



2018-19 CONTRIBUTION LIMITS
 effective February 29, 2016 through Dec. 31, 2019

CONTRIBUTORS

RECIPIENTS

	State Party	County and LD Party Committees (Jointly)	Caucus Political Committee	Candidate Committees	Pacs, Unions, Corps and other entities		Individuals
State Party	Not Applicable	No Limit	No Limit	Only from Surplus Funds No Limit	\$5,500 per calendar year (non-exempt)	No Limit (exempt)	No Limit
County or LD Party Committee	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit	Only from Surplus Funds No Limit	\$5,500 per calendar year (non-exempt)	No Limit (exempt)	No Limit
Caucus Political Committee	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit	Only from Surplus Funds No Limit	\$1,000 per calendar year		No Limit
State Executive Candidate	\$1.00 per Reg. Voter per cycle	\$0.50 per Reg. Voter per cycle	\$1.00 per Reg. Voter per cycle	Prohibited	\$2,000 per election		\$2,000 per election
Legislative Candidate	\$1.00 per Reg. Voter per cycle	\$0.50 per Reg. Voter per cycle	\$1.00 per Reg. Voter per cycle	Prohibited	\$1,000 per election		\$1,000 per election
Judicial Candidate	\$2,000 per election	\$2,000 per election	\$2,000 per election	Prohibited	\$2,000 per election		\$2,000 per election
LOCAL OFFICES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Office • Mayor • City Council • School Board 	\$1.00 per Reg. Voter per cycle	\$0.50 per Reg. Voter per cycle	\$1.00 per Reg. Voter per cycle	Prohibited	\$1,000 per election		\$1,000 per election
King Co Hospital Dists 1 & 2 and Snohomish Co Hosp Dist 2	\$0.95 per Reg. Voter per cycle	\$0.50 per Reg. Voter per cycle	\$0.95 per Reg. Voter per cycle	Prohibited	\$1,000 per election		\$1,000 per election
Port of Seattle and Port of Tacoma Commissioner Candidates	\$1.00 per Reg. Voter per cycle	\$0.50 per Reg. Voter per cycle	\$1.00 per Reg. Voter per cycle	Prohibited	\$2,000 per election		\$2,000 per election
PACS	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit	Prohibited	No Limit		No Limit

- **Per cycle** means aggregate during the period from January 1 after the date of the previous general election for the office through December 31 after the upcoming general election for the office.
- **Per election** means per each primary, general, or special election for that office.
- **Per calendar year** means aggregate during the period from January 1 through December 31 each year.
- Contributions designated for the exempt account of a bona fide political party are NOT subject to limit, except **during the 21 days before the general election** when the \$5,000 maximum applies. See next column.
- **During the 21 days before the general election**, no contributor may donate over \$50,000 in the aggregate to a candidate for statewide office, or over \$5,000 in the aggregate to a candidate for any other office or to a political committee. This

includes contributions to a party committee, as well as a candidate's personal contributions to his/her own campaign. It does not apply to contributions from the state committee of the WA State Democratic, Republican or Libertarian Party or from a minor party.

The state law prohibiting campaigns from receiving contributions of more than \$5,000 within 21 days of a general election no longer applies to ballot measure committees, pursuant to the federal court ruling in *Family PAC v. McKenna et al.*, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals No. 10-35832 (Dec. 29, 2011). The statute is RCW 42.17A.420 (former RCW 42.17.105(8)).

Contribution Limits to Candidates Subject to Limits

A candidate subject to limits is prohibited from accepting aggregate contributions exceeding the following amounts:

Source of Contribution	to State Executive and select Port Comm'r* candidates	to Legislative, County Office, Mayor, City Council, or School Director candidates and select Hospital Comm'r candidates**
Individual	\$2,000 ¹	\$1,000 ¹
Union or Business	\$2,000 ¹	\$1,000 ¹
Political Action Committee	\$2,000 ¹	\$1,000 ¹
State Party Central Committee	\$1 per voter ^{2,5}	\$1 per voter ^{2,5}
Legislative District Comm	50¢ per voter ^{3,4,5}	50¢ per voter ^{3,4,5}
County Party Central Comm	50¢ per voter ^{3,4,5}	50¢ per voter ^{3,4,5}
Legislative Caucus Comm	\$1 per voter ^{2,5}	\$1 per voter ^{2,5}
*only in port districts with more than 200,000 registered voters as of the last General Election		
**only in hospital districts with populations greater than 150,999		

1 This is a per election limit; each primary, general and special election is considered a separate election. This limit does not apply to the candidate using personal funds to give to his or her own campaign. The limit does apply to the candidate's spouse.

To be eligible to receive primary election contributions, a candidate's name must be on the ballot or the candidate has to have filed a write-in declaration for the primary election. A candidate who will **not have a primary election** must refund any contributions received in excess of the general election limit. Refunds must be made within 2 weeks of the election administrator's determination that there will be no primary.

Primary election contributions must be made on or before the date of the primary unless a candidate lost the primary and has debt to retire. Contributors may continue to make contributions to a candidate who loses the primary election and has insufficient funds to pay debts outstanding until the debt is retired or 30 days after the primary, whichever comes first.

General election contributions must be made no later than December 31 of the election year.

During the 21 days before the general election, no candidate for legislative office or local office may contribute to his or her own campaign more than \$5,000 in the aggregate, and no candidate for state executive office or Supreme Court justice may contribute to his or her own campaign more than \$50,000 in the aggregate.

- 2 The limit amount of \$1 times the number of registered voters in the jurisdiction (as of the last general election) is for the entire election cycle. The election cycle is from January 1 after the last election for the office or the start of the candidate's campaign -- whichever is later -- through December 31 of the election year in which election is sought. Contributions must be made no later than December 31 of the election year.
- 3 During the election cycle (defined in #2 above), all county central committees and legislative district committees in the state share a combined limit to each candidate of \$.50 times the number of registered voters statewide as of the last general election. (However, during the 21 days before the general election, neither a county central committee nor a legislative district committee may give a state executive office candidate more than \$50,000 in the aggregate.) Contributions must be made on or before December 31 of the election year.
- 4 A county central and legislative district committee may only contribute to a candidate if voters residing in the city, county or legislative district are entitled to elect the candidate to the office sought. During the election cycle (defined in #2 above), a legislative district committee, in conjunction with all county central committees in that district, share a combined per candidate limit of \$.50 times the number of registered voters in the legislative district as of the last general election. (However, during the 21 days before the general, neither a county central committee nor a legislative district committee may give a city, county or legislative candidate more than \$5,000 in the aggregate.) Contributions must be made on or before December 31 of the election year.
- 5 The limit amount is for the entire election cycle. The election cycle is from January 1 after the last election for the office or the start of the candidate's campaign -- whichever is later -- through December 31 of the year in which election is sought. (However, during the 21 days before the general, a caucus political committee may not give a state executive candidate more than \$50,000 in the aggregate or a city, county or legislative candidate more than \$5,000 in the aggregate.) Contributions must be made on or before December 31 of the election year.