



**To:** President Koultourides and Members Town Council

**From:** Dustin Anderson, Town Manager

**Date:** November 12, 2021

**Re:** Letter of Engagement: State Legislative Relations Counsel

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This memo requests Town Council approval of an engagement between the Town of Munster and Barnes & Thornburg LLP for legislative lobbying services.

The Town wishes to engage Barnes & Thornburg as its state legislative relations counsel. Under this engagement, Barnes & Thornburg will provide the following lobbying services to the Town:

1. Assist the Town in developing legislative strategies for effectively advocating its interests before the Indiana General Assembly.
2. Monitor legislation introduced during the legislative session that may be of interest to the Town.
3. Draft legislation, amendments to legislation, or advocacy pieces regarding legislation to further the Town's interests.
4. Be available to meet and discuss pertinent Town issues with Indiana legislators and their staff for the purpose of influencing legislative action, which is commonly defined as "legislative lobbying" under Indiana law.
5. Monitor and testify at legislative interim committee hearings on matters concerning the Town.

The fees for these services are \$5,000 per month from November 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022 and \$3,000 per month from April 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022. Further, at the Town's request, Barnes & Thornburg can draft or file lobby registration or activity reports for submission to the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission on behalf of the Town for an annual fixed fee of \$1,500. The Town will be responsible for any additional charges incurred, which may include lobbying compliance fees and lobbying compliance expenses.

These rates have not increased from the prior year.

**Recommendation:** By motion and voice vote, authorize the Town Manager to sign the letter of engagement with Barnes & Thornburg for legislative lobbying services.