

Commissioner of Political Practices
Policies and Procedures

Amended Office Management Policy 2.4**Reinstating Pre-Lair 2016 Campaign Contribution limits**

Adopted: May 17, 2016; First amended on May 18, 2016; Second amended on May 26, 2016

Introduction

The Federal District Court, in the Matter of *Lair v. COPP* No. 6:12-cv-00012-CCL, issued its Order on May 17, 2016 declaring that the limits imposed by Montana law on contributions to candidates for Montana public office are unconstitutional. The Federal Court's Order has voided the limits on contributions.

The contribution limits voided by the Federal Court were set by a November 1994 vote of Montana voters approving Initiative 118. The new limits set by I-118 amended limits were then set out at §13-37-216 MCA.

In response to the Federal Court's Order, the Commissioner adopts the following amended policy.

Policy

The Commissioner hereby recognizes that Montana law reinstates the larger contribution limits in place under §13-37-216 MCA before those limits were amended by the now voided portion of I-118. The Commissioner notes that the Policy is adopted under the reasoning, authority and direction set by the Montana Supreme Court in *State ex. rel. Woodahl v. District Court*, 162 Mont. 283, 290, 511 P.2d 318, 322 (1972): "[a]n unconstitutional amendment to a law leaves the section intact as it had been before the attempted amendment." This issue is further addressed by AG Opinion Vol. 51, No. 2.

I. Individual Contribution Limits

The Court's Order struck 13-37-216(1) MCA (2011) applying limits to individuals. The amounts for individual contributions set by §13-37-216 MCA before the now voided amendment by I-118 are as follows:

\$1,500 limit for Gubernatorial candidates
\$750 limit for Other Statewide Office candidates
\$400 limit for candidates for PSC, District Court
Judge, and State Senator

\$250 limit for any candidates for any other Montana public office (including State Representative)

Subsection (4) of §13-37-216 MCA (2011) sets an inflation factor based on the consumer price index in place in the year of 2002. The inflation factor was set by the Montana legislature independent of changes made by I-118. The Commissioner applies the inflation factor for the reason that it was not challenged by the *Lair* litigation and appears to be unaffected by the Court's Order. Applying a 1.326 Inflation Factor to the reinstated pre-I-118 limits sets the following limits on individual contributions to a candidate for election in 2016:

\$1,990 limit for Gubernatorial candidates
\$990 limit for Other Statewide Office candidates
\$530 limit for candidates for PSC, District Court Judge, and State Senator
\$330 limit for any candidates for any other Montana public office (including State Representative)

It is noted that the limits set by §13-37-216 MCA prior to amendment by I-118 were single limits covering both the primary and general election. Accordingly, the Commissioner adopts the above as a single limit for contributions to a 2016 Montana candidate for public office.

II. Political Committee Contribution Limits, Other than Political Parties.

The Court's Order struck 13-37-216(1) MCA (2011), the subsection of law applying limits to political committees other than political party committees. The amounts for political committee contributions set by §13-37-216 MCA before the now voided amendment by I-118 are as follows:

\$8,000 limit for Gubernatorial candidates
\$2,000 limit for Other Statewide Office candidates
\$1,000 limit for candidates for PSC
\$600 limit for a candidate for the state senate
\$300 limit for any candidates for any other Montana public office (including State Representative and District Court Judge)

Applying the inflation factor discussed above, the reinstated limits for political committees other than political party committees are:

\$10,610 limit for Gubernatorial candidates
\$2,650 limit for Other Statewide Office candidates
\$1,330 limit for candidates for PSC
\$800 limit for a candidate for the state senate

\$400 limit for any candidates for any other Montana public office (including State Representative and District Court Judge)

It is noted that the limits set by §13-37-216 MCA prior to amendment by I-118 were single limits covering both the primary and general election. Accordingly, the Commissioner adopts the above as a single limit for contributions to a 2016 Montana candidate for public office.

III. Political Party Contribution Limits

The Court's Order of May 17, 2016 struck 13-37-216(3) MCA (2011), the subsection of law applying limits to political party committees. On May 25, 2016 the Court issued its further Order staying the effect of this part of the Order as to Montana's 2016 elections. Accordingly, political party contribution limits for 2016 elections were and are those set by 44.11.227 ARM:

Office	Contribution Limit – Per Election
Governor/Lieutenant Governor	\$23,850
Other Statewide offices	\$8,600
PSC	\$3,450
State Senate	\$1,400
All other Elected Offices	\$850

This Policy, with any amendments, is in effect barring further legislative or judicial action that might affect the contribution limits, including the completion of litigation in the matter of *Lair v. COPP* No. 6:12-CV-00012-CCL. Failure to adhere to these contribution limits will be treated as a violation of Montana's campaign practice laws.

