

Louisiana

23

Overall Rank

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Overall Grade



Louisiana	Overall Rank	To Governor	To State Senate	To State House	To Parties	To PACs
Individual Giving	26	25	26	25	1	29
		\$5,000/election	\$2,500/election	\$2,500/election	Unlimited	\$100,000/4-year cycle
PAC Giving	29	26	28	27	28	
		\$5,000/election	\$2,500/election	\$2,500/election	\$100,000/4-year cycle	
Party Giving	1	1	1	1		
		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited		
Union Giving	15	15	14	14		
		\$5,000/election	\$2,500/election	\$2,500/election		
Corporate Giving	12	12	13	13		
		\$5,000/election	\$2,500/election	\$2,500/election		

Inflation Adjustment: No

Louisiana is a better state for political giving than many with regard to political parties, allowing individuals to give unlimited amounts to parties and parties to give unlimited amounts to candidates. Somewhat less laudably, the state’s limits on individual, PAC, and business and union giving to candidates rank generally in the middle of the nation, a major reason for the Pelican State’s 23rd place Index ranking. Louisiana could significantly improve its standing in the Free Speech Index by indexing these limits to inflation, a simple measure already implemented in 30 states (counting those states with no limits on individual giving at all).

Unfortunately, some quirks in Louisiana law serve to create confusion and limit speech. The state differentiates between regular PACs and “Big PACs.” Big PACs, which can give twice as much to candidates as normal PACs, are PACs with over 250 members who have contributed at least \$50 to the entity over the past calendar year. (For scoring purposes, the Index uses the more restrictive regular PAC limit.) Louisiana is also one of only a few states with 4-year election cycles, meaning donors can give the maximum amount less often than in most other states, as many of its limits are per election, effectively diminishing the ability of candidates to disseminate their message.