

ORDINANCE NO. 22

LOBBYING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE. An Ordinance to regulate the retaining of lobbying and public relations firms on behalf of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

BE IT ENACTED, by the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council as follows:

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Ordinance may be cited as the Lobbying and Public Relations Ordinance of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.

SECTION 2. Statement of Purpose and Authority.

- a. The purpose of this Ordinance is to ensure an open and fair process for the contracting of lobbying and public relations firms for work conducted on behalf of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. This Ordinance is promulgated in recognition of the fact that lobbying and public relations firms may be needed to help communicate, defend and protect the legitimate interests of the Tribe and its membership. Such firms are not required by state or federal governments in which they operate to be professionally licensed or to adhere to a standard code of ethics to protect the interests of their clients. The purpose of this Ordinance is to ensure the proper representation of the Tribe and to safeguard and protect the interests of the Tribe and its membership during the course of such representation.
- b. The authority for the creation of this Ordinance is set out in Article VI Sections 1(e) and 1(i) of the amended Tribal Constitution of November 4, 1986, which provides that the Tribal Council has the power to manage all economic affairs and enterprises of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and to regulate Tribal Council procedures and conduct.

SECTION 3. Definitions

- a. Lobbyist: For purposes of this Ordinance, the term “Lobbyist” shall mean any individual, firm or business whose activities are primarily or substantially related to lobbying, retained by the Tribe for the purpose of conducting lobbying activities on behalf of the Tribe with any state or federal official, governmental agency, department or legislature. The term “lobbyist” shall not include any employee of the Tribe working solely in his/her capacity as an employee, or any attorney or contracted party who works with a state or federal official, governmental agency, department or legislature and whose activities are not primarily or substantially related to lobbying.

- b. Public Relations Firm: For purposes of this Ordinance, the term “Public Relations Firm” shall mean any individual, firm or business whose activities are primarily or substantially related to public relations, retained by the Tribe for the purpose of conducting public relations activities on behalf of the Tribe. The term “Public Relations Firm” shall not include any employee of the Tribe working solely in his/her capacity as an employee or any attorney or contracted party whose activities are not primarily or substantially related to public relations.

SECTION 4. Review and Approval of Lobbyist and Public Relations Contracts.

- a. Legal Review: All contracts and agreements between the Tribe and a Lobbying or Public Relations Firm shall be in writing and must be reviewed and reported on to the Tribal Council in writing by the Tribe’s Legal Department prior to formal consideration and approval of the Tribal Council.
- b. Contract Requirements: All Lobbying or Public Relations Firms contracts must require detailed invoicing on not less than a monthly basis to the Tribal Council. Such invoicing shall include a reasonable description of work performed and expenses incurred on behalf of the Tribe. All contracts must also require regular reporting by representative(s) of the Lobbying or Public Relations Firm, in writing, to the Tribal Council on the activities or work being performed on behalf of the Tribe. Contracts shall not be for a term greater than one year but may have a provision allowing for renewal at the completion of such term as provided in subsection 4.c. below.
- c. Contract and Political Contribution Approval: All Lobbying and Public Relations Firm contracts and all contributions to or on behalf of any federal or state elected official or candidate must be approved and/or renewed by a majority vote of Tribal Council Members with a quorum present at a Regular Session of the Tribal Council.

SECTION 5. Severability. If any Section, subsection or other portion of this Ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate and independent part of the Ordinance and the remaining portion of the Ordinance shall remain valid and in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective on the date enacted.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Enacted September 30, 2004 by Resolution 04-166. Section 4.c. amended by Resolution 23-115 approved on June 7, 2023.