STATE LIMITS ON CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANDIDATES

[2017-2018 Election Cycle: Limits on Contributions to Candidates](#)

[2015-2016 Election Cycle: Limits on Contributions to Candidates](#)

[2013-2014 Election Cycle: Limits on Contributions to Candidates](#)

[2011-2012 Election Cycle: Limits on Contributions to Candidates](#)

[2009-2010 Election Cycle: Limits on Contributions to Candidates](#)

These tables are only available in PDF format and provide the following information by state with statute cites: Individual to Candidate Contributions; State Party to Candidate Contributions; PAC to Candidate Contributions; Corporate to Candidate Contributions; Union to Candidate Contributions.

To view PDF files, you must install [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#).

For more information, contact NCSL's Legislative Management Team at elections-info@ncsl.org or 303-364-7700.

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cited in *Lair v. Motl*, No. 16-35424 archived on October 18, 2017

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cited in *Lair v. Motl*, No. 16-35424 archived on October 18, 2017



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

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State Limits on Contributions to Candidates 2015-2016 Election Cycle

	Individual → Candidate Contributions	State Party → Candidate Contributions	PAC → Candidate Contributions	Corporate → Candidate Contributions	Union → Candidate Contributions
Alabama Ala. Code § 17-5-1 et seq.	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Alaska § 15.13.070 and 15.13.074(f)	\$500/candidate/year Aggregate amounts candidates may accept from non-residents: \$20,000/year/gub candidate \$5,000/year/Senate candidate \$3,000/year/House candidate	\$100,000/year/gub candidate \$15,000/year/Senate candidate \$10,000/year/House candidate \$5,000 municipal candidate	\$1,000/office/year Contributions from out-of-state PACs prohibited	Prohibited ^d	Prohibited ^d
Arizona ^{b, e, 1} A.R.S. § 16-905 and 16-919	\$5,000/statewide or legislative candidate <i>cited in Laing v. Laing, No. 16-35424 archived on October 18, 2017</i>	Aggregate contributions accepted from all political parties and organizations cannot exceed: \$80,000 – statewide candidate \$8,000 – legislative candidate	“Super” PACs ² : \$10,000/statewide or legislative candidate/year Regular PACs: \$5,000/statewide or legislative candidate/year <i>Amounts are per election cycle</i>	Prohibited ^d	Prohibited ^d
Arkansas A.C.A. § 7-6-203	\$2,700/candidate/election ^a	\$2,700/candidate/election ^a	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits

¹ The Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission has filed suit in Maricopa County Superior Court to block the increased limits, claiming that the legislation establishing them (HB 2593, 2013) violated the Voter Protection Act, which bars the legislature from making changes to any voter-approved laws without a second popular vote or a 3/4ths vote of the legislature. This litigation could result in an injunction that prevents the new limits from going into effect. Candidates are responsible for accepting only up to the legal maximum pursuant to law and candidates should check with their election official as to the law's status. The pre-HB 2593 limits would be \$912/statewide candidate and \$440/legislative candidate per election cycle.

² In Arizona, a PAC that has received contributions from 500 or more individuals in amounts of \$10 or more in a one-year period may qualify as a “Super PAC.” Qualification is valid for two years. (Ariz. Rev. Stat. §16-905(l))

