

Ranking of States
Legislative Financial Disclosure Laws

Compiled by
House Legislative Services
from information in a report of the
Center for Public Integrity at
<http://www.publicintegrity.org/oi/default.aspx?act=methodology#rank>

Center for Public Integrity Survey
 Breakdown on Points for Survey Questions

The following chart lists the categories for the questions, together with the maximum number of points allowed for each:

Category	Sub-category	Maximum Points Allowed
Filing		4
Extent		83
	Employment	29
	Officer/Director	18
	Investments	17
	Clients	8
	Real Property	8
	Family	3
Public Access		8
Enforcement		5

Center for Public Integrity
 Specifics about Survey Questions

The following charts provide some detail about specific questions and other information provided by the Center relative to the questions within each category.

Filing (total 4 points maximum):

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
1. Requires financial disclosure filing?	Yes - 1	Only the three non-disclosure states—Idaho, Michigan and Vermont—received zero points
2. Requires complete financial disclosure filing (no update filing allowed)?	Yes - 1	Update filings are short forms that may be filed in years when personal financial interests have not changed or changed very little. Update forms do not qualify as complete filings. Requiring an initial complete filing, followed yearly by an "update" form on which only changes are reported, would not receive a point.
3. Requires financial disclosure filing annually?	Yes - 1	Requiring annual disclosure for elected legislators received a point.
4. Requires financial disclosure filing for candidates?	Yes - 1	Requiring complete financial disclosure for candidates, regardless of when they are required to file again if elected, received a point.

Extent (total 83 points maximum):

Employment (total 29 points maximum):

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
5. Employment information required?	Yes - 5	Full points granted for requiring legislators to report employment information
6. Employment information not narrowly defined?	Yes - 5	Full points granted if the threshold for reporting employment income was \$5000 or less. No points granted if threshold was over \$5000 or if large categories of employers were excluded. Louisiana requirement for report only of income from governmental agencies and gambling-related interests cited as example (and California example of not requiring report of income from governmental agencies).

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
7. Employer/business name required?	Yes - 5	Requiring report of name of legislator's employer received full points.
8. Employment job title required?	Yes - 2	Requiring report of job title received full points
9. Employer description required?	Yes - 2	Requiring report of job description received full points. Full points granted for very specific description or a general category assignment.
10. Value range/income amount required?	Yes - 5	Full points granted for requiring disclosure of legislator's income amount from each employment interest. Full points granted for requiring disclosure of exact amount or a value range (i.e., less than \$1,000;\$1,000 to \$9,999;\$10,000 or more).
11. Spouse employment information required and clear?	Yes - 5 If required and not clear - 2.5	5 points granted if spouse's employment information is required AND clearly labeled on form. Requiring report of spouse's information but not explicitly requiring designation of which interests are held by lawmaker and which by spouse received 2.5 points. Partial points granted if any disclosure requirements required of the filer are NOT required of the spouse.

Officer/Director (total 18 points maximum):

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
12. Officer/director information required?	Yes - 4	Requiring report of positions held as officers or directors received full points.
13. Officer/director information not narrowly defined?	Yes - 4	Full points were granted for requiring report of all compensated and uncompensated positions, including positions in for-profit and nonprofit entities. States with such narrowly defined requirements did not receive points.
14. Officer/director entity name required?	Yes - 4	Full points granted for requiring disclosure of the name of the entity served as an officer or director.
15. Officer/director entity description required?	Yes - 2	Full points granted for requiring description of the entity served as an officer or director. Full points granted for very specific description or for a general category assignment.

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
16. Spouse officer/director information required and clear?	Yes - 4 If required and not clear - 2	4 points granted if spouse's employment information is required AND clearly labeled on form. Requiring report of spouse's information but not explicitly requiring designation of which interests are held by lawmaker and which by spouse received 2 points. Partial points were granted if any disclosure requirements required of the filer by questions 14 and 15 are NOT required of the spouse.

