



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

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State Limits on Contributions to Candidates

2011-2012 Election Cycle

Updated June 1, 2012

	Individual → Candidate Contributions	State Party → Candidate Contributions	PAC → Candidate Contributions	Corporate → Candidate Contributions	Union → Candidate Contributions
<b>Alabama</b> § 10A-21-1.01 et seq. and 17-5-1 et seq.	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	\$500/candidate/election <sup>a,j</sup>	Unlimited
<b>Alaska</b> § 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	\$1,000/office/year  Contributions from out-of-state PACs prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
<b>Arizona</b> <sup>b, p</sup> § 16-905	Limits for the 2011-2012 election cycle:  \$872/statewide candidates \$424/legislative candidates  An individual may not contribute an aggregate amount in excess of \$6,100 per calendar year to candidates and committees that give to candidates.  <i>Amounts are per election cycle</i>	Limits for the 2011-2012 election cycle:  Aggregate contributions accepted from all political parties and organizations cannot exceed: \$86,952 - statewide candidates \$8,704 – legis. candidates	Limits for the 2011-2012 election cycle:  “Super” PACs <sup>c</sup> : \$4,352/statewide candidate \$1,736/legislative candidate  Regular PACs: \$872/statewide candidate \$424/legislative candidate  Aggregate contributions accepted from PACs cannot exceed: \$86,952 - statewide candidates \$14,032 – legis. candidates  <i>Amounts are per election cycle</i>	Prohibited <sup>d</sup>	Prohibited <sup>d</sup>
<b>Arkansas</b> § 7-6-203	\$2,000/candidate/election <sup>a</sup>	\$2,500/election <sup>a</sup>	\$2,000/candidate/election <sup>a</sup>	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits

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<b>California<sup>p</sup></b> Gov. Code § 85300 et seq.	For elections held on or after January 1, 2011:  \$26,000/gubernatorial cand. \$6,500/statewide candidate \$3,900/legislative candidate  <i>Amounts are per election<sup>a</sup></i>	Unlimited	For elections held on or after January 1, 2011:  “Small Contributor” Cmtes. <sup>g</sup> : \$26,000/gubernatorial cand. \$13,000/statewide candidate \$7,800/legislative candidate  Regular PACs: Same as individual limits  <i>Amounts are per election<sup>a</sup></i>	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
<b>Colorado<sup>p</sup></b> Constitution Art. XXVIII	Limits effective 3/15/11 - 2015:  \$550/statewide candidate \$200/legis 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 limit.  <i>Amounts per election<sup>a</sup></i>	Limits effective 3/15/11 - 2015:  \$569,530/gub candidate \$113,905/other statewide cand \$20,500/senate candidate \$14,805/house candidate  Note: Contributions by the candidate to his/her own campaign are considered contributions from a political party and are subject to the political party limits.  <i>Amounts are per applicable election cycle.</i>	Limits effective 3/15/11 - 2015:  “Small Donor” Committees: <sup>i</sup> \$5,675/gub & statewide cand \$2,250/legis. cand.  Regular PACs: Same as individual limits	Prohibited <sup>d</sup>	Prohibited <sup>d</sup>
<b>Connecticut<sup>b</sup></b> § 9-611 et seq.	\$3,500/gub candidate \$1,000/senate candidate \$250/house candidate \$15,000 aggregate/individual to all candidates and committees  <i>All amounts are per election<sup>a</sup></i>	\$50,000/gub candidate \$10,000/senate candidate \$5,000/house candidate  <i>All amounts are per election<sup>a</sup></i>	\$5,000/gubernatorial candidate \$1,500/state senate candidate \$750/state 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<sup>a</sup></i>	Prohibited <sup>d</sup> §9-613	Same as individual limits <sup>d</sup>

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<b>Delaware</b> § 15-8010 to 8013	\$1,200/statewide candidate \$600/other candidate  <i>All amounts per election cycle</i>	\$75,000/gub candidate \$5,000/senate candidate \$3,000/house candidate  <i>All amounts per election cycle</i>	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
<b>Florida</b> § 106.08	\$500/candidate/election <sup>a</sup>	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.  The comparable limits for legislative candidates are \$50,000 and \$25,000	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
<b>Georgia<sup>p</sup></b> § 21-5-41 to 43	Limits effective 2011-2012:  Statewide candidates: \$6,300/primary election \$3,700/primary run-off \$6,300/general election \$3,700/general run-off  Legislative candidates: \$2,500/primary election \$1,300/primary run-off \$2,500/general election \$1,300/general run-off	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
<b>Hawaii</b> § 11-357	\$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

