

Washington



20 Overall Rank

C Overall Grade

Washington	Overall Rank	To Governor	To State Senate	To State House	To Parties	To PACs
Individual Giving	24	46	42	41	1	1
		\$2,000/election	\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election	Unlimited	Unlimited
PAC Giving	41	46	42	42	36	
		\$2,000/election	\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election	\$5,500/year	
Party Giving	23	23	23	26		
		\$3,973,623/cycle	\$81,094/cycle	\$40,547/cycle		
Union Giving	26	27	25	25		
		\$2,000/election	\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election		
Corporate Giving	22	22	22	22		
		\$2,000/election	\$1,000/election	\$1,000/election		

Inflation Adjustment: Yes

Washington may have an average ranking in the Index, but there's nothing average about the state's patchwork of unusual statutes and complicated exemptions. The Evergreen State is one of the hardest states in the country for political speakers to navigate.

In addition to its regular limits, Washington imposes an additional \$5,000 aggregate limit on contributions from individuals to candidates, parties, and PACs during the 21 days prior to the general election. This limit creates confusion and functions as a significant impediment to campaign speech, as candidates and groups are limited in the contributions they can accept at a time when political speech is most salient. Washington also prohibits contributions to candidates from PACs that have not received ten donations of at least \$10 in the past 180 days from Washingto-

nians. This requirement forces PACs to continuously fundraise and divert their attention from engaging in political speech.

However, Washington performs better in the freedom it affords political parties. Washington's limit on party to candidate contributions is based on the number of registered voters in a candidate's district. While unusual, this results in some of the largest party to candidate limits, among states that have such restrictions. Washington also imposes no limit on contributions from individuals to political parties and possesses generous exemptions on the ability of parties to support their candidates. Washingtonians would be well served if the same freedoms granted to parties also extended to individuals and PACs.