

# New Jersey

34

Overall Rank

D+

Overall Grade



New Jersey	Overall Rank	To Governor	To State Senate	To State Assembly	To Parties	To PACs
Individual Giving	45	41	34	34	39	39
		\$3,800/election	\$2,600/election	\$2,600/election	\$25,000/year	\$7,200/year
PAC Giving	39	28	19	23	38	
		\$8,200/election	\$8,200/election	\$8,200/election	\$25,000/year	
Party Giving	1	1	1	1		
		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited		
Union Giving	24	25	20	18		
		\$3,800/election	\$2,600/election	\$2,600/election		
Corporate Giving	21	21	17	16		
		\$3,800/election	\$2,600/election	\$2,600/election		

Inflation Adjustment: Yes

While New Jersey's limits across-the-board may appear almost average at first glance, they are actually some of the more restrictive in the country when accounting for the state's large population and its two expensive media markets, New York City and Philadelphia. Limits should reflect the cost of speech in a given state and the size of the audience candidates must reach, leaving New Jerseyans worse off than many Americans who reside in smaller states with nominally lower limits.

To its credit, New Jersey allows unlimited contributions from parties to their candidates; however, this one sunny spot in the Garden State is clouded by the fact that individuals are restricted to making relatively small contributions to both parties and candidates. New Jersey also restricts contributions from national party committees (a fact the Index does not account for). To improve its score, the state must accept that speech within its borders is expensive and raise its limits, particularly on giving to gubernatorial candidates.