

Florida



25 Overall Rank

C Overall Grade

Florida	Overall Rank	To Governor	To State Senate	To State House	To Parties	To PACs
Individual Giving	25	48	49	49	1	1
		\$3,000/election	\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election	Unlimited	Unlimited
PAC Giving	27	48	48	47	1	
		\$3,000/election	\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election	Unlimited	
Party Giving	25	26	26	23		
		\$250,000/election	\$50,000/election	\$50,000/election		
Union Giving	28	28	28	28		
		\$3,000/election	\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election		
Corporate Giving	24	24	25	25		
		\$3,000/election	\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election		

Inflation Adjustment: No

The Sunshine State is partly cloudy when it comes to political speech freedom. The good news is that individuals face no limit on their ability to contribute to parties and political committees. The bad news is that Florida’s limits on non-party giving to candidates are among the lowest in the nation. In America’s third most populous state, a \$1,000 per election contribution to a candidate for State Senate or State House doesn’t help the candidate spread their message very far.

Florida’s limits apply per election, meaning that candidates can raise \$1,000 for the primary and \$1,000 for the general from the same Floridian. However, candidates who run unopposed in a primary are only permitted to raise the \$1,000 for the general. Florida

is one of a handful of states to limit giving in this way. A wiser course would be to impose a larger per election cycle limit.

Remarkably, these limits are an improvement over how things used to be. In 2013, Florida eliminated its limit on individual giving to PACs, and raised its limits on individual giving to legislative candidates from \$500 to \$1,000 and to gubernatorial candidates from \$500 to \$3,000. But the state needs to go further – or simply index its limits to inflation – to improve its ranking in the Free Speech Index. Adjusting its limits for inflation to prevent the erosion of speech rights over time is a particularly easy – and smart – step that 30 states (including those 11 without limits on individual giving) already take.