Individual → Candidate Contributions	State Party → Candidate Contributions	PAC → Candidate Contributions	Corporate → Candidate Contributions	Union → Candidate Contributions
California^e Gov. Code § 85300 et seq. For elections held on or after Jan. 1, 2013: \$28,200/gubernatorial candidate \$7,000/other statewide candidate \$4,200/legislative candidate <i>Amounts are per election^a</i>	Unlimited	For elections held on or after Jan. 1, 2013: “Small Contributor” Cmtes ³ : \$28,200/gubernatorial candidate \$14,100/statewide candidate \$8,500/legislative candidate Regular PACs: Same as individual limits <i>Amounts are per election^a</i>	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
Colorado^e Constitution Art. XXVIII Effective 3/15/11 - 2015: \$575/statewide candidate \$200/legislative candidate Limits double for a candidate who accepts voluntary spending limits if his/her opponent has not accepted the limits <i>and</i> has raised more than 10% of the limits <i>Amounts per election^a</i>	Effective 3/15/11 - 2015: \$615,075/gub. candidate \$123,000/other statewide candidate \$22,125/Senate candidate \$15,975/House candidate Note: Contributions by a candidate to his/her own campaign, and unexpended contributions carried forward to a subsequent election cycle, are treated as contributions from a political party and are subject to the political party limits. Party limits cannot be doubled for candidates who accept voluntary limits. <i>Amounts are per applicable election cycle.</i>	Limits effective 3/15/11 - 2015: “Small Donor” Committees ⁴ \$6,125/gub & statewide cand \$2,425/legis candidate Regular PACs and Federal PACs: Same as individual limits	Prohibited ⁵	Can contribute through PAC's established by the organization

³ In California, a “small contributor committee” is a committee which has been in existence for at least six months, receives contributions from 100 or more persons in amounts of not more than \$200 per person, and makes contributions to five or more candidates. (Cal. Govt. Code §85203)

⁴ In Colorado, a “small donor committee” means any political committee that has accepted contributions only from natural persons who each contributed no more than \$50 in the aggregate per year.

⁵ Corporations are prohibited from donating money from their treasury, but are permitted to establish independent expenditure committees or political committees with the same contribution limits as PACs

	Individual → Candidate Contributions	State Party → Candidate Contributions	PAC → Candidate Contributions	Corporate → Candidate Contributions	Union → Candidate Contributions
Connecticut^b Ct.Gen.Stat. § 9-611, 9-613 and 9-615 Update July 2013	\$3,500/gubernatorial candidate \$2,000/other statewide candidate \$1,000/Senate candidate \$250/House candidate \$30,000 aggregate/individual to all candidates and committees per Ct. Gen. Stat. § 9-611(d). <i>All amounts are per election^a</i>	\$50,000/gubernatorial candidate \$35,000/other statewide candidate \$10,000/Senate candidate \$5,000/House candidate <i>All amounts are per election^a</i>	\$5,000/gubernatorial candidate \$3,000/other statewide candidate \$1,500/Senate candidate \$750/House candidate Aggregate limits on contributions by PACs to candidates: \$100,000/election by a PAC established by a business entity \$50,000/election by a PAC established by an organization <i>All amounts are per election^a</i>	Prohibited ^d	Prohibited ^d
Delaware 15 Del. Code §8010 to 8013	\$1,200/statewide candidate \$600/other candidate <i>All amounts per election cycle</i>	\$75,000/gubernatorial candidate \$25,000/other statewide candidate \$5,000/Senate candidate \$3,000/House candidate <i>All amounts per election cycle</i>	Same as individual limits <i>Same as individual limits</i>	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits

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Source: National Conference of State Legislatures
Last updated October 2015
Oklahoma and Montana updated May 2016

This data is presented for information purposes only and should not be considered legal advice.

Individual → Candidate Contributions	State Party → Candidate Contributions	PAC → Candidate Contributions	Corporate → Candidate Contributions	Union → Candidate Contributions
Florida Fla. Stat. § 106.08 \$3,000/statewide candidate \$1,000/legislative <i>Amounts are per election^a</i> (Effective 11/1/2013)	A candidate for statewide office may not accept contributions from parties which in the aggregate exceed \$250,000, and no more than \$125,000 of that amount may be received during the 28 days preceding an election. A legislative candidate can accept up to \$50,000 each from the national or state executive committee of a party, or up to \$50,000 from the county executive committee of a party.	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
Georgia^e O.C.G.A. § 21-5-41 to 43 Limits last adjusted 12/2010 Regular primary or general: \$6,300/statewide candidate \$2,500/legislative candidate Run-off: \$3,700/statewide candidate \$1,300/legislative candidate <i>Amounts are per election^a</i>	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
Hawaii H.R.S. §2: 11-357, 11-359 \$6,000/statewide candidate \$4,000/Senate candidate \$2,000/House candidate Contributions from a candidate's immediate family are limited to \$50,000 in an election cycle, including loans. <i>All amounts are per election cycle</i>	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits

