



# ANNUAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN AND POLITICAL FINANCE  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

TO: FROM:	Candidate / Candidate's Committee	Political Action Committee (PAC) <sup>1</sup>	People's Committee <sup>2</sup>	State Party Committee	Local Party Committee	Ballot Question Committee
Individual <sup>3</sup>	\$1,000	\$500	\$161	\$5,000 <sup>4</sup>	\$5,000 <sup>4</sup>	No limit
Lobbyist	\$200	\$200	\$161	\$200 <sup>4</sup>	\$200 <sup>4</sup>	No limit
Statewide Candidate's Committee <sup>3</sup>	\$100 <sup>6,7</sup>	No Limit <sup>6,8</sup>	0	No Limit <sup>6</sup>	No Limit <sup>6</sup>	No Limit <sup>6</sup>
County, legislative, municipal or other candidate / candidate's committee	\$100 <sup>7</sup>	No limit <sup>8</sup>	0	No limit	No limit	No limit
Political Action Committee (PAC) <sup>1</sup>	\$500 <sup>9</sup>	\$500	0	\$5,000 <sup>4</sup>	\$5,000 <sup>4</sup>	No limit <sup>10</sup>
People's Committee	\$500	\$500	0	\$5,000 <sup>4</sup>	\$5,000 <sup>4</sup>	No limit <sup>10</sup>
State Party Committee	\$3,000 <sup>11</sup>	\$500	0	—	\$5,000 <sup>4</sup>	No limit <sup>10</sup>
Local Party Committee	\$1,000 <sup>11</sup>	\$500	0	\$5,000 <sup>4,12</sup>	\$5,000 <sup>4,12</sup>	No limit <sup>10</sup>
Ballot Question Committee	0	0	0	0	0	No limit <sup>13</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> **PACs:** PACs must organize with OCPF under M.G.L. Chapter 55 before they may contribute to Massachusetts candidates or committees. Limits do not apply to Independent Expenditure PACs. (Independent Expenditure PACs may not contribute to candidates or other political committees, except for other Independent Expenditure PACs or Ballot Question Committees.) Please see OCPF's interpretive bulletin concerning Independent Expenditure PACs, [IB-10-03](#).
- <sup>2</sup> **People's Committee:** After six months in existence, a PAC that has received contributions from individuals of \$161 or less per year and contributed to five or more candidates may request a change in its status to that of a people's committee. The maximum contribution from an individual to a people's committee is adjusted biennially by OCPF. The \$161 figure is in effect for 2014 and 2015.
- <sup>3</sup> **Contributions by individuals:** Individuals under 18 years of age have an aggregate contribution limit of \$25 per year. There is no limit on how much a candidate may contribute to his or her own campaign, though the maximum amount that certain candidates may loan varies by the office sought. Contact OCPF for information concerning limits on loans from state candidates to their own campaigns.
- <sup>4</sup> **Contributions to Party Committees:** The maximum annual aggregate contribution that may be made by an individual, lobbyist, PAC, people's committee or party committee to all committees of any one party, including those on the state and local level, is \$5,000.
- <sup>5</sup> **Statewide candidates** include those running for or holding the office of governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, treasurer/receiver general, auditor and secretary of the commonwealth.
- <sup>6</sup> **Candidates Certified to Receive Public Funds:** No candidate's committee that receives public financing pursuant to M.G.L. c. 55C may make a contribution to another political committee during the calendar year in which the candidate's committee receives public financing, except that a committee that receives public financing may pay a political party committee for goods or services provided by the political party committee to the candidate's committee.
- <sup>7</sup> **Contributions from a candidate's personal funds** to another candidate are subject to the \$1,000 individual limit, not the \$100 committee limit.
- <sup>8</sup> **Contributions from candidates to PACs:** A candidate is prohibited from "financing" a political action committee (Chapter 55, Section 5A). Please see OCPF's advisory opinion, [AO-11-05](#).
- <sup>9</sup> **Total PAC contributions:** The aggregate annual amount a state or county candidate may accept from all PACs in a calendar year is limited by M.G.L. c.55, s.6A. For example, a candidate for the Senate may not accept more than \$18,750 in total PAC contributions and a candidate for the House may not accept more than \$7,500. Candidates for municipal office are not subject to any such annual aggregate restriction.
- <sup>10</sup> **Contributions from a PAC, people's committee or party committee to a ballot question committee** are not subject to limitation but must be consistent with the principle for which the contributing committee was organized.
- <sup>11</sup> **Party contributions to candidates:** This limit applies to monetary contributions only. There is no limit on in-kind contributions by a party committee to an individual candidate.
- <sup>12</sup> **A local party committee** may contribute up to an aggregate of \$5,000 in a calendar year to all ward, town, city and state committees of the same political party.
- <sup>13</sup> **Contributions among ballot question committees:** A ballot question committee may contribute to another ballot question committee without limitation, provided such contributions are "consistent with the purpose for which [the contributing committee] was organized."

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