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<b>Idaho</b> § 67-6610A	\$5,000/statewide candidate \$1,000/leg candidate  <i>Amounts are per election<sup>a</sup></i>	\$10,000/statewide candidate \$2,000/legislative candidate  <i>Amounts are per election<sup>a</sup></i>	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
<b>Illinois<sup>p</sup></b> 10 ILCS 5/9-1 et seq.	\$5,000 per election cycle	Unlimited if candidate is not seeking nomination in a primary election. For candidates running in a primary: \$200,000/statewide candidate \$125,000/senate candidate \$75,000/house candidate  <i>Amounts are per election cycle.</i>	\$50,000 per election cycle	\$10,000 per election cycle	\$10,000 per election cycle
<b>Indiana</b> § 3-9-1-1 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 unless made by the union's PAC, in which case there are no limits
<b>Iowa</b> § 68A.503	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Prohibited	Unlimited
<b>Kansas</b> § 25-4153	\$2,000/statewide candidate \$1,000/senate candidate \$500/house candidate  <i>Amounts are per election<sup>a</sup></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

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<b>Kentucky</b> § 121.150	\$1,000/candidate/election <sup>a</sup>	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 121.025 and 121.035	Same as individual limits
<b>Louisiana</b> § 18:1481 to 1532	\$5,000/statewide candidate \$2,500/legislative candidate  <i>Both amounts are per election<sup>a</sup></i>	Unlimited	Regular PACs: Same as individual limits  “Big” PACs: <sup>f</sup> 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
<b>Maine</b> <sup>b,p</sup> Tit. 21-A, §1015	\$1,500/gub candidate/election <sup>a</sup> \$350/other candidate/election <sup>a</sup>  Individuals limited to \$25,000 aggregate contributions to all campaign finance entities per calendar year.	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits

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<b>Maryland</b> Election Law § 13-226	\$4,000/candidate \$10,000 aggregate to all candidates  <i>Both amounts are per 4-year election cycle (1/1/-11-12/31/14)</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. Limit is per 4-year election cycle.	\$6,000/candidate/4-year election cycle	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
<b>Massachusetts</b> Ch. 55, § 6, 6A, 7A and 8	\$500/candidate \$12,500/individual aggregate limit on contributions to all candidates  Registered lobbyists may only contribute up to \$200/candidate  <i>All amounts are per calendar year.</i>	\$3,000/candidate/year  No limit on in-kind contributions	Regular PAC or People's Committee: \$500/candidate  Candidates cannot accept aggregate PAC contributions that exceed the following amounts: \$150,000/gub candidate \$18,750/senate candidate \$7,500/house candidate  <i>All amounts per calendar year.</i>	Prohibited	Same as PAC limits
<b>Michigan</b> § 169.252	\$3,400/statewide candidate \$1,000/senate candidate \$500/house candidate  <i>All amounts are per election cycle</i>	\$68,000/statewide candidate \$10,000/senate candidate \$5,000/house candidate  <i>All amounts are per election cycle</i>	Political Committees: Same as individual limits.  Independent PACs <sup>h</sup> : \$34,000/statewide candidate \$10,000/senate candidate \$5,000/house candidate  <i>All amounts are per election cycle</i>	Prohibited <sup>d</sup> 169.254	Prohibited <sup>d</sup> 169.254

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<b>Minnesota</b> § 10A.27	Election year limits: \$2,000/gub candidate \$500/legislative candidate  Non-election year limits: \$500/gub candidate \$100/legislative candidate  Aggregate contributions from PACs, lobbyists, political funds and individuals who contribute or loan more than ½ the yearly contribution limit cannot exceed 20% of spending limits. For 2007, those amounts are: \$95,800/gub candidate \$2,400/senate candidate \$1,200/house candidate  <i>All amounts are per calendar year.</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 2011 from party committees and terminating principal campaign committees: \$5,000/gub candidate \$1,000/legislative candidate	Same as individual limits  Candidates are subject to the following aggregate limits on contributions received in 2011 from lobbyists, PACs, and individuals who contribute more than one-half the amount an individual may contribute during the year: \$103,100/gub candidate \$2,600/senate candidate \$1,300/house candidate	Prohibited	Same as individual limits
<b>Mississippi</b> § 23-15-801 et seq. §79-13-15	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	\$1,000/candidate/calendar year	Unlimited
<b>Missouri</b> § 130.031	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
<b>Montana<sup>P</sup></b> § 13-37-216	\$630/gubernatorial slate \$310/other statewide candidate \$160/legislative candidate  <i>Amounts are per election<sup>a</sup></i>	\$22,600/gubernatorial slate \$8,150/other statewide cand. \$1,300/senate candidate \$800/house candidate  <i>All amounts are per election<sup>a</sup></i>	Same as individual limits  Candidates limited to total contributions from all PACs: \$2,650 senate candidates \$1,600 house candidates  <i>Amounts are per election<sup>a</sup></i>	Prohibited <sup>d</sup>	Same as individual limits