Continued on next page

	Individual → Candidate Contributions	State Party → Candidate Contributions	PAC → Candidate Contributions	Corporate → Candidate Contributions	Union → Candidate Contributions
Idaho § 67-6610A	\$5,000/statewide candidate \$1,000/leg candidate <i>Amounts are per election^a</i>	\$10,000/statewide candidate \$2,000/legislative candidate <i>Amounts are per election^a</i>	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
Illinois 10 ILCS 5/9-8.5	\$5,400/candidate/election cycle Any candidate who receives benefit or detriment from independent expenditures in excess of the amounts below is exempted from all contribution limits: \$250,000/statewide candidate \$100,000/candidate for any other office A candidate and their immediate family members (spouse, parent, or child) can make unlimited contributions to that candidate's campaign. Any candidate whose opponent is self-funded is exempted from contribution limits. A self-funded candidate is an individual who contributes \$250,000 to his or her own statewide campaign in an election cycle, or \$100,000 for all other elective offices. Contributions made to a candidate by immediate family members are also considered "self-funding."	Unlimited if candidate is not seeking nomination in a primary election. For candidates running in a primary: \$215,800/statewide candidate \$134,900/Senate candidate 134,900 \$80,900/House candidate Unlimited from a political party during General or Consolidated Election Unlimited during Primary Election Cycle when candidate is not seeking nomination <i>Amounts are per election cycle.</i>	\$53,900 per election cycle Same limit applies to a contribution from one candidate committee to another	\$10,800per election cycle	\$10,800 per election cycle

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures
Last updated October 2015
Oklahoma and Montana updated May 2016

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	Individual → Candidate Contributions	State Party → Candidate Contributions	PAC → Candidate Contributions	Corporate → Candidate Contributions	Union → Candidate Contributions
Indiana Ind. Code § 3-9-2-4 et seq.	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	\$5,000 in the aggregate to statewide candidates \$2,000 in the aggregate to Senate candidates \$2,000 in the aggregate to House candidates <i>All amounts are per year</i>	Same as corporate limits
Iowa Iowa Code § 68A.503	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Prohibited ^d	Unlimited
Kansas K.S.A. § 25-4153	\$2,000/statewide candidate \$1,000/Senate candidate \$500/House candidate <i>Amounts are per election^a</i>	For a contested primary election, same as individual limits. Unlimited in uncontested primaries and general elections	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
Kentucky K.R.S. § 121.025, 121.035, and 121.150	\$1,000/candidate/election ^a	Unlimited Aggregate Limits: No candidate can retain party contributions which in the aggregate exceed 50% of total contributions or \$10,000 (whichever is greater) in an election cycle.	Same as individual limits Aggregate Limits: No candidate can retain PAC contributions which in the aggregate exceed 50% of total contributions or \$10,000 (whichever is greater) in an election cycle. 121.150(23)(a)	Prohibited ^d	Same as individual limits

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Source: National Conference of State Legislatures
 Last updated October 2015
 Oklahoma and Montana updated May 2016

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Individual → Candidate Contributions	State Party → Candidate Contributions	PAC → Candidate Contributions	Corporate → Candidate Contributions	Union → Candidate Contributions
Louisiana La. R.S. § 18:1505.2 \$5,000/statewide candidate \$2,500/legislative candidate <i>Amounts are per election⁶</i>	Unlimited	Regular PACs: Same as individual limits "Big" PACs ⁶ : Double the amount of individual limits Candidates subject to following aggregate limits on all PAC contributions accepted for the primary and general elections combined: \$80,000/statewide candidate \$60,000/legislative candidate	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
Maine^{b,e} 21-A M.R.S.A. §1015 \$1,575/gubernatorial candidate \$375/legislative candidate ⁷ Individual contribution limits do not apply to contributions in support of a candidate by that candidate, or that candidate's spouse or domestic partner. Individuals limited to \$25,000 aggregate contributions to all campaign finance entities per calendar year. This limitation does not apply to contributions in support of a candidate by that candidate or that candidate's spouse or domestic partner.	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits

⁶ In Louisiana, a "Big PAC" is a PAC with over 250 members who contributed over \$50 to the PAC during the preceding calendar year and has been certified as meeting that membership requirement.

⁷ In Maine, candidates who are enrolled in a political party may contribute up to \$375 from an individual. Individual contributions to unenrolled candidates are unlimited for primary elections.