Investments (total 17 points maximum):

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
17. Investment information required?	Yes - 3	Requiring disclosure of any investment information received full points. Investment information includes stock holdings, closely held businesses, & other ownership interests.
18. Investment information not narrowly defined?	Yes - 3	In some states, investment information is required only above a threshold or based on a requirement so narrow that much could not be disclosed. Full points were granted if the reporting threshold for investments was a value/income amount of \$5000 or less, or 1% ownership or less. For states with two thresholds (example, Washington requires reporting of investment holdings valued at more than \$1500 or with ownership of at least 10%), score is based upon the lower value (Washington receives full points because \$1500 is less than \$5000). If neither criterion was low enough, no points were granted.
19. Investment entity name required?	Yes - 3	Requiring report of name of the investment interest received full points .
20. Investment entity description required?	Yes - 2	Full points granted for requiring an investment entity description, whether very specific or a general category assignment. Some states allow report of stock interests (e.g., stocks, mutual funds) and closely-held personal business interests (e.g., sole proprietors, partnerships) under two different reporting requirements. Half-points were awarded for requiring an investment entity description for closely-held personal business interests only and not for general stock interests.

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
21. Investment value range/holding amount required?	Yes - 3	Full points granted for requiring disclosure of income amount from each investment interest. Full points granted for requiring exact amount or a value range (i.e., less than \$1,000; \$1,000 to \$9,999;\$10,000 or more).
22. Spouse investment information required and clear?	Yes - 3 If required and not clear - 1.5	3 points granted if spouse's investment information is required AND clearly labeled on the form. Requiring report of spouse's information but not explicitly requiring designation of interests are held by the lawmaker and those held by the spouse received 1.5 points. Partial points allocated if any disclosure requirements required of the filer by Questions 19 - 21 are NOT required of the spouse.

Clients (total 8 points maximum):

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
23. Client information required?	Yes - 2	Full points granted for requiring client information of any type. Requiring identification of clients by checking a box on the form that corresponded to a specific industry or by disclosing the exact names of clients both received full points. Requiring information about the filer doing business with a government agency did not satisfy the question. This question pertains to private clients associated with filer's outside interests. When information about contracts/leases with the state was required to be reported it is noted, but no points were awarded.
24. Client name required?	Yes - 2	Requiring report of individual names of clients received full points.
25. Client value range/income amount required?	Yes - 2	Full points granted for requiring disclosure of income amount for each client, whether exact amount or a value range (i.e., less than \$1,000; \$1,000 to \$9,999;\$10,000 or more).

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
26. Spouse client information required and clear?	Yes - 2 If required and not clear - 1	2 points were granted if spouse's client information is required AND clearly labeled on the form. Requiring report of spouse's information but not explicitly requiring designation of those interests held by the lawmaker and those held by the spouse received only 1 point. Partial points allocated if any disclosure requirements required of the filer Questions 24 and 25 are NOT required of the spouse.

Real Property (total 8 points maximum):

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
27. Real-property information required?	Yes - 2	Requiring report of real property information received full points. If report of real estate interests was not explicitly required by statute, interviews were conducted to determine. Example: North Dakota requires disclosure of secondary sources of income, including rental income; full points were granted for this.
28. Real-property information not narrowly defined?	Yes - 2	Full points were granted if the threshold for reporting real property was a value of \$10,000 or less and there were no other limiting circumstances. No points were granted if the trigger for reporting real property involved the production of income. For example, in Kansas only land used for income with a value over \$5000 must be reported; in Pennsylvania only real property interests with which the state or a political subdivision is involved must be reported. Limiting real property reporting to holdings within the state was not a factor in determining points.
29. Real-property value range/amount required?	Yes - 2	Full points were granted for requiring disclosure of the value amount of each real property interest, whether an exact amount or a value range(i.e., less than \$1,000;\$1,000 to \$9,999;\$10,000 or more).

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
30. Spouse real-property information required and clear?	Yes - 2 If required and not clear - 1	2 points were granted if a spouse's real-property information is required AND clearly labeled on the form. Requiring report of spouse's information but not explicitly requiring designation of those interests held by the lawmaker and those held by the spouse received only 1 point. Partial points allocated if any disclosure requirements required of the filer for Question 29 are NOT required of the spouse.

Family (total 3 points maximum):

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
31. Spouse name required?	Yes - 2	Requiring legislators to report their spouse's name received full points.
32. Dependent name required?	Yes - 1	Requiring legislators to report their dependents' names received full points.

