

Citation

Use of LobbyView data for academic purposes (presentations, working and conference papers, theses and dissertations, journal articles, software packages) requires that you cite the following paper:

Kim, In Song (2018). "LobbyView: Firm-level Lobbying & Congressional Bills Database." Working paper available from <http://web.mit.edu/insong/www/pdf/lobbyview.pdf>

Lobbyist-Legislator Network Data Export

This CSV export contains a pre-computed network of lobbyist-legislator connections. Each row is a connection between a particular lobbying client and a particular legislator in a particular year. We derive this data in the following fashion: registrants file reports on behalf of their clients. A single client can have multiple registrants and a single registrant can have multiple clients. We de-duplicate and uniquely identify clients. Each report contains issues lobbied. Each issue may contain the name or number of bills the client lobbied. Those bills each have a sponsor, who is a member serving in the U.S. congress. We generate these dyads at an annual level and summarize the data to collect the number of bills tying the client to the legislator.

The below table specifies the columns provided in this CSV export. The fourth column, "Linked Datasets", describes which of our other CSV datasets can be linked to this column.

Network Level Variables

Column Name	Description	Data Type	Linked Datasets
lob_id	Unique, lobbyview-constructed identifier for a lobbying client (a firm or entity that hires a registrant to lobby on their behalf). In the original LDA filings, clients are not uniquely identified or given an indicator. We disambiguate them using a novel method which produces a single ID for each entity. The disambiguation process is described here. Please refer to the Data Notes below and read more about lob_id.	TEXT UUID	Report Level Data, Network Level Data
bioguide_id	Third-party identifier for sponsor of bill, sourced from the Congressional Bioguide for members of Congress. The identifier consists of the first letter of a legislator's surname, followed by a six-digit number.	TEXT	Bill Level Data, External Bioguide Data
year	Year of the connection dyad.	INT	—
n_bills	A count of the number of bills sponsored by the legislator in bioguide_id that were lobbied by the client in lob_id. NOTE: This number will never be zero; in cases where a client-legislator dyad has no connection in a given year, it will be missing from the dataset. Thus, particular dyads may disappear and reappear over time.	INT	—

Data Notes and Versions

This data was generated on 2024-10-25. For detailed version history, please see the [version.pdf](#) file.

Versions of the data beginning with v2024.10.01 are strictly incompatible with previous versions of the data. We made improvements to the process we used to disambiguate and identify unique clients and connect clients to external datasets. The `lob_id` field contains the newest, most accurate identifier assigned to client entities. Prior versions of LobbyView data included a `client_uuid` field. This field is deprecated. We are investigating providing a mapping of `lob_id` to `client_uuid` fields, but have no ETA to report.

Reporting Data Issues

Our team has invested an enormous amount of effort to ensure that the LobbyView data is of the highest possible quality. If you detect an error in our data, we would love to hear from you. Please contact lobbydata@gmail.com and include as much information as possible so we can understand the error you are reporting.

Connecting LobbyView Data

The below diagram provides a quick guide explaining how to connect each LobbyView data download to each other, and to external datasets.

Connecting LobbyView Data

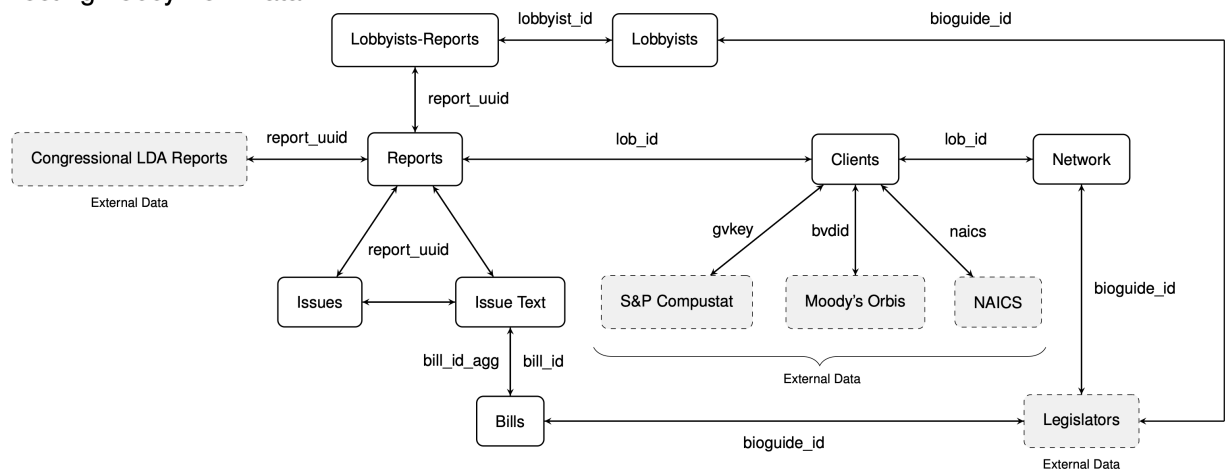


Figure 1: Connection Diagram