



ANNUAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN AND POLITICAL FINANCE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

TO > > > >	<i>Candidate/ candidate committee</i>	<i>Political action committee (PAC) ¹</i>	<i>People's committee ²</i>	<i>State party committee</i>	<i>Ward/town/ city party committee</i>	<i>Ballot question committee</i>
FROM:						
<i>Individual ³</i>	\$500	\$500	\$156	\$5,000 ⁴	\$5,000 ⁴	No limit
<i>Lobbyist ⁵</i>	\$200	\$200	\$156	\$200 ⁴	\$200 ⁴	No limit
<i>Statewide candidate committee ⁶</i>	0	0	0	\$100 ⁷	\$100 ⁷	0
<i>County, legislative, municipal or other candidate/candidate committee</i>	\$100 ⁸	No limit ^{8a}	0	No limit ⁹	No limit ⁹	No limit ⁹
<i>Political action committee (PAC)</i>	\$500 ¹⁰	\$500	0	\$5,000 ⁴	\$5,000 ⁴	No limit ¹¹
<i>People's committee</i>	\$500	\$500	0	\$5,000 ⁴	\$5,000 ⁴	No limit ¹¹
<i>State party committee</i>	\$3,000 ¹²	\$500	0	----	\$5,000	No limit ¹¹
<i>Ward/town/city party committee</i>	\$1,000 ¹²	\$500	0	\$5,000 ¹³	\$5,000 ¹³	No limit ¹¹
<i>Ballot question committee</i>	0	0	0	0	0	No limit ¹⁴

ALL LIMITS ARE FOR A CALENDAR YEAR

See next page for explanatory notes

NOTES

- ¹ **PACs:** PACs must organize with OCPF under M.G.L. Chapter 55 before they may contribute to Massachusetts candidates or committees.
- ² **People's Committee:** After six months in existence, a PAC that has received contributions from individuals of \$156 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 and individual to a people's committee is adjusted biennially by OCPF. The \$156 figure is in effect for 2012 and 2013.
- ³ **Contributions by Individuals:** The maximum aggregate contribution to all state, county and local candidates by an individual may not exceed \$12,500 per year. 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.
- ⁴ **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.
- ⁵ **Lobbyists** ("executive agents" or "legislative agents") are also subject to the \$12,500 limit on aggregate annual contributions placed on individual contributors.
- ⁶ **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.
- ⁷ **Contributions to Party Committees:** The maximum annual aggregate contribution a statewide candidate committee may make to all party committees (state and local) is \$1,500.
- ⁸ **Contributions from a non-statewide candidate's committee to all candidate committees** are limited to an aggregate of \$1,500 annually. Contributions from a candidate's personal funds to another candidate are subject to the \$500 individual limit, not the \$100 committee limit.
- ^{8a} **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](#).
- ⁹ **Contributions from a non-statewide candidate committee to a party committee or ballot question committee** are not limited but may be made only for "the enhancement of the political future of the candidate."
- ¹⁰ **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.
- ¹¹ **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.
- ¹² **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.
- ¹³ **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.
- ¹⁴ **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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