

# Alaska

48 Overall Rank **F** Overall Grade

Alaska	Overall Rank	To Governor	To State Senate	To State House	To Parties	To PACs
Individual Giving	41	45	43	42	33	41
		\$500/cycle	\$500/cycle	\$500/cycle	\$5,000/cycle	\$500/cycle
PAC Giving	44	33	36	36	44	
		\$1,000/cycle	\$1,000/cycle	\$1,000/cycle	\$1,000/cycle	
Party Giving	36	36	35	37		
		\$100,000/cycle	\$15,000/cycle	\$10,000/cycle		
Union Giving	50	50	50	50		
		Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited		
Corporate Giving	50	50	50	50		
		Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited		

Inflation Adjustment: No

Alaska’s very low contribution limits leave candidates and their supporters out in the cold. Indeed, the state’s limits are so low that they are currently being challenged in federal court as an unconstitutional restriction on free speech and association. Also at issue in the lawsuit is a peculiar quirk of the state’s campaign finance laws: special restrictions on political giving by non-residents.

Under current law, gubernatorial candidates may not accept more than \$20,000 in aggregate from all non-residents, while aggregate limits on Senate and House candidates sit at \$5,000 and \$3,000 from non-residents, respectively. In similarly restrictive fashion, political parties and PACs in Alaska may not

receive more than 10% of their funding from non-residents. Corporations and other groups based out of state are prohibited from giving to candidates entirely, and may only contribute small amounts to PACs and state parties under certain circumstances.

Alaska is one of just two states (Hawaii is the other) to add these additional speech restrictions on top of its exceedingly low contribution limits. Although Alaska is not penalized in the Index for this aspect of its limits, special restrictions on non-resident giving serve no anti-corruption purpose and limit speech by hindering a candidate or group’s ability to disseminate its message.