Source: *National Conference of State Legislatures*
Last updated October 2015
Oklahoma and Montana updated May 2016
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	<i>Amounts are per election⁸</i>				
	Individual → Candidate Contributions	State Party → Candidate Contributions	PAC → Candidate Contributions	Corporate → Candidate Contributions	Union → Candidate Contributions
Maryland Md. Code § 13-226 and 13-227	Effective Jan. 1, 2015 \$6,000/candidate \$24,000 aggregate to all candidates <i>Amounts are per 4-year election cycle</i>	Transfer limit: \$6,000/4-year election cycle In-Kind Contributions: Limited to an amount equal to \$1 for every two registered voters in the state, regardless of political affiliation, to a single candidate. Limit is per 4-year election cycle.	\$6,000/candidate/4-year election cycle	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
Massachusetts G.L. Ch. 55, § 6, 6A, 7A and 8	\$1000/candidate \$12,500/individual aggregate limit on contributions to all candidates Registered lobbyists may only contribute up to \$200/candidate <i>Amounts are per calendar year.</i>	\$3,000/candidate/year No limit on in-kind contributions	Regular PAC or People's Committee: ⁸ \$500/candidate Candidates cannot accept aggregate contributions from regular PACs that exceed the following amounts (People's Committees are exempt from the aggregate limits): \$150,000/gubernatorial candidate \$18,750/Senate candidate \$7,500/House candidate <i>Amounts per calendar year.</i>	Prohibited ^d	Same as PAC limits

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⁸ In Massachusetts, a "People's Committee" is a PAC that has been in existence for six months, has received contributions from individuals of \$156 (adjusted biennially; this amount is for 2013-2014) or less per year, and has contributed to five candidates.

Source: *National Conference of State Legislatures*
Last updated October 2015
Oklahoma and Montana updated May 2016
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	Individual → Candidate Contributions	State Party → Candidate Contributions	PAC → Candidate Contributions	Corporate → Candidate Contributions	Union → Candidate Contributions
Michigan M.C.L. § 169.246, 169.252 and 169.254	\$6,800/statewide candidate \$2,000/Senate candidate \$1,000/House candidate <i>All amounts are per election cycle</i>	\$750,000/governor or lieutenant governor slate with public funding \$136,000/governor or lieutenant governor slate without public funding \$136,000/other statewide candidate \$20,000/Senate candidate \$10,000/House candidate <i>All amounts are per election cycle</i>	Political Committees: Same as individual limits. Independent PACs ⁹ : \$68,000/statewide candidate \$20,000/Senate candidate \$10,000/House candidate <i>All amounts are per election cycle</i>	Prohibited ^d	Prohibited ^d

Continued on next page

cited in *Lair v. Motl*, No. 16-35424 archived on October 18, 2017

⁹ In Michigan, an “independent committee” must have filed a statement of organization at least 6 months before the election in which the committee wishes to make contributions; must have supported or opposed 3 or more candidates for nomination or election; and must have received contributions from at least 25 persons.

Individual → Candidate Contributions	State Party → Candidate Contributions	PAC → Candidate Contributions	Corporate → Candidate Contributions	Union → Candidate Contributions
Minnesota Minn. Stat. § 10A.27 and 211B.15 Election segment limits: ¹⁰ \$4,000/governor – lieutenant governor slate \$2,500/AG candidate \$2,000/SOS or auditor candidate \$1,000/legislative candidate Non-election segment limits: \$2,000/governor-lieutenant governor slate \$1,500/Attorney General candidate \$1,000/Secretary of State or Auditor candidate \$1,000/Senate candidate n/a for House candidates Candidates who have signed a public subsidy agreement are also subject to a limit (equal to five times the election segment limits above) on the amount of personal funds they can contribute to their own campaign. <i>Amounts are per 2-year election segment.</i>	Party committees may contribute up to 10 times the limits imposed on individuals Candidates are subject to the following aggregate limits on contributions received in the 2013-14 election cycle from party committees and terminating principal campaign committees: \$40,000/governor-lieutenant governor slate \$25,000/Attorney General candidate \$20,000/Secretary of State or Auditor candidate \$10,000/legislative candidate	Same as individual limits Aggregate contributions from political committees or individuals who contribute or loan more than ½ the yearly contribution limit cannot exceed the following amounts: \$700,000/governor-lieutenant governor slate \$120,000/Attorney General candidate \$80,000/Secretary of State or Auditor candidate \$6,000/Senate candidate \$12,000/House candidate	Prohibited ^d	Same as individual limits
Mississippi Miss. Code § 97-13-15	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	\$1,000/candidate/year
Missouri Mo. Rev. Stat. § 130.031	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited

