

# Idaho



28 Overall Rank

C- Overall Grade

Idaho	Overall Rank	To Governor	To State Senate	To State House	To Parties	To PACs
Individual Giving	13	13	25	29	1	1
		\$5,000/election	\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election	Unlimited	Unlimited
PAC Giving	14	16	27	30	1	
		\$5,000/election	\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election	Unlimited	
Party Giving	46	42	45	46		
		\$10,000/election	\$2,000/election	\$2,000/election		
Union Giving	11	8	13	13		
		\$5,000/election	\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election		
Corporate Giving	9	6	12	12		
		\$5,000/election	\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election		

Inflation Adjustment: No

Idaho earns high marks for not imposing a limit on the amount that individuals can contribute to political parties and committees. Commendably, its limits on giving to candidates, although too low, rank in the middle of the nation when accounting for each state's population. Relatively speaking, Idaho's \$1,000 per election limit on individual giving to candidates for State House and State Senate travels a lot further in the Gem State than it would in more populous states like California, Texas, or Florida.

One simple change could vault Idaho into the upper half of the Index: indexing its contribution limits to inflation. As it stands now, Idahoans' ability to con-

tribute to the candidates and committees of their choice slowly diminishes each year. Thirty states (including those without limits on individual giving) already employ this simple free speech protection.

A proposed 2016 ballot initiative would have done severe damage to political giving in Idaho, prohibiting wide swaths of Idahoans from contributing to candidates and cutting contribution limits in half, among other sweeping changes. Fortunately, the measure failed to qualify for the November 2016 ballot. Despite this fortunate development, however, Idahoans should remain vigilant with respect to future threats to their First Amendment rights.