

2015

# Adjusted Campaign Contribution Limits

*Procedure and Findings for Adjustment to Campaign Finance Limits*



Effective: February 25, 2015 - February 24, 2017

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## **Summary of Procedure and Findings For Adjustments To Contribution Limitation Amounts**

Pursuant to division (B)(3) of section 3517.104 of the Revised Code, the Secretary of State issues this report setting forth the new maximum contribution limits for the amounts specified in section 3517.102, the amounts required under division (B)(4)(e) of section 3517.10, and the amount specified under division (B) of section 3517.101 of the Revised Code. The new maximum contribution limits will apply for the period beginning February 25, 2015, through February 24, 2017.

The Secretary of State calculated the new maximum contribution limit amounts according to the formula in division (A) of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code. Under that section, in January of each odd-numbered year, the Secretary of State shall adjust each contribution limitation amount specified in section 3517.102, in division (B)(4)(e) of section 3517.10, and in division (B) of section 3517.101 of the Revised Code based on the yearly average of the previous two years of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (the “CPI”). Using the 1996 yearly average as the base year, the Secretary of State compares the most current average CPI with that determined in the preceding odd-numbered year and calculates the percentage increase or decrease. **The percentage increase in CPI from 2012 to 2014 is three and one-tenth percent (3.1%).** This amount is then multiplied by the actual dollar figure for each office or entity specified in section 3517.102, division (B)(4)(e) of section 3517.10, and division (B) of 3517.101 of the Revised Code as determined in the previous odd-numbered year. Finally, the product is added to the corresponding actual dollar figure determined in the previous odd-numbered year to calculate the new contribution limit amounts.

In accordance with the requirements of section 3517.104 of the Revised Code, the calculations are rounded to the nearest \$25.00 for the calculations made to the amounts specified in division (B)(4)(e) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code for reporting contributions and in-kind contributions at social or fundraising activities and contributions from amounts deducted from an

employee's wages and salary. However, the contribution limit amounts are not rounded for the calculations made to the amounts specified in section 3517.102 or in division (B) of 3517.101 of the Revised Code.

Appendix A of this report contains a summary of each new adjusted contribution limit in section 3517.102, division (B)(4)(e) of section 3517.10, and in division (B) of 3517.101 of the Revised Code. The new contribution limits are highlighted in bold.

Appendix B of this report is an overview chart setting forth Ohio's new campaign contribution limit amounts effective as of February 25, 2015.

This report and all related documents are available for inspection and copying at the office of the Secretary of State. The complete report is available for download at the Secretary of State's website: [www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov](http://www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov).

## APPENDIX A

### 2015 Adjusted Campaign Contribution Limits

R.C. 3517.10(B)(4)(e), 3517.102, and 3517.101 dollar figures have been adjusted pursuant to R.C. 3517.104. The adjusted contribution limits are effective as of February 25, 2015, and are as follows:

#### **3517.10**

3517.10(B)(4)(e): A statement of contributions received does not need to include a separately itemized account of any contribution of:

- \$25.00 or less received from a person at one social or fundraising activity.
- \$25.00 or less aggregated in a calendar year from amounts deducted from the wages and salary of one employee.

*Note: These amounts did not change from the previous limit adjustment.*

3517.10(B)(4)(e): An account of the total contributions from each social or fundraising activity shall include a description of and the value of each in-kind contribution received at that activity from any person who made one or more such contributions whose aggregate value exceeds **\$325.00**.

#### **3517.101**

(B): The maximum aggregate amount any person may contribute to a state political party, a county political party or a legislative campaign fund that is specifically designated and used to defray any cost incurred for the purposes described in division (A)(1) of this section in a calendar year is now **\$10,310.00**.

#### **3517.102**

(B)(1)(a)(i), (ii) & (iii): The maximum aggregate contributions from an individual who is seven years of age or older to the campaign committee of any one statewide candidate, senate candidate, or house candidate in a primary or general election period is now **\$12,532.34**.

(B)(1)(a)(iv): The maximum aggregate contributions from an individual who is seven years of age or older to any county political party's state candidate fund of the county in which the individual's designated Ohio residence is located in a calendar year is now **\$12,532.34**.

(B)(1)(a)(v): The maximum aggregate contributions from an individual who is seven years of age or older to any one legislative campaign fund in a calendar year is now **\$18,798.51**.

(B)(1)(a)(vi): The maximum aggregate contributions from an individual who is seven years of age or older to a state political party's state candidate fund in a calendar year is now **\$37,597.02**.

(B)(1)(a)(vii): The maximum aggregate contributions from an individual who is seven years of age or older to any one political action committee in a calendar year is now **\$12,532.34**.