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<b>Nebraska<sup>p</sup></b> § 32-1608	Unlimited	Candidates limited to maximum amount of aggregate contributions that can be accepted in an election period from PACs, corporations, labor unions, associations, other candidate committees, political parties, and other organizations. Once the limit is reached, candidates may accept only individual contributions.  Limit for 2012 election period: \$103,500/legislative candidate  Note that the governor and most statewide officers are not up for election in 2012	Same as party contribution limits	Candidates may not accept funds totaling more than 40% of the voluntary spending limit for their office.	Same as party contribution limits
<b>Nevada</b> § 294A.100 and Const. Art. 2 §10	\$5,000/candidate/election <sup>a</sup>	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
<b>New Hampshire</b> § 664:4	To candidates not agreeing to abide by spending limits: \$1,000/election <sup>a</sup>  To candidates agreeing to abide by spending limits: \$5,000/election <sup>a</sup>	To candidates not agreeing to abide by spending limits: \$1,000/election <sup>a</sup>  Unlimited to candidates who agree to expenditure limits	Same as party limits	Same as individual limits <sup>n</sup>	Prohibited
<b>New Jersey<sup>p</sup></b> § 19:44A-11.3	\$3,400/gubernatorial cand \$2,600/legislative candidate  <i>Amounts are per election<sup>a</sup></i>	No limit on contributions by state & county committees National party committee: \$8,200/election <sup>a</sup>	\$8,200/candidate/election <sup>a</sup>	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits

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<b>New Mexico<sup>P</sup></b> § 1-19-34.7	Effective 11/3/10: \$5,000/statewide candidate \$2,300/non-SW candidate  <i>Amounts are per election<sup>a</sup></i>	Effective 11/3/10: \$5,000/election <sup>a</sup>	Effective 11/3/10: \$5,000/election <sup>a</sup>	Effective 11/3/10: Same as individual limits	Effective 11/3/10: Same as individual limits
<b>New York<sup>P</sup></b> Election Law, § 14-114	2012 Limits:  Gub. Cand., Primary – Product of number of enrolled voters in candidate's party in state (excluding voters in inactive status) x \$.005, but not less than \$6,500 or more than \$19,700 General – \$41,100  Legis. Cand., Primary – \$6,500/senate candidate \$4,100/house candidate General – \$10,300/senate candidate \$4,100/house candidate  Max. contribs. by individual limited to \$150,000 in the aggregate.  Separate limits apply for contribs. from all family members in the aggregate. Limit is based on the formula of total # of enrolled voters on active status in candidate's party in the state x \$0.025. For legislative candidates, this amount may not exceed \$100,000. "Family" is defined as a child, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, and the spouses of those persons.  <i>All amounts per election cycle</i>	Prohibited in primary election  Unlimited in general election	Same as individual limits	Corporations are limited to \$5,000 per year in aggregate contributions to NY state candidates and committees.	Same as individual limits

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<b>North Carolina</b> § 163-278.6 et seq.	\$4,000/candidate/election <sup>a</sup>	Unlimited	Same as individual limits	Prohibited <sup>d</sup>	Prohibited <sup>d</sup>
<b>North Dakota</b> § 16.1-08.1	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Prohibited <sup>d</sup>	Prohibited <sup>d</sup>
<b>Ohio<sup>p</sup></b> § 3517.102(B)(1)(a) and 3599.03	Effective 2/25/11-2/23/13: \$11,543.70/candidate/election <sup>a</sup>	Effective 2/25/11-2/23/13: \$651,064.81/statewide cand. \$129,866.65/senate candidate \$64,644.73/house candidate In-kind contributions unlimited <i>All amounts are per election<sup>a</sup></i>	Same as individual limits	Prohibited <sup>d</sup>	Prohibited <sup>d</sup>
<b>Oklahoma</b> 21 OS § 187.1 et seq. and Ethics Commission Rules §257:1-1-1 et seq. and §257:10-1-2 et seq	\$5,000/candidate/campaign *This limit applies to an entire family, defined as an individual, his spouse, and all children under 18 living in the same household.	\$50,000/gubernatorial cand <sup>m</sup> \$25,000/other statewide cand <sup>m</sup> \$1,000/legislative candidate <i>All amounts per calendar year</i>	Same as individual limits	Prohibited <sup>d</sup>	Prohibited <sup>d</sup>
<b>Oregon</b> § 260.160 to 174	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
<b>Pennsylvania</b> 25 Pa Stat § 3241 to 3260a	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Prohibited <sup>d</sup>	Prohibited <sup>d</sup>
<b>Rhode Island</b> § 17-25-10.1	\$1,000/candidate or \$2,000/candidate if candidate qualifies for public funding and agrees to abide by spending limits  <i>Both amounts are per calendar year.</i>  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/calendar year or \$2,000/candidate/year if candidate qualifies for public funding and agrees to abide by spending limits  Annual aggregate limit of \$25,000 to all recipients	Prohibited	Prohibited

