

Arizona

18 Overall Rank

C Overall Grade

Arizona	Overall Rank	To Governor	To State Senate	To State House	To Parties	To PACs
Individual Giving	22	43	35	36	1	1
		\$5,000/4-year cycle	\$5,000/4-year cycle	\$5,000/4-year cycle	Unlimited	Unlimited
PAC Giving	24	43	37	38	1	
		\$5,000/4-year cycle	\$5,000/4-year cycle	\$5,000/4-year cycle	Unlimited	
Party Giving	29	29	30	31		
Union Giving	50	\$80,000/4-year cycle	\$8,000/4-year cycle	\$8,000/4-year cycle		
		50	50	50		
Corporate Giving	50	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited		
		50	50	50		
		Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited		

Inflation Adjustment: Yes

Overall, Arizona ranks better than most states in the Free Speech Index, due to its strong support for free association among parties and PACs. But the Grand Canyon State’s ranking hides some unusual and unfortunate speech restrictions in the state’s campaign finance regulatory regime.

Candidates who decline to participate in the state’s misguided taxpayer-financed campaign program – which requires participants to agree to additional arbitrary restrictions on their campaign fundraising – face a 20% reduction in the amount they are allowed to raise from a contributor. Arizona’s ranking in the Index is based on this reduced limit. An oddity creat-

ed by this system is that contribution limits are functionally lower for statewide and legislative candidates than for local officials who are not eligible to finance their campaign with tax dollars.

Mitigating the negative effects of Arizona’s low limits are several important exemptions for standard party activities in support of candidates. Political parties in Arizona may pay for campaign staff, slate card mailings, get out the vote drives, and voter registration efforts outside of the existing party to candidate limit regime. This mixed bag of restrictions on political giving is a driving factor underpinning Arizona’s middle-of-the-pack Index ranking.