(B)(1)(a)(viii): The maximum aggregate contributions from an individual who is seven years of age or older to any one political contributing entity in a calendar year is now **\$12,532.34**.

(B)(2)(a)(i), (ii) & (iii): The maximum aggregate contributions from a political action committee to the campaign committee of any one statewide candidate, senate candidate, or house candidate in a primary or general election period is now **\$12,532.34**.

(B)(2)(a)(iv): The maximum aggregate contributions from a political action committee to any one legislative campaign fund in a calendar year is now **\$18,798.51**.

(B)(2)(a)(v): The maximum aggregate contributions from a political action committee to a state political party's state candidate fund in a calendar year is now **\$37,597.02**.

(B)(2)(a)(vi): The maximum aggregate contributions from a political action committee to another political action committee, with which it is not affiliated, in a calendar year is now **\$12,532.34**.

(B)(3)(a), (b) & (c): The maximum aggregate contributions from a campaign committee to the campaign committee of any one statewide candidate, senate candidate, or house candidate in a primary or general election period is now **\$12,532.34**.

(B)(3)(d): The maximum aggregate contributions from a campaign committee to any one political action committee in a calendar year is now **\$12,532.34**.

(B)(3)(e): The maximum aggregate contributions from a campaign committee to any one political contributing entity in a calendar year is now **\$12,532.34**.

(B)(4)(a): The maximum aggregate contributions from a political party to any one political action committee or to any one political contributing entity in a calendar year is now **\$12,532.34**.

(B)(5)(a)(i): The maximum aggregate contributions from a campaign committee, other than a designated state campaign committee, to a state political party's state candidate fund in a calendar year is now **\$37,597.02**.

(B)(5)(a)(ii): The maximum aggregate contributions from a campaign committee, other than a designated state campaign committee, to any one legislative campaign fund in a calendar year remains \$18,798.51.

(B)(5)(a)(iii): The maximum aggregate contributions from a campaign committee, other than a designated state campaign committee, to any one county political party's state candidate fund in a calendar year is now **\$12,532.34**.

(B)(6)(a)(i): The maximum aggregate contributions from a county political party's state candidate fund to the campaign committee of any statewide candidate, except a contribution to a designated state campaign committee, in a primary or general election period is now **\$313,308.49**.

(B)(6)(a)(ii) & (iii): The maximum aggregate contributions from a county political party's state candidate fund to the campaign committee of any senate candidate or house candidate, except a contribution to a designated state campaign committee, in a primary or general election period is now **\$12,532.34**.

(B)(6)(b)(i)(I): The maximum aggregate contributions of cash or cash equivalents from a county or state political party's state candidate fund to a designated state campaign committee of any one statewide candidate in a primary or general election period is now **\$706,823.95**.

(B)(6)(b)(i)(II): The maximum aggregate contributions of cash or cash equivalents from a county or state political party's state candidate fund to a designated state campaign committee of a senate candidate in a primary or general election period is now **\$140,988.82**.

(B)(6)(b)(i)(III): The maximum aggregate contributions of cash or cash equivalents from a county or state political party's state candidate fund to a designated state campaign committee of a house candidate in a primary or general election period is now **\$70,181.10**.

(B)(6)(b)(ii)(I): The maximum aggregate contributions of cash or cash equivalents from a legislative campaign fund to a designated state campaign committee of a senate candidate is now **\$70,181.10** for a primary election period and **\$140,988.82** for a general election period.

(B)(6)(b)(ii)(II): The maximum aggregate contributions of cash or cash equivalents from a legislative campaign fund to a designated state campaign committee of a house candidate is now **\$36,352.01** for a primary election period and **\$70,181.10** for a general election period.

(B)(6)(c): The maximum aggregate contributions from other lawful accounts of a county political party that has no state candidate fund and is located in a county having a population of less than 150,000 to any one statewide candidate or to any one designated state campaign committee in any primary or general election period remains \$3,038.88 as the calculated change is less than \$100.00.



(B)(7)(a)(i), (ii) & (iii): The maximum aggregate contributions from a political contributing entity to the campaign committee of any one statewide candidate, senate candidate, or house candidate in a primary or general election period is now **\$12,532.34**.

(B)(7)(a)(iv): The maximum aggregate contributions from a political contributing entity to any one legislative campaign fund in a calendar year is now **\$18,798.51**.

(B)(7)(a)(v): The maximum aggregate contributions from a political contributing entity to a state political party's state candidate fund in a calendar year is now **\$37,597.02**.

