Alaska's very low contribution limits leave candidates and their supporters out in the cold. Indeed, the state’s limits are so low that they are currently being challenged in federal court as an unconstitutional restriction on free speech and association. Also at issue in the lawsuit is a peculiar quirk of the state’s campaign finance laws: special restrictions on political giving by non-residents.

Under current law, gubernatorial candidates may not accept more than $20,000 in aggregate from all non-residents, while aggregate limits on Senate and House candidates sit at $5,000 and $3,000 from non-residents, respectively. In similarly restrictive fashion, political parties and PACs in Alaska may not receive more than 10% of their funding from non-residents. Corporations and other groups based out of state are prohibited from giving to candidates entirely, and may only contribute small amounts to PACs and state parties under certain circumstances.

Alaska is one of just two states (Hawaii is the other) to add these additional speech restrictions on top of its exceedingly low contribution limits. Although Alaska is not penalized in the Index for this aspect of its limits, special restrictions on non-resident giving serve no anti-corruption purpose and limit speech by hindering a candidate or group's ability to disseminate its message.