entities or individuals to advocate for more funds or actions from the State or other local governments and those funds should never be used to attempt to influence the decisions of any local or state government decisions.

WHEREAS, lobbying can lead to undue influence, unfair competition and regulatory capture to the detriment of the true interests of the County and the citizens of Greenville County.

WHEREAS, the allocation of public funds to lobby other governments can lead to the unnecessary expansion of government activities, resulting in increased administrative costs to the public.

WHEREAS, “lobbying activities” to influence the passage, defeat, or modification of legislation, regulations, policies, or decisions of any legislative body, government agency, or elected official is not a core function of Greenville County government.

WHEREAS, paying private entities or individuals to influence the public or other entities to support or advocate any political cause, position or decision is an improper use of public funds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by Greenville County Council:

1. No public funds received or collected by Greenville County shall be used to directly employ or contract with persons or entities engaged in any form of lobbying activities at the local, state, or federal levels. This does not prohibit the County from paying dues to any association or entities that represent the interests of local governments.
2. No public funds received or collected by Greenville County shall be used to directly employ or contract with persons or entities engaged in public relations intended to influence the public or other entities to support or advocate any political cause, position or decision except as may be specifically and publicly authorized and approved by County Council.
2. This Ordinance shall take effect upon the date of its adoption.

DONE IN REGULAR MEETING THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2023.

Dan Tripp, Chairman
Greenville County Council

ATTEST:

Regina McCaskill
Clerk to Council

Joseph M. Kernell
County Administrator