(B)(7)(a)(vi): The maximum aggregate contributions from a political contributing entity to another political contributing entity or a political action committee, with which it is not affiliated, in a calendar year is now **\$12,532.34**.

(C)(1)(a)(ii): The maximum aggregate contributions a campaign committee of a statewide candidate may accept from any one individual who is seven years of age or older, any one political action committee, any one political contributing entity, or any one other campaign committee in a primary or general election period is now **\$12,532.34**.

(C)(1)(a)(iii): The maximum aggregate contributions a campaign committee of a statewide candidate may accept from any one or combination of state candidate funds of county political parties in a primary or general election period is now **\$313,308.49**.

(C)(1)(b): The maximum aggregate contributions a campaign committee of a statewide candidate may accept, in a primary or general election period, from any county political party that has no state candidate fund and that is located in a county having a population of less than 150,000 remains \$3,038.88 as the calculated change is less than \$100.00.

(C)(2)(a)(ii): The maximum aggregate contributions a campaign committee of a senate candidate, except for a designated state campaign committee, may accept from any one individual who is seven years of age or older, any one political action committee, any one

political contributing entity, any one state candidate fund of a county political party, or any one other campaign committee in a primary or general election period is now **\$12,532.34**.

(C)(2)(b): The maximum aggregate contributions a campaign committee of a senate candidate may accept, in a primary or general election period, from a county political party that has no state candidate fund and that is located in a county having a population of less than 150,000 remains \$3,038.88 as the calculated change is less than \$100.00.

(C)(3)(a)(ii): The maximum aggregate contributions a campaign committee of a house candidate, except for a designated state campaign committee, may accept from any one individual who is seven years of age or older, any one political action committee, any one political contributing entity, any one state candidate fund of a county political party, or any one other campaign committee in a primary or general election period is now **\$12,532.34**.

(C)(3)(b): The maximum aggregate contributions a campaign committee of a house candidate may accept, in a primary or general election period, from a county political party that has no state candidate fund and that is located in a county having a population of less than 150,000 remains \$3,038.88 as the calculated change is less than \$100.00.

(C)(4)(a)(i): The maximum aggregate contributions a county political party state candidate fund, except for a designated state campaign committee, may accept from any one individual who is seven years of age or older and whose designated Ohio residence is located within that county or from any one campaign committee, in a calendar year is now **\$12,532.34**.

(C)(4)(b)(ii): The maximum aggregate contributions a state political party state candidate fund may accept from any one individual who is seven years of age or older, any one political action committee, any one political contributing entity, or any one campaign committee, other than a designated state campaign committee, in a calendar year is now **\$37,597.02**.

(C)(5)(b): The maximum aggregate contributions a legislative campaign fund may accept from any one individual who is seven years of age or older, any one political action

committee, any one political contributing entity, or any one campaign committee, other than a designated state campaign committee, in a calendar year is now **\$18,798.51**.

(C)(6)(a)(i): The maximum aggregate contributions of cash or cash equivalents a designated state campaign committee, in the case of a campaign committee of a statewide candidate, may accept from a state political party state candidate fund in a primary or general election period is now **\$706,823.95**.

(C)(6)(a)(ii): The maximum aggregate contributions of cash or cash equivalents a designated state campaign committee, in the case of a campaign committee of a senate candidate, may accept from a state political party state candidate fund in a primary or general election period is now **\$140,988.82**.

(C)(6)(a)(iii): The maximum aggregate contributions of cash or cash equivalents a designated state campaign committee, in the case of a campaign committee of a house candidate, may accept from a state political party state candidate fund in a primary or general election period is now **\$70,181.10**.

(C)(6)(b)(i): The maximum aggregate contributions of cash or cash equivalents a designated state campaign committee of a senate candidate may accept from a legislative campaign fund is now **\$70,181.10** in a primary election period and **\$140,988.82** in a general election period.

(C)(6)(b)(ii): The maximum aggregate contributions of cash or cash equivalents a designated state campaign committee of a house candidate may accept from a legislative campaign fund is now **\$36,352.01** in a primary election period and **\$70,181.10** in a general election period.

(C)(6)(c)(i): The maximum aggregate contributions of cash or cash equivalents a campaign committee of a senate candidate, including a campaign committee that is a designated state campaign committee, may accept from any one or combination of state candidate funds of county political parties in a primary or general election period is now **\$125,367.39**.

(C)(6)(c)(ii): The maximum aggregate contributions of cash or cash equivalents a campaign committee of a house candidate, including a campaign committee that is a designated state campaign committee, may accept from any one or combination of state candidate funds of county political parties in a primary or general election period is now **\$62,661.70**.