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¹⁰ Minnesota's SF 991 (2013) divided election cycles into two-year periods, and made limits applicable to a two-year period rather than a single year. The limit is higher for the two-year period during which an election is held for the office, and lower during a non-election two-year period for candidates that serve a four- or six-year term.

Source: *National Conference of State Legislatures*
Last updated October 2015
Oklahoma and Montana updated May 2016
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	Individual → Candidate Contributions	State Party → Candidate Contributions	PAC → Candidate Contributions	Corporate → Candidate Contributions	Union → Candidate Contributions
Montana ^{e, 11} M.C.A. §13-35-227 and §13-37-216	\$1,990/gubernatorial slate \$990/other statewide cand. \$530/senate candidate \$330/house candidate <i>Amounts are per election cycle</i>	\$23,850/gubernatorial slate \$8,600/other statewide cand. \$1,400/senate candidate \$850/house candidate <i>Amounts are per election cycle</i>	\$10,610/gubernatorial slate \$2,650/other statewide cand. \$800/senate candidate \$400/house candidate Candidates limited to total contributions from all PACs: \$2,800 senate candidates \$1,700 house candidates <i>Amounts are per election cycle</i>	Prohibited	Prohibited
Nebraska N.R.S. § 32-1604 and 32-1608	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Nevada § 294A.100 and Const. Art. 2 §10	\$5,000/candidate/election ^a	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
New Hampshire R.S.A. § 664:4	To candidates not agreeing to abide by spending limits: \$1,000/election ^a To candidates agreeing to abide by spending limits: \$5,000/election ^a	To candidates not agreeing to abide by spending limits: \$1,000/election ^a Unlimited to candidates who agree to expenditure limits	Same as party limits	Same as individual limits ¹²	Prohibited ^d
New Jersey ^e N.J.S.A. § 19:44A-11.3	\$3,800/gubernatorial candidate \$2,600/legislative candidate <i>Amounts are per election^a</i>	No limit on contributions by state, county, municipal and legislative leadership committees National party committee: \$8,200/election ^a	\$8,200/candidate/election ^a	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits

¹¹ Montana's contribution limits have been the subject of ongoing litigation over the last several years. See the [Montana Commissioner of Political Practices webpage](#) for latest information.

¹² Corporations are no longer prohibited from making political contributions under New Hampshire law despite the language of NH RSA 664:4. That ban was declared unconstitutional by a federal district court in 1999. A June 6, 2000 letter from Deputy Attorney General Steven M. Houran indicates that the limits on individual contributions now apply to corporate contributions as well.

Source: *National Conference of State Legislatures*
Last updated October 2015

Oklahoma and Montana updated May 2016
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	Individual → Candidate Contributions	State Party → Candidate Contributions	PAC → Candidate Contributions	Corporate → Candidate Contributions	Union → Candidate Contributions
New Mexico^e N.M.S.A. § 1-19-34.7	\$5,400/statewide candidate \$2,500/non-statewide candidate <i>Amounts are per election^a</i>	\$5,400/election ^a	Same as party limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
New York^e Election Law, § 14-114 and 14-116	Regular Limits, Primary: \$6,500-\$19,700/statewide ¹³ \$6,500/Senate candidate \$4,100/Assembly candidate Family Limits, Primary ¹⁴ : \$523-\$137,978/statewide \$20,000-\$41,577/Senate candidate \$12,500-\$17,061/Assembly Regular Limits, General: \$41,100/statewide candidate \$10,300/Senate candidate \$4,100/Assembly candidate Family Limits, General: \$278,609/statewide candidate \$30,079-\$57,304/Senate candidate \$12,500-\$24,871/Assembly <i>Amounts are per election cycle.</i> Maximum contributions by an individual limited to \$150,000 in the aggregate per calendar year.	Prohibited in primary election Unlimited in general election	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits, with exceptions (see below) Corporations are limited to \$5,000 per year in aggregate contributions to NY state candidates and committees. Candidates may accept corporate contributions of up to \$5,000 annually during each year of an election cycle, as long as the total contributions from the corporation do not exceed the election cycle's regular limits on individual contributions, and the corporation does not exceed its aggregate limit of \$5,000/year to all candidates and committees.	Same as individual limits

