

Campaign Finance Overview: Survey of Contribution Limits

States commonly place limits on contributions to candidates from various sources, and also on contributions to political action committees (PACs) and political parties. Just six states—**Alabama, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, Utah and Virginia**—place no limits on contributions at all. Another six states—Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, North Dakota, Pennsylvania and Texas—have minimal contribution limits. These states limit or prohibit contributions by corporations and unions to candidates, but leave contributions from all other sources unlimited. In the remaining 39 states, contributions to candidates from individuals, political parties, PACs, corporations and unions are typically limited or, in the case of corporations and unions, prohibited outright.

At least 14 states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Tennessee and Washington) index their contribution limits. All adjust their limits periodically according to the Consumer Price Index. Other common limitations are those placed on contributions to PACs and parties, limitations or prohibitions on contributions during the legislative session, and limitations on cash contributions and those made by minors.

Nationwide, the limit on the average amount an individual can give to a gubernatorial candidate is about \$7,500 in an election cycle. For legislative candidates, the limit is much lower, averaging about \$3,300 (for House candidates) to \$3,700 (for Senate candidates) per election cycle.

Limits on Individual Contributions to Candidates: National Average and Median

All amounts are per election cycle

	Gubernatorial	Senate	House
National Average	\$8,579	\$4,003	\$3,632
National Median	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Highest Limit	\$60,800 (New York)	\$23,087 (Ohio)	\$23,087 (Ohio)
Lowest Limit	\$872 (Arizona)	\$320 (Montana)	\$320 (Montana)