(C)(7)(a)(ii): The maximum aggregate contributions a political action committee may accept from any one individual who is seven years of age or older, any one campaign committee, or any one political party in a calendar year is now **\$12,532.34**.

(C)(7)(b): The maximum aggregate contributions a political action committee or a political contributing entity may accept from any one political action committee or any one political contributing entity, except a political action committee or political contributing entity with which it is affiliated, in a calendar year is now **\$12,532.34**.

(E)(1): A legislative campaign fund must dispose of excess funds exceeding **\$212,423.16**.

**Ohio Campaign Contribution Limits**  
Effective February 25 2015 through February 24 2017

This chart is intended to be a general guide and does not include every statutory provision relating to contribution limits.

From To Per Election Period unless otherwise footnoted	INDIVIDUAL (Must be 7 years of age or older)	PACs PCEs	COUNTY PARTY State Candidate Fund	COUNTY PARTY Other Account <sup>8</sup>	STATE PARTY State Candidate Fund	LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGN FUND	CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE (includes local)
STATEWIDE	\$12,532.34	\$12,532.34	\$313,308.49 <sup>12</sup>	\$3,038.88 <sup>9</sup>	\$706,823.95 <sup>7</sup>	PROHIBITED	\$12,532.34
SENATE	\$12,532.34	\$12,532.34	\$12,532.34 <sup>1</sup> \$140,988.82 <sup>2</sup>	\$3,038.88 <sup>9</sup>	\$140,988.82 <sup>7</sup>	\$70,181.10 <sup>6</sup> \$140,988.82 <sup>6</sup>	\$12,532.34
HOUSE	\$12,532.34	\$12,532.34	\$12,532.34 <sup>1</sup> \$70,181.10 <sup>2</sup>	\$3,038.88 <sup>9</sup>	\$70,181.10 <sup>7</sup>	\$36,352.01 <sup>6</sup> \$70,181.10 <sup>6</sup>	\$12,532.34
STATE PARTY State Candidate Fund	\$37,597.02 <sup>3</sup>	\$37,597.02 <sup>3</sup>	No Limit	PROHIBITED	No Limit	No Limit	\$37,597.02 <sup>5</sup>
LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGN FUND	\$18,798.51 <sup>3</sup>	\$18,798.51 <sup>3</sup>	No Limit	PROHIBITED	No Limit	PROHIBITED	\$18,798.51 <sup>5</sup>
COUNTY PARTY State Candidate Fund	\$12,532.34 <sup>10</sup>	PROHIBITED	PROHIBITED	PROHIBITED	No Limit	No Limit	\$12,532.34 <sup>4</sup>
PACs PCEs	\$12,532.34 <sup>3</sup>	\$12,532.34 <sup>13</sup>	\$12,532.34 <sup>11</sup>	\$12,532.34 <sup>11</sup>	\$12,532.34 <sup>11</sup>	PROHIBITED	\$12,532.34 <sup>3</sup>

1. These limits apply to contributions given to a campaign committee which is **not** a *'designated state campaign committee'*.
2. These limits apply to cash or cash equivalents, not in-kind. The campaign committee of a House or a Senate candidate which is a *'designated state campaign committee'* may **accept**, in aggregate, from any one or a combination of state candidate funds of county political parties **\$62,661.70** and **\$125,367.39**, respectively, in an election period.
3. These limits are per calendar year.
4. This limit is per calendar year and may only be made if the campaign committee's candidate will appear on a ballot in that county or is an officeholder representing any part of that county.
5. These limits are per calendar year and do not apply to contributions given by a *'designated state campaign committee'*.
6. These limits apply to cash or cash equivalents, not in-kind. The smaller limit is for the Primary election period and the larger limit is for the General election period.
7. These limits apply to cash or cash equivalents, not in-kind.
8. These limits apply to political parties in counties having a population of less than 150,000 which do not establish a State Candidate Fund. *'Other Account'* does not include an account that contains moneys received from the Ohio Political Party Fund (Restricted Fund).
9. Recipients of county party non-State Candidate Fund contributions must be campaign committees for statewide candidates or a *'designated state campaign committee'*.
10. This limit is per calendar year. Contributions to a County Party SCF are restricted to individuals residing in the county or *'designated state campaign committees'* of the County Party SCF.
11. These limits are per calendar year and apply to the aggregate of contributions given by the National, State and County level of a political party.
12. A campaign committee for a statewide candidate may **accept** not more than this amount, in aggregate, from any one or a combination of state candidate funds of county political parties in an election period.
13. This limit is per calendar year and does not apply to contributions made to or received by one or more PACs that are affiliated.