

West Virginia



49 Overall Rank **F** Overall Grade

West Virginia	Overall Rank	To Governor	To State Senate	To State Delegate	To Parties	To PACs
Individual Giving	47	39	28	27	50	44
		\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election
PAC Giving	47	40	30	28	50	
		\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election	
Party Giving	50	49	48	49		
		\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election		
Union Giving	18	24	16	16		
		\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election		
Corporate Giving	50	50	50	50		
		Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited		

Inflation Adjustment: No

West Virginia is arguably the worst state in the country for free political speech. Only Kentucky scores worse in the Index, and Kentucky's limits are actually slightly higher than West Virginia's in some areas. The Mountain State escapes the ignominy of last place simply because its population is less than half of Kentucky's, reducing the amount of funding necessary to bring a candidate's message to voters.

In recent years, West Virginia legislators have attempted to raise the state's low limits in recognition of their harmful impact on political speech. But such efforts continue to stall in the Legislature as unrelated reporting requirements and unnecessary and costly regulations are tacked on to the bills by those opposed to increased limits. Regrettably, the real victims of this legislative battle are the citizens of West Virginia, whose political speech rights continue to be severely infringed.