Public Access (total 8 points maximum):

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
33. Financial disclosure filings in central office?	Yes - 1	Housing all legislators' financial disclosure statements in one central location received a point. Requiring representatives and senators to file separately with their respective ethics commissions/clerks received zero points.
34. Lawmakers not forwarded reviewer information?	Yes - 1	Requiring citizens and journalists to sign release forms which are forwarded to lawmakers received zero points. Requiring reviewer identification form to be filled out, if request not forwarded to legislators, received full points.
35. In-person appearance not required to obtain filings?	Yes - 1	Requiring a person to physically come to the office to obtain filings copies received zero points. Maryland is the only such state.

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
36. Copy fees less than 50 cents per page?	Yes - 1	Copying fees range from 5 cents to one dollar per page. A floating scale to determine fees (e.g., \$.50 for the first 10 pages and \$.10 for each additional page) was assigned the score appropriate for the first price. Different prices for in-state versus out-of-state residents received score appropriate for in-state price.
37. Blank disclosure form available on Web?	Yes - 1	States readily providing blank copies of disclosure reports on their Web sites received full points. States not having forms readily available on their Web sites received half-points. Example: Iowa provides a copy of the actual form within their Code of Ethics, which is available on their Web site. Because the form is not readily accessible without specific direction from the agency, Iowa only received half points. States that only provided faxed copies upon request received zero points.
38. Disclosure filings available electronically or on the Web in any format?	Yes - 3	States that make legislators' disclosure reports electronically available for viewing in any format (disk or Web site) received full points. Since many states are in transition from paper to electronic filing availability, points were awarded for providing electronic-availability at the present time.

Enforcement (total 5 points maximum):

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
39. Late-filing penalties on the books?	Yes - 1	Having a penalty on the books for late filings, received a point. For survey, late-filings penalties are assessed to legislators who miss the deadline for filing a traditional report.
40. Misfiling penalties on the books?	Yes - 1	States that assess a penalty for lawmakers who file incomplete (e.g., missing pages, signatures) or intentionally incorrect forms received a point.

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
41. State has auditing authority?	Yes - 1	States received a point if at least one state agency has statutory authority to conduct an official audit of the disclosure filings. Authority could rest with any state agency—the secretary of state, an ethics board, the attorney general or any other governmental body—in order to receive a point. The issue is whether any state entity—either on its own initiative OR in response to a complaint—has the authority to audit these documents. For survey purposes, an audit is defined by whether the state has the power to subpoena or compel a lawmaker to produce additional documents (such as bank statements), hold hearings, or any other activities that allow the state agency to determine whether the disclosure reports are complete and accurate. States that are limited to conducting an informal review process did not receive full points.
42. State routinely reviews filings for accuracy and completeness, either through formal audit process or informal review process?	Yes - 1	States received a point if the oversight agency routinely reviews the filings to ensure they are properly completed. The issue is whether the state has the authority to review the filings on its own initiative, and not just in response to a complaint. For the purposes of this review, it does not matter if the review is a formal audit or something informal. This question was scored based on an expert interview (and sometimes a statute provided confirmation). States where experts answered "No" to the question or said they did a " cursory " review, where they checked if filings came in, but did nothing further, did not receive points.
43. State published list of delinquent filers on Web or in printed document?	Yes - 1	States received a point for this question if the state makes public a list of lawmakers who failed to file reports by the required deadline, or filed incomplete or inaccurate reports. To receive a point, the state must post or publish a separate list where the public can see it, such as in a newsletter, local newspaper or Web site. States that flag delinquent filers in their searchable database but do not provide a definitive list received zero points for this question.

Center for Public Integrity Disclosure Rankings

Disclosure Ranking

WASHINGTON, April 17, 2008 — This table shows results of the Center's methodical evaluation of financial-disclosure laws that apply as of 2008 to members of the legislatures in all 50 states. The 43-question survey—focused on basic disclosure components and access to public records—was worth 100 points. See [methodology](#). Click on a column title to sort and click on a state name for details.

To see how the rankings changed since the last update on January 24, 2006, go to ["Georgia Leads States Shining, More List on Legislator Finances."](#)

