

# Connecticut



45 Overall Rank

F Overall Grade

| Connecticut       | Overall Rank | To Governor       | To State Senate   | To State House   | To Parties    | To PACs    |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|------------|
| Individual Giving | 44           | 28                | 36                | 46               | 40            | 47         |
|                   |              | \$3,500/election  | \$1,000/election  | \$250/election   | \$10,000/year | \$750/year |
| PAC Giving        | 42           | 23                | 33                | 35               | 41            |            |
|                   |              | \$5,000/election  | \$1,500/election  | \$750/election   | \$7,500/year  |            |
| Party Giving      | 33           | 33                | 33                | 33               |               |            |
|                   |              | \$50,000/election | \$10,000/election | \$5,000/election |               |            |
| Union Giving      | 50           | 50                | 50                | 50               |               |            |
|                   |              | Prohibited        | Prohibited        | Prohibited       |               |            |
| Corporate Giving  | 50           | 50                | 50                | 50               |               |            |
|                   |              | Prohibited        | Prohibited        | Prohibited       |               |            |

Inflation Adjustment: No

Connecticut ranks among the 10 worst states in the nation for political giving. Corporations and unions are prohibited from giving entirely, and individuals may only contribute small amounts to candidates and political committees. While Connecticut’s limit on contributions from individuals to political parties was raised in 2013, from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year for state parties, such a positive change was not nearly enough to overcome the state’s across-the-board restrictions on political speech and association rights.

Beyond its low limits, Connecticut goes out of its way to interfere with the association rights of its citizens. State law differentiates political committees representing business entities from committees representing labor organizations. Committees made up of two or more individuals get another designation, as do

committees formed for a single election. Lobbyists, state contractors, government officials, and minors also each face special restrictions on their ability to contribute. All this red tape does little to prevent corruption or improve government while discouraging citizens from getting involved.

Just as regrettably, Connecticut is one of only three states (Arizona, Maine) with a robust program intent on dishing out tax dollars to statewide and legislative candidates who meet certain regulatory requirements and agree to restrict how much political activity is performed by a campaign. At any rate, certain of the Constitution State’s contribution limits tread close to the line of being unconstitutionally low, and are further at risk since the state’s limits are not indexed to inflation.