

# Massachusetts



44 Overall Rank

F Overall Grade

Massachusetts	Overall Rank	To Governor	To State Senate	To State House	To Parties	To PACs
Individual Giving	49	50	48	45	46	49
		\$1,000/year	\$1,000/year	\$1,000/year	\$5,000/year	\$1,000/year
PAC Giving	49	50	49	48	46	
		\$500/year	\$500/year	\$500/year	\$10,000/year	
Party Giving	28	28	29	28		
		\$3,000/year	\$3,000/year	\$3,000/year		
Union Giving	29	29	29	29		
		\$500/year	\$500/year	\$500/year		
Corporate Giving	50	50	50	50		
		Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited		

Inflation Adjustment: No

Massachusetts has some of the lowest contribution limits in the nation – especially the state’s cap on individual giving to gubernatorial candidates, which is tied with neighboring Rhode Island and ahead of only Alaska for the lowest limit in the country. Consequently, the home of Bay Staters earns one of the lowest scores in the Free Speech Index. Although the General Court raised some of the state’s limits as recently as 2014, when legislators modestly increased the amount individuals can give to statewide and legislative candidates from \$500 to \$1,000 per year, these limits remain much lower than in most states, particularly given the high cost of speech in a populous state like Massachusetts.

The lone bright spot in Massachusetts’ limits regime comes in an exemption for party giving: the state allows unlimited in-kind contributions from parties to their candidates. While parties are still much too restricted in their ability to raise money and contribute to candidates directly, in-kind contributions allow parties significant leeway to support their candidates in other important ways. Residents of Massachusetts would benefit if these same freedoms were extended to all individuals and groups.