

# Minnesota



27 Overall Rank

C- Overall Grade

Minnesota	Overall Rank	To Governor	To State Senate	To State House	To Parties	To PACs
Individual Giving	23	44	45	44	1	1
		\$4,000/cycle*	\$1,000/cycle	\$1,000/cycle	Unlimited	Unlimited
PAC Giving	25	44	44	44	1	
		\$4,000/cycle*	\$1,000/cycle	\$1,000/cycle	Unlimited	
Party Giving	30	30	31	30		
		\$40,000/cycle*	\$10,000/cycle	\$10,000/cycle		
Union Giving	27	26	27	27		
		\$4,000/cycle*	\$1,000/cycle	\$1,000/cycle		
Corporate Giving	50	50	50	50		
		Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited		

**Inflation Adjustment: No**

\*These figures represent "election cycle segment" limits

Minnesota is a mixed bag for political speech, boasting relatively robust laws with regard to giving to parties and PACs, but suffering from overly restrictive limits on contributions to candidates. Both parties and PACs can raise unlimited amounts from individuals, and parties can make modest contributions to their candidates. Political parties can also conduct unlimited express advocacy independent of candidate campaigns.

Prior to the passage of S.F. 661 in 2013, the state's limits were lower: individuals could give just \$2,000 and \$500 to gubernatorial and legislative candidates, respectively. That bill also changed how Minnesota's limits apply, creating "election segments" for state-wide candidates and those running for State Senate, in which candidates are permitted to raise more

money during an election year and the year prior than in off-years. The Index takes into consideration the higher limits that exist in election segments and disregards the off-year limits, as many candidates and donors will not make decisions about whether to run or contribute until the year of or the year prior to an election.

One simple change would vault Minnesota into the top half of the Index: allowing its limits to rise with the rate of inflation. Doing so would preserve Minnesotans' ability to contribute over time. Under current law, the state's contribution limits effectively shrink slightly each year. Thirty states have already enacted this simple, uncontroversial protection for free political speech or done away with individual limits altogether.