

Maryland

46 Overall Rank **F** Overall Grade

| Maryland | Overall Rank | To Governor | To State Senate | To State Delegate | To Parties | To PACs |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Individual Giving | 38 | 21 | 17 | 14 | 49 | 42 |
| | | \$6,000/4-year cycle* | \$6,000/4-year cycle* | \$6,000/4-year cycle* | \$6,000/4-year cycle | \$6,000/4-year cycle |
| PAC Giving | 46 | 38 | 26 | 24 | 49 | |
| | | \$6,000/4-year cycle | \$6,000/4-year cycle | \$6,000/4-year cycle | \$6,000/4-year cycle | |
| Party Giving | 38 | 40 | 40 | 40 | | |
| | | \$6,000/4-year cycle | \$6,000/4-year cycle | \$6,000/4-year cycle | | |
| Union Giving | 17 | 23 | 15 | 15 | | |
| | | \$6,000/4-year cycle | \$6,000/4-year cycle | \$6,000/4-year cycle | | |
| Corporate Giving | 15 | 20 | 14 | 14 | | |
| | | \$6,000/4-year cycle | \$6,000/4-year cycle | \$6,000/4-year cycle | | |

Inflation Adjustment: No

*Contributions from family members of a candidate are not subject to these limits.

Maryland ranks in the bottom five nationally, and receives the lowest score of any of the 13 original colonies in the Free Speech Index, due in large part to the Free State’s restrictions on contributions to – and from – political parties. Whereas most states do not limit the amount individuals can give to parties, Maryland limits both the amount parties can receive from a donor and the amount they can provide to a candidate, effectively doubly restricting free speech and association.

Despite this, Maryland actually does better in the Index than it would have a few years ago. In 2013,

Maryland increased the amount individuals may contribute to candidates, parties, and PACs from \$4,000 per 4-year election cycle to \$6,000. Maryland is one of a small number of states with a 4-year election cycle, meaning donors can give the maximum amount less often than in the vast majority of states.

Unfortunately for Maryland, one positive aspect of its limit regime – the ability of a candidate’s family members to make unlimited contributions to their campaign – isn’t nearly enough to correct for the state’s severe restrictions on its residents’ political speech.