State	Points	Rank
Washington	93.5	1
Hawaii	90.5	2
Texas	88	3
Alaska	88	4
Arizona	82	5
Georgia	81	6
California	78.5	7
Kansas	78	8
Alabama	77.5	9
New Jersey	78	10
Arkansas	76	11
New Mexico	74.8	12
New York	73.8	13
Massachusetts	73.5	13
Connecticut	72	15
Rhode Island	72	15
Missouri	70.5	17
Kentucky	70.5	17
North Carolina	70	19
Wisconsin	70	19
Maryland	68.5	21
Oregon	67.5	22
Ohio	67	23
Delaware	64.5	24
Florida	63	25
Colorado	63	25
South Dakota	60	27
Virginia	59.5	28
South Carolina	59.5	28
Indiana	59.5	28
North Dakota	68.8	31
Tennessee	67.8	32
Pennsylvania	66	33
Oklahoma	55.5	34
Mississippi	55.5	34
Illinois	55	36
Montana	54	37
Nebraska	54	37
Minnesota	53.5	39
Nevada	49.5	40
Iowa	48	41
Maine	46	42
West Virginia	45	43
Louisiana	43	44
Wyoming	40	45
New Hampshire	24	46
Utah	9.5	47
Vermont	0	48
Michigan	0	48
Idaho	0	48

Comparison of Scores on CPI Survey Questions ~ Louisiana & Washington

Filing (total 4 points maximum):

Question	Maximum Points	Comparison of Louisiana and Washington
1. Requires financial disclosure filing?	Yes - 1	Both 1
2. Requires complete financial disclosure filing (no update filing allowed)?	Yes - 1	LA 1 Washington 0 (Filers may file a statement of no change instead of a complete filing)
3. Requires financial disclosure filing annually?	Yes - 1	Both 1
4. Requires financial disclosure filing for candidates?	Yes - 1	LA 0 Washington 1

Extent (total 83 points maximum):

Employment (total 29 points maximum):

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
5. Employment information required?	Yes - 5	Both 5
6. Employment information not narrowly defined?	Yes - 5	LA 0 (Louisiana requirement for report only of income from governmental agencies and gambling-related interests cited) Washington 5
7. Employer/business name required?	Yes - 5	Both 5
8. Employment job title required?	Yes - 2	LA 0 Washington 2
9. Employer description required?	Yes - 2	Both 0
10. Value range/income amount required?	Yes - 5	Both 5
11. Spouse employment information required and clear?	Yes - 5 If required and not clear - 2.5	Both 5

Officer/Director (total 18 points maximum):

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
12. Officer/director information required?	Yes - 4	LA 0 Washington 4

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
13. Officer/director information not narrowly defined?	Yes - 4	LA 0 Washington 4
14. Officer/director entity name required?	Yes - 4	LA 0 Washington 4
15. Officer/director entity description required?	Yes - 2	LA 0 Washington 2
16. Spouse officer/director information required and clear?	Yes - 4 If required and not clear - 2	LA 0 Washington 4

Investments (total 17 points maximum):

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
17. Investment information required?	Yes - 3	Both 3
18. Investment information not narrowly defined?	Yes - 3	LA 0 (Report not required unless own 10% of entity receiving money from state or local government or gaming entity) Washington 3
19. Investment entity name required?	Yes - 3	Both 3
20. Investment entity description required?	Yes - 2	LA 0 Washington 1 (Only 1 point because filers not required to describe company where stock is held)
21. Investment value range/holding amount required?	Yes - 3	LA 0 Washington 3
22. Spouse investment information required and clear?	Yes - 3 If required and not clear - 1.5	Both 3

Clients (total 8 points maximum):

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
23. Client information required?	Yes - 2	LA 0 Washington 2
24. Client name required?	Yes - 2	LA 0 Washington 2

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
25. Client value range/income amount required?	Yes - 2	LA 0 Washington 1 (Only 1 of possible 2) Filers required to report income amount/value range from government unit in which filer seeks or holds office)
26. Spouse client information required and clear?	Yes - 2 If required and not clear - 1	LA 0 Washington 2

Real Property (total 8 points maximum):

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
27. Real-property information required?	Yes - 2	LA 0 Washington 2
28. Real-property information not narrowly defined?	Yes - 2	LA 0 Washington 2
29. Real-property value range/amount required?	Yes - 2	LA 0 Washington 2
30. Spouse real-property information required and clear?	Yes - 2 If required and not clear - 1	LA 0 Washington 2

Family (total 3 points maximum):

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
31. Spouse name required?	Yes - 2	LA 0 Washington 2
32. Dependent name required?	Yes - 1	LA 0 Washington 0.5 (0.5 of 1 Filers required to report dependent names only if have reportable interests)

Public Access (total 8 points maximum):

