

California



33 Overall Rank

D+ Overall Grade

CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC

California	Overall Rank	To Governor	To State Senate	To State Assembly	To Parties	To PACs
Individual Giving	43	30	47	47	43	48
		\$28,200/election	\$4,200/election	\$4,200/election	\$35,200/year	\$7,000/year
PAC Giving	40	30	46	45	35	
		\$28,200/election	\$4,200/election	\$4,200/election	\$35,200/year	
Party Giving	1	1	1	1		
		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited		
Union Giving	23	17	26	26		
		\$28,200/election	\$4,200/election	\$4,200/election		
Corporate Giving	20	14	23	23		
		\$28,200/election	\$4,200/election	\$4,200/election		

Inflation Adjustment: Yes

While, at first glance, California appears to have some of the nation's most permissive contribution limits, those contributions don't go very far in America's most populous state. As a result, the Golden State doesn't even qualify for bronze in the Free Speech Index. The best aspect of California's contribution limit regime is that parties can make unlimited contributions to their candidates. However, unlike in a majority of states, they are limited in how much they can raise from a single donor.

Unfortunately, political speech in California is in even worse shape than its limits would suggest. The Cal-

ifornia Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) is one of the most draconian campaign finance enforcement agencies in the country, and recently succeeded in curtailing the ability of independent speakers to advocate for or against candidates. The FPPC is able to operate with such latitude because of excessively permissive rules in California's statute governing the powers of the Commission. For Californians that are concerned about their political speech rights, scrutiny of FPPC proposals is crucial.