

Delaware



37 Overall Rank **D** Overall Grade

Delaware	Overall Rank	To Governor	To State Senate	To State House	To Parties	To PACs
Individual Giving	28	36	44	43	30	1
		\$1,200/cycle	\$600/cycle	\$600/cycle	\$20,000/cycle	Unlimited
PAC Giving	30	36	43	43	29	
		\$1,200/cycle	\$600/cycle	\$600/cycle	\$20,000/cycle	
Party Giving	35	35	36	35		
		\$75,000/cycle	\$5,000/cycle	\$3,000/cycle		
Union Giving	20	21	19	17		
		\$1,200/cycle	\$600/cycle	\$600/cycle		
Corporate Giving	17	19	16	15		
		\$1,200/cycle	\$600/cycle	\$600/cycle		

Inflation Adjustment: No

The First State falls to 36th in the Free Speech Index. Delaware has some of the lowest monetary limits on giving to candidates in the country, a highly restrictive measure for prospective officeholders that have to run in the major media market around Philadelphia.

Delaware is one of just two states (Kansas) in the nation to limit citizen contributions to parties while allowing unlimited giving to PACs. On the other hand, parties can contribute much larger amounts to candidates than PACs can, and parties may also fund voter registration and get out the vote efforts independent

of the existing limits on what parties can give to their candidates.

Even for a small state, Delaware’s limits on giving to candidates are very low with few exceptions. Delaware also fails to adjust its contribution limits for inflation, allowing Delawareans’ ability to give to diminish over time. Including those 11 states without limits on individual, political party, and PAC giving to candidates, 30 states already adjust their limits for inflation. The residents of Delaware would benefit if their state joined the club.