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<b>South Carolina</b> § 8-13-1314 to 1316	\$3,500/statewide candidate \$1,000/legislative candidate  Both amounts are per election <sup>a</sup>	Candidates may not accept more than the following from parties during an election cycle: \$50,000/statewide candidate \$5,000/other candidate	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
<b>South Dakota</b> § 12-27-7	\$4,000/statewide candidate \$1,000/legislative candidate <i>Amounts are per calendar year</i>	Unlimited	Unlimited	Prohibited	Prohibited <sup>d</sup>
<b>Tennessee<sup>p</sup></b> § 2-10-302	\$3,600/statewide candidate \$1,400/legislative candidate  <i>Both amounts are per election<sup>a</sup></i>	Candidates limited to aggregate amount from all political party committees: \$357,300/statewide candidate \$57,200/senate candidate \$28,600/house candidate  <i>All amounts are per election<sup>a</sup></i>	\$10,700/statewide candidate \$10,700/senate candidate \$7,100/other candidates  No more than 50% of a statewide candidate's or \$107,200 of a legislative candidate's total contributions may come from PACs  <i>All amounts are per election<sup>a</sup></i>	Same as PAC limits	Same as individual limits
<b>Texas</b> Election Code, § 253	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Prohibited <sup>d</sup>	Prohibited <sup>d</sup>
<b>Utah</b> § 20A-11-101	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
<b>Vermont<sup>c</sup></b> 17 VSA §2805	\$1,000/candidate/election <sup>ak</sup>  Contributions from immediate family members are unlimited.	Unlimited	\$3,000/candidate/election <sup>a</sup>	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits
<b>Virginia</b> § 24.2-900 et seq.	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited

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<b>Washington</b> <sup>p</sup> RCW § 42.17.610 et seq. WAC § 390-05-400	Adjusted limits effective 1/27/2012: \$1,800/gub candidate \$900/legislative candidate <i>Both amounts are per election<sup>a</sup></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. This includes a candidate's personal contributions to his/her campaign. This does not apply to the state committees of the Democratic and Republican parties.	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.
<b>West Virginia</b> § 3-8-8 to 12	\$1,000/candidate/election <sup>a</sup>	Same as individual limits	Same as individual limits	Prohibited <sup>d</sup>	Same as individual limits
<b>Wisconsin</b> § 11.01 et seq.	\$10,000/statewide candidate \$1,000/senate candidate \$500/house candidate  <i>Above 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 committees, including party committees, in an election campaign: \$700,830/gub. candidate \$22,425/senate candidate \$11,213/house candidate	\$43,128/gub candidate \$1,000/senate candidate \$500/house candidate  Aggregate limit on amount candidates may accept from all committees, excluding party committees, in an election campaign: \$485,190/gub. candidate \$15,525/senate candidate \$7,763/house candidate  <i>All amounts are per election cycle</i>	Prohibited	Prohibited

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Wyoming § 22-25-102	\$1,000/candidate/election <sup>a</sup>  No individual may make more than \$25,000 in total contributions during a two-year election cycle.	Unlimited	Unlimited	Prohibited	Prohibited

- (a) Primary and general are considered separate elections; stated amount may be contributed in each election.
- (b) Candidates participating in “Clean Elections” public financing may not accept contributions after qualifying for public funds. Limits listed are for candidates not participating in public financing program.
- (c) 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(I))
- (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.
- (e) Full public financing is available to qualifying candidates for governor and lieutenant governor. A candidate who wishes to receive public funding may not solicit or accept any private contributions except qualifying contributions.
- (f) 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.
- (g) 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)
- (h) 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.
- (i) 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.
- (j) Any public utility that owns, controls or operates a railroad and is regulated by the Public Service Commission is prohibited from making political contributions (Ala. Code §10A-21-1.03)
- (k) Vermont’s attempt to limit out-of-state contributions to 25% of a candidate’s total contributions received was declared unconstitutional on August 18, 2004, by the U.S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals (Landell v. Sorrell, 382 F.3d 91 (2004))
- (m) While these limits are specified in Oklahoma’s Ethics Rules, statutes have not been changed to reflect this limit. According to the statutes, any contribution in excess of \$5,000 would constitute a criminal violation.
- (n) 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.
- (o) In Massachusetts, a “People’s Committee” is a PAC that has been in existence for six months, has received contributions from individuals of \$151 (adjusted biennially; this amount is for 2010-2011) or less per year, and has contributed to five candidates. It is unclear what advantage there would be to converting to a People’s Committee, since the contribution limits are the same.
- (p) Contribution limits are adjusted for inflation at the beginning of each campaign cycle.