The First State falls to 36th in the Free Speech Index. Delaware has some of the lowest monetary limits on giving to candidates in the country, a highly restrictive measure for prospective officeholders that have to run in the major media market around Philadelphia.

Delaware is one of just two states (Kansas) in the nation to limit citizen contributions to parties while allowing unlimited giving to PACs. On the other hand, parties can contribute much larger amounts to candidates than PACs can, and parties may also fund voter registration and get out the vote efforts independent of the existing limits on what parties can give to their candidates.

Even for a small state, Delaware’s limits on giving to candidates are very low with few exceptions. Delaware also fails to adjust its contribution limits for inflation, allowing Delawareans’ ability to give to diminish over time. Including those 11 states without limits on individual, political party, and PAC giving to candidates, 30 states already adjust their limits for inflation. The residents of Delaware would benefit if their state joined the club.