

Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

CONTRIBUTION ISSUES

The following information is intended to assist candidates and treasurers in complying with contribution requirements. Read the provisions carefully; certain contributions are prohibited and others are limited. Call or write the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board office if you have specific questions.

Prohibited contributions

Sessional fundraising

- During a regular legislative session registered candidate committees may not solicit or accept contributions from:
 1. registered lobbyists,
 2. political committees,
 3. political funds,
 4. terminating principal campaign committees, *or*
 5. committees of a legislative party caucus

AND: registered lobbyists, political committees, political funds, terminating principal campaign committees, and committees of a legislative party caucuses may not give contributions to registered candidate committees.
- The prohibition applies during the entire first day through the entire last day of the session, regardless of starting and adjournment times.
- The prohibition does not apply to *judicial* or to *special election* candidates.
- Contributions from individuals who are not lobbyists and political party committees (other than caucuses) are acceptable.

Contributions between candidate committees

- Contributions from one candidate committee to another candidate committee are prohibited unless the donating committee is terminating registration. Contributions from terminating candidate committees count toward the accepting committee's aggregate political party contribution limit. The donating committee must terminate within 12 months after giving a contribution to another principal campaign committee.
- Contributions between principal campaign committees and federal and local candidates are prohibited at all times including when the donating committee is terminating registration.

Earmarking

- Contributions solicited or accepted with the express or implied condition that all or part of the contribution be given to another candidate are prohibited.

Anonymous contributions

- Contributions of more than \$20 for which the contributor's name and address cannot be determined must be sent to the Board office within 14 days for deposit in the general account of the State Elections Campaign Fund.

Return of contributions

- Contributions must be returned to the contributor (when necessary) within 60 days or are deemed to be accepted.

Aggregate Limits

Aggregate contributions from certain sources

- All candidates (except for elective judgeships) are subject to an aggregate contribution limit. These limits are **not** dependent on the signing of a Public Subsidy Agreement. This limit applies to all contributions and loans from:
 1. lobbyists,
 2. political committees,
 3. political funds, and
 4. individuals who contribute or loan more than \$100 and more than one-half the yearly contribution limit.

Aggregate contributions from political party units and terminating principal campaign committees

- Contributions from political party units and terminating principal campaign committees in aggregate must not exceed ten times the amount that may be contributed by an individual.

Record keeping requirements

Contribution, in-kind contribution, and loan

- You must keep the following records:
 1. name and address of contributor or lender;
 2. amount of the contribution or loan;
 3. date contribution was received by committee (not date on check; not date of deposit);
 4. employer of contributor if yearly aggregate exceeds \$100;
 5. contributors Campaign Finance Board registration number if contributor is a lobbyist, a political committee, political fund, or principal campaign committee;
 6. a signed agreement for each loan (loans are subject to the contribution limit unless it's from a financial institution).

In-kind contributions, approved expenditures

- For these contributions you must also have records of:
 1. the specific item of goods or services;
 2. the fair market value; and
 3. the original vendor's name and address.
- Approved expenditures require **advance approval** by the candidate or treasurer; apply to the contribution limit; and may apply to the spending limit.

Bundling contributions

- Contributions to candidates that are collected and delivered by one individual or a political committee or political fund are recorded as a contribution from the entity that makes the delivery **AND** from the individual or entity that made the contribution. This provision does not apply to contributions delivered by a member of the candidate's principal campaign committee or by an individual who delivers their spouse's contribution.

Joint checks

- A contribution written on a joint check is credited to the individual who signed the check unless the treasurer or candidate has personal knowledge or affirmatively ascertains from any account holder who did not sign the check that such person is a joint contributor. A written notation of the basis for considering the contribution to be a joint contribution should be made at the time the contribution is deposited and kept with the committee's or fund's official records.

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling 651/296-5148; 800/657-3889; or for TTY/TDD communications contact us through the Minnesota Relay Service at 800/627-3529.