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
33. Financial disclosure filings in central office?	Yes - 1	Both 1
34. Lawmakers not forwarded reviewer information?	Yes - 1	Both 1
35. In-person appearance not required to obtain filings?	Yes - 1	Both 1
36. Copy fees less than 50 cents per page?	Yes - 1	Both 1
37. Blank disclosure form available on Web?	Yes - 1	La 0 Washington 1
38. Disclosure filings available electronically or on the Web in any format?	Yes - 3	Both 3

Enforcement (total 5 points maximum):

Question	Maximum Points	Comments
39. Late-filing penalties on the books?	Yes - 1	Both 1
40. Misfiling penalties on the books?	Yes - 1	Both 1
41. State has auditing authority?	Yes - 1	Both 1
42. State routinely reviews filings for accuracy and completeness, either through formal audit process or informal review process?	Yes - 1	LA 1 Washington 0
43. State published list of delinquent filers on Web or in printed document?	Yes - 1	LA 0 Washington 1

Possible Changes in Louisiana Law

Based on the survey questions and methodology used in the 2006 Center for Public Integrity survey, the following chart provides a brief listing of changes that might be made in Louisiana law to achieve a very high rating if the same methodology and questions were used in the future.

Category/subcategory	Points Possible	Possible Change in Law/ Comment
Filing	1	Require financial disclosure by candidates for the legislature. Require the same disclosure for candidates as required for office holders with necessary adjustments to fit candidate status.
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>1</i>	
Content/Employment	5	Require disclosure of income from all employment and sources, not just governmental agencies and gaming interests. This would be a major change from a limited and narrow financial disclosure law to a general disclosure law.
Content/Employment	2	Require report of job title
Content/Employment	2	Require report of job description (can be specific description or assignment to general category)
Content/ Employment		Continue to require the same information for spouses as for legislators
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>9</i>	
Content/ Officer or Director	4	Require report of positions held as officers or directors
Content/ Officer or Director	4	Require report of all such positions (not narrowly defined; must include for-profit and nonprofit entities)
Content/ Officer or Director	4	Require report of the name of the entity served as an officer or director
Content/ Officer or Director	2	Require report of a description of the entity served (either a specific description or a general category assignment)
Content/ Officer or Director	4	Require report of same officer/director information for the spouse, clearly designated and distinct from that of the legislator
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>18</i>	

Category/subcategory	Points Possible	Possible Change in Law/ Comment
Content/ Investments	3	Replace the narrow definition of investment income that must be reported (now report requirement is limited to ownership of at least 10% of the entity receiving money from the state or local government or from a gaming entity.) Reporting threshold CPI calls for a value/income of \$5000 or less or 1% ownership or less, and if two thresholds (income and ownership) are used, the lower one is used for the ranking.
Content/ Investments	2	Require report of investment entity description, whether specific or by a general category assignment
Content/ Investments	3	Require disclosure of income amounts from each investment interest (either exact amount or value range).
Content/ Investments		Continue to require the same information for spouses as for legislators
<i>Subtotal</i>	8	
Content/Clients	2	Require a report of client information. (Examples include checking a box corresponding to a specific industry or disclosing exact client name). Information should be about private clients associated with the filer's outside interests. The CPI report noted that Louisiana requires no information about private clients.
Content/Clients	2	Require a report of individual names of clients
Content/Clients	2	Require a report of income amount of each client (exact amount or a value range)
Content/Clients	2	Require a report of spouse information (clearly designated and separate from the legislator and the same as required for the legislator)
<i>Subtotal</i>	8	
Content/Real Property	2	Require a report of real property information
Content/Real Property	2	Provide for general and not narrow definition of real property for which report is required with a threshold of \$10,000 or less and no limiting circumstances, particularly no reporting trigger related to property that produced income
Content/Real Property	2	Require a report of value of real property (exact amount or value range)
Content/Real Property	2	Require a report of spouse information (clearly designated and separate from the legislator and the same as required for the legislator).

Category/subcategory	Points Possible	Possible Change in Law/ Comment
<i>Subtotal</i>	8	
Content/Family	2	Require a report of the name of the legislator's spouse
Content/Family	1	Require a report of dependents' names
<i>Subtotal</i>	3	
Public Access	1	Provide for a blank copy of the disclosure report form on the Website
<i>Subtotal</i>	1	
Enforcement	1	Require publication of a list of delinquent filers on the Web or in a printed document.
<i>Subtotal</i>	1	
<i>Total</i>	57	