

Side-by-Side Comparison of Democratic and Republican Lobbying Reform Plans

	Democratic Honest Leadership Open Government Proposal	GOP Bill
Bans Travel from Lobbyists?	YES. Permanently bans travel from lobbyists and organizations that retain or employ them; prohibits lobbyists from funding, arranging, planning, or participating in congressional travel. These provisions do not apply to non-profits <u>without</u> lobbyists, like the Aspen Institute and AIPAC.	NO. Delays real action – temporarily suspending privately funded travel only through the end of the year and requiring ethics committee to report recommendations on gift and travel rules by Dec. 15, 2006.
Bans Meals and Gifts from Lobbyists?	YES. Bans Members from receiving gifts or meals from lobbyists and organizations that retain or employ them.	NO. Only calls for the disclosure of gifts given by lobbyists. Requires recommendations on gift rules by December 15, 2006.
Toughens Public Disclosure of Lobbyist Activity?	YES. Requires lobbyists to file quarterly reports with more information, including campaign contributions, <u>fundraisers and other events that honor Members, and the name of each Member contacted.</u> Reports must be in electronic format, searchable on the Internet.	NOT ENOUGH. Only requires quarterly filing, electronic filing, a searchable database, and disclosure of past seven years of government employment, and lobbyist contributions.
Closes Revolving Door?	YES. Prohibits former Members, executive branch officials and senior staff from lobbying their former colleagues for 2 years	NO. Does nothing to expand the revolving door restriction.
Bans Members from Using Corporate Jets?	YES. Bans Members from using corporate owned or privately owned jets for official travel.	NO. Only prohibits lobbyists from flying on corporate charter flights with Members.
Makes Earmarks More Public?	YES. Mandates public disclosure of Members who sponsor earmarks and whether Members have a financial interest in the earmark; prohibits any Member from offering or withholding an earmark to influence how another Member votes; and requires that bills containing earmarks must be available to read for three days.	NOT REALLY. Requires a list of earmarks, including the Member’s name, to be included in a general appropriations bill/report, but <u>does not apply to authorization or tax bills, and would not have covered the Alaskan “Bridge to Nowhere.”</u> Requires a list of any additional earmarks included in a conference report that were not in either the House or the Senate conference reports.
Toughens Penalties for Pay-to-Play Schemes, Like the “K Street Project”?	YES. Makes it a crime to take or withhold official action, or threaten to do so, with the intent to influence private employment decisions.	NO. Restates current rules.
Prohibits “Dead of Night” Special Interest Provisions?	YES. Requires conference reports and other legislation to be available in printed form and on the Internet for at least 24 hours before they are considered; requires full and open debate in conference and a vote by the conferees on the final version of the legislation; prohibits consideration of a conference report that contains matters different from what the conferees voted on.	NO provision.

Voting Reforms to Restore Democracy in the House?	YES. Stops the practice of keeping votes open to twist arms and lobby Members on the floor of the House; ends 2-day work weeks; ends practice of House leadership rewriting measures reported from Committees without allowing the House to vote on the committee-reported version.	NO provision.
Prohibits Cronyism in Key Government Appointments and Government Contracting?	YES. Requires government public safety officials to possess proven credentials and experience; restores accountability and openness in federal contracting; imposes stiff criminal and civil penalties on contractors who cheat taxpayers or engage in wartime profiteering; prohibits contractor conflicts of interest; closes the revolving door between government and contractors; and requires full disclosure of contract overcharges.	NO provision.
Requires Disclosure of Grassroots Lobbying?	YES. Require disclosure of paid grassroots lobbying activities directed at the general public, including the organizations that provide financial support to lobbying associations.	NO provision.
Stops Congressional Pensions for Felons?	YES. Members lose government contributions to pension if convicted of bribery or acting as a foreign agent, but allows spouses or dependent children to receive benefits.	YES.
Requires Members and Senior Staff to Disclose Outside Job Negotiations?	YES.	YES.