Kansas is a mixed bag for political giving. Individuals can contribute unlimited amounts to political committees, and parties can contribute unlimited amounts to their candidates in uncontested primaries and general elections. (Kansas, unusually, limits party contributions in contested primaries.) However, contributions from individuals to parties are limited, unlike in a majority of states. In fact, Kansas is one of just two states (Delaware) in the country that limits individual contributions to parties while allowing unlimited giving to PACs.

That aspect of Kansas’s contribution limits, along with its low limits on individual, PAC, corporate, and union giving to candidates and its failure to adjust those limits for inflation, pull down the state’s score. At the very least, residents of the Jayhawk State would benefit from their limits being indexed to account for inflation. This is a simple, uncontroversial measure used by 30 states to prevent the erosion of free speech rights with the passage of time.