Continued on next page

¹³ Limit is based on a formula: product of number of enrolled voters in candidate's party in state (excluding voters on inactive status) x \$.005, but not less than \$6,500 or more than \$19,700

¹⁴ Separate limits apply for contributions from all family members in the aggregate. Limit is based on a formula: total # of enrolled voters on active status in candidate's party in the state/district x \$0.025. "Family" is defined as a child, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, and the spouses of those persons. Contributions from the candidate and the candidate's spouse are not limited.

Source: *National Conference of State Legislatures*
Last updated October 2015

Oklahoma and Montana updated May 2016

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	Individual → Candidate Contributions	State Party → Candidate Contributions	PAC → Candidate Contributions	Corporate → Candidate Contributions	Union → Candidate Contributions
North Carolina^e N.C.G.S. § 163-278.13, 163-278.15 and 163-278.19	\$5,000/candidate/election ^a	Unlimited	Same as individual limits	Prohibited ^d	Prohibited ^d
North Dakota § 16.1-08.1	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Prohibited ^d	Prohibited ^d
Ohio^e O.R.C. § 3517.102, 3517.104 and 3599.03	\$12,532.52/candidate/election ^a	\$706,823.95/statewide candidate \$140,988.82/Senate candidate \$70,181.10/House candidate In-kind contributions unlimited <i>All amounts are per election^o</i>	Same as individual limits	Prohibited ^d	Prohibited ^d
Oklahoma^e 21 OS § 187.1 et seq. and Ethics Commission Rules §2.23, §2.31, §2.33, §2.37,	\$2,700/candidate/election	\$25,000/statewide candidate \$10,000/other state elective office <i>Amounts are prior to general election</i>	\$5,000/candidate/election A PAC that has been registered for less than a year prior to a primary OR has fewer than 25 contributors: \$2,500 per election	Prohibited ^d	Prohibited ^d
Oregon O.R.S. § 260.160 to 174	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Pennsylvania 25 Pa. Stat. §3253	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Prohibited ^d	Prohibited ^d
Rhode Island R.I.G.L. § 17-25-10.1	\$1,000/candidate/ year Individuals limited to \$10,000 in aggregate contributions to candidates, PACs and party committees per year	\$25,000/candidate/year In-kind contributions unlimited	\$1,000/candidate/ year Annual aggregate limit of \$25,000 to all recipients	Prohibited	Prohibited

Continued on next page

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures
 Last updated October 2015
 Oklahoma and Montana updated May 2016
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	Individual → Candidate Contributions	State Party → Candidate Contributions	PAC → Candidate Contributions	Corporate → Candidate Contributions	Union → Candidate Contributions
South Carolina S.C. Code § 8-13-1300(10), 8-13-1314 and 8-13-1316	\$3,500/statewide candidate \$1,000/legislative candidate <i>Amounts are per election^a in each primary, runoff, or special election in which a candidate has opposition and for each general election; if a candidate remains unopposed during an election cycle, one contribution limit shall apply.</i>	\$50,000/statewide candidate \$5,000/other candidate <i>Amounts are per election^a subject to the same exceptions described at left.</i>	\$11,500/statewide candidate \$7,600/legislative candidate	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
South Dakota S.D.C.L. § 12-27-7	\$4,000/statewide candidate \$1,000/legislative candidate <i>Amounts are per calendar year</i>	Unlimited	Unlimited	Prohibited ^d	Prohibited ^d
Tennessee^e Tenn. Code § 2-10-302	\$3,800/statewide candidate \$1,500/legislative candidate <i>Both amounts are per election^a</i>	Candidates limited to aggregate amount from all political party committees: \$374,300/statewide candidate \$59,900/Senate candidate \$30,000/House candidate <i>All amounts are per election^a</i>	\$11,200/statewide candidate \$11,200/Senate candidate \$7,400/other candidates No more than 50% of a statewide candidate's or \$112,300 of a legislative candidate's total contributions may come from PACs <i>All amounts are per election^a</i>	Same as PAC limits If a corporation gives more than \$250 in the aggregate to candidates, it must register as a PAC and make all further contributions through the PAC. It may transfer unlimited amounts from its corporate treasury to the PAC.	Same as PAC limits A union must register as a PAC before making contributions to candidates.
Texas Election Code, § 253	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Prohibited ^d	Prohibited ^d
Utah Utah Code § 20A-11-101	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited

