

Maine



19 Overall Rank

C Overall Grade

Maine	Overall Rank	To Governor	To State Senate	To State House	To Parties	To PACs
Individual Giving	17	24	38	30	1	1
		\$1,525/election	\$375/election	\$375/election	Unlimited	Unlimited
PAC Giving	19	25	39	31	1	
		\$1,525/election	\$375/election	\$375/election	Unlimited	
Party Giving	34	34	34	34		
		\$1,525/election	\$375/election	\$375/election		
Union Giving	16	14	22	20		
		\$1,525/election	\$375/election	\$375/election		
Corporate Giving	14	11	19	18		
		\$1,525/election	\$375/election	\$375/election		

Inflation Adjustment: Yes

Maine’s contribution limits are a study in contrast. Individuals are permitted to make unlimited contributions to political parties and political committees, but contributions to candidates are limited at remarkably low levels. Factoring in population makes Maine’s limits look better, as does its indexing of contribution limits to inflation. These factors help Maine to land in the upper half of the Free Speech Index. The Pine Tree State’s score is also rooted in two important exemptions from limits on party giving for standard activities by parties in support of their candidates: slate card mailings and get out the vote efforts.

However, Maine’s rank in the Index belies some significant restrictions on free political speech in the

state. Like only Arizona and Connecticut, Maine doles out significant tax dollars to interested statewide and legislative candidates who meet certain additional regulatory requirements and agree to spending limits, arbitrarily restricting how much political activity can be done by these campaigns. These misguided programs fail to improve the quality of government management while incentivizing candidates to cap their campaign spending, when states should instead be encouraging as much public discussion of candidates as possible.