

New York

24 Overall Rank

C Overall Grade



New York	Overall Rank	To Governor	To State Senate	To State Assembly	To Parties	To PACs
Individual Giving	33	20	24	32	34	30
		\$44,000/general*	\$18,000/primary + general	\$8,800/primary + general	\$102,300/year	\$102,300/year
PAC Giving	33	22	24	33	31	
		\$44,000/general*	\$18,000/primary + general	\$8,000/primary + general	\$102,300/year	
Party Giving	1	1	1	1		
		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited		
Union Giving	14	13	17	21		
		\$44,000/general*	\$18,000/primary + general	\$8,800/primary + general		
Corporate Giving	26	26	26	26		
		\$5,000/year	\$5,000/year	\$5,000/year		

Inflation Adjustment: Yes

* In primary elections, limits on individual, PAC, and union giving to gubernatorial candidates are set at different levels based on the number of registered voters in a candidate's political party.

New York may have an average ranking in the Index, but there is nothing average about the state's patchwork of unusual laws, complicated exemptions, and regulatory red tape. For example, the Empire State limits individual, PAC, and union contributions to gubernatorial candidates in primary elections differently depending on the political party of the candidate. The limit is proportional to the registered voter population for that party, effectively making the limit higher for Democrats than Republicans (and especially minor parties). To account for this quirk, the Index takes the average of the limits for all political parties for the primary and adds it to the general election limit, which is a flat figure.

The state also imposes a low (and constitutionally suspect) aggregate limit on overall corporate giving to all candidates in a given year. In another difficult to justify oddity of New York law, the state prohibits party giving to candidates in primary elections, while allowing parties to donate to their candidates in unlimited amounts in the general election. (The Index ignores this quirk, scoring New York as having unlimited party to candidate donations) On the bright side, the state deserves credit for allowing unlimited giving to party housekeeping accounts, but still, unfortunately, limits what New Yorkers can give directly to political parties.