Continued on next page

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	Individual → Candidate Contributions	State Party → Candidate Contributions	PAC → Candidate Contributions	Corporate → Candidate Contributions	Union → Candidate Contributions
Vermont^b 17 VSA §2805	\$4,000/statewide candidate \$1,500/State Senate \$1,000/State House	Unlimited	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
Virginia Va. Code § 24.2-945	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Washington^c RCW § 42.17.610 et seq. WAC § 390-05-400	\$1,900/gubernatorial candidate \$950/legislative candidate <i>Amounts are per election^a</i> During the 21 days before the general election, no contributor may donate more than \$50,000 in the aggregate to a statewide candidate or \$5,000 in the aggregate to any other candidate or a political committee, including political party committees. This includes a candidate's personal contributions to his/her campaign. The state committees of political parties are exempted from this limit.	Aggregate contributions from a state party central committee to a statewide or legislative candidate may not exceed \$.80 x number of registered voters in candidate's district. This limit applies to the entire election cycle.	Same as individual limits A PAC that has not received contributions of \$10 or more from 10 or more WA registered voters during the past 180 days is prohibited from making contributions.	Prohibited for corporations not doing business in Washington state. Same as individual limits for Washington corporations.	Prohibited for unions that have fewer than 10 members who reside in Washington. Same as individual limits for Washington unions.
West Virginia § 3-8-8 to 12	\$1,000/candidate/election ^a	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Prohibited ^d	Same as individual limits

Continued on next page

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	Individual → Candidate Contributions	State Party → Candidate Contributions	PAC → Candidate Contributions	Corporate → Candidate Contributions	Union → Candidate Contributions
Wisconsin § 11.01 et seq.	\$10,000/statewide candidate \$1,000/Senate candidate \$500/Assembly candidate <i>Amounts are per election cycle</i> An individual may not contribute more than \$10,000 in a calendar year to any combination of Wisconsin candidates or political committees.	Aggregate limit on amount candidates may accept from all political party committees, including legislative campaign committees, in an election campaign : \$700,830/gub. candidate \$22,425/Senate candidate \$11,213/House candidate Additionally, the maximum amount a legislative campaign committee can give without reducing committee contributions is: \$6,900/Senate candidate \$3,450/Assembly candidate <i>Amounts are per election cycle</i>	\$43,128/gub. candidate \$1,000/Senate candidate \$500/Assembly candidate Aggregate limit on amount candidates may accept from PACs and candidate committees (grants from the Wisconsin Election Campaign Fund also count against this limit): \$485,190/gub. candidate \$15,525/Senate candidate \$7,763/House candidate <i>Amounts are per election cycle</i>	Prohibited	Prohibited
Wyoming Wyo. Stat. § 22-25-102	Effective 2013-2014: \$1,000/candidate/election^a Effective Jan. 1, 2015: \$2,500/statewide candidate \$1,500/other candidate <i>Amounts are per election^a</i> No individual may make more than \$25,000 (increases to \$50,000 eff. Jan. 1, 2015) in total contributions during a two-year election cycle.	Unlimited	Effective 2013-2014: Unlimited Effective Jan. 1, 2015: \$7,500/statewide candidate \$3,000/other candidate <i>Amounts are per election^a</i>	Prohibited ^d	Prohibited ^d

(a) Primary and general are considered separate elections; stated amount may be contributed in each election.

(b) Candidates participating in the public financing may not accept contributions after qualifying for public funds. Limits listed are for candidates not participating in public financing program.

(d) Direct corporate and/or union contributions are prohibited and/or use of treasury funds and/or dues is prohibited. In these states, the law specifically says that nothing prevents the

employees or officers of a corporation from making political contributions through a PAC, using funds from an account that is separate and segregated from corporate accounts. Such contributions are subject to the same limitations placed on other PACs.

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Last updated October 2015

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(e) Contribution limits are adjusted for inflation at the beginning of each campaign cycle.

cited in *Lair v. Motl*, No. 16-35424 archived on October 18, 2017