

Quick Reference Charts – Contribution Limits and Voluntary Spending Limits

These charts are also contained in the CPF Manual at page 30

QUICK REFERENCE: ELECTION CYCLE / CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

Contribution limits may not necessarily be based on election cycles. If contribution limits apply to your committee please review all applicable laws thoroughly and carefully. The contribution limits below have been adjusted by CPF Rule 12 pursuant to Article XXVIII, Section 3(13) of the Colorado Constitution effective March 15, 2011.

Committee Type	Contribution Cycle	Contribution Limits
Candidate Committee	<p>Election cycle starts 31 days following a general election for the particular office and ends 30 days following the next general election for that office.</p> <p>6 years – State Board of Education, CU Regent</p> <p>4 years – Governor/Lt. Gov, Sec. of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, State Senate, District Attorney, RTD</p> <p>2 years – State House of Representative</p>	<p><i>State candidates:</i> Please review CPF Rule 12 and the Quick Reference guide for candidate committees in this manual.</p> <p><i>Municipal/County candidates:</i></p> <p>Contribution limits may or may not apply to home rule municipal or county candidates. Check with the municipality or county to verify if Home Rule charters or ordinances apply.</p> <p>Unless a municipality or county is home ruled and has laws different from state law, municipal or county candidates may not accept corporate or labor union contributions.</p>
Political Party (state, county, district and local level combined)	Per year (calendar year) - January 1 st through December 31 st .	<p>\$3,400 per year; no more than \$2,825 to the state party from any person (does not include issue committees) other than Small Donor Committee.</p> <p>\$17,075 per year; no more than \$14,225 to the state party from any Small Donor Committee.</p>
Political Committee	Colorado House of Representatives Elections Cycle (2 years). This applies to state, county and local political committees.	\$550.
Small Donor Committee	Per year (calendar year) - January 1 st through December 31 st . This applies to state, county and local small donor committees.	\$50 maximum by <u>natural persons who are U.S. citizens only.</u>
Issue Committee	Not applicable.	<p><i>State issue committees</i> do not have contribution limits.</p> <p><i>Municipal/County issue committees:</i></p> <p>Please check with the designated election official to see if a Home Rule Charter establishes contribution limits.</p>
Independent Expenditure Committee	Not applicable.	<p><i>State independent expenditure committees</i> do not have donation limits.</p> <p><i>Municipal/County independent expenditure committees:</i></p> <p>Please check with the designated election official to see if a Home Rule Charter establishes donation limits.</p>

QUICK REFERENCE OF STATE CANDIDATE CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION LIMITS FOR CANDIDATES PER ELECTION CYCLE

Contribution limits listed in this chart reflect adjustments made by Rule 12 pursuant to Art. XXVIII, Sec. 3(13) of the CO Constitution effective March 15, 2011 and are current until 2015.

From ↓ To →	Governor / Lt. Governor	Secretary of State	Attorney General	State Treasurer	State Senate	State House of Representatives	State Board of Education	CU Regent	District Attorney	Regional Transportation District
Natural Person / Political Committee & Business Entity (Other than a corporation)	Primary* \$550	Primary* \$550	Primary* \$550	Primary* \$550	Primary* \$200	Primary* \$200	Primary* \$200	Primary* \$200	Primary* \$200	No Limit
	General* \$550	General* \$550	General* \$550	General* \$550	General* \$200	General* \$200	General* \$200	General* \$200	General* \$200	
Small Donor Committee	Primary* \$5,675	Primary* \$5,675	Primary* \$5,675	Primary* \$5,675	Primary* \$2,250	Primary* \$2,250	Primary* \$2,250	Primary* \$2,250	Primary* \$2,250	No Limit
	General* \$5,675	General* \$5,675	General* \$5,675	General* \$5,675	General* \$2,250	General* \$2,250	General* \$2,250	General* \$2,250	General* \$2,250	
Political Party	\$569,530	\$113,905	\$113,905	\$113,905	\$20,500	\$14,805	\$14,805	\$14,805	\$14,805	No Limit
Candidate Committee (to another Candidate committee)	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
Issue Committee	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
Indep. Expenditure Committee	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
Corporations & Labor Unions	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
Federal PAC (see Rule 2.8)	Primary* \$550	Primary* \$550	Primary* \$550	Primary* \$550	Primary* \$200	Primary* \$200	Primary* \$200	Primary* \$200	Primary* \$200	No Limit
	General* \$550	General* \$550	General* \$550	General* \$550	General* \$200	General* \$200	General* \$200	General* \$200	General* \$200	
527 Organization	Consult Internal Revenue Service Regulations									

* All major party candidates may accept contributions for the primary and general election. Minor party candidates who appear on a primary election ballot may accept contributions for the primary and general elections. Unaffiliated and minor party candidates who do not appear on a primary election ballot may only accept contributions for the general election. The Governor and Lt. Governor are considered one committee and the contribution and spending limits for governor apply to the joint committee.

Contribution limits double for a candidate who has accepted voluntary spending limits if his or her opponent has not accepted the voluntary spending limits and has raised more than 10 percent of the spending limit. Contributions from a political party are based on a candidate's election cycle and cannot be doubled.

Contributions to a candidate committee by the candidate are counted as political party contributions when a candidate accepts voluntary spending limits. Any unexpended campaign contributions which are carried forward to a subsequent election cycle are also counted as a political party contribution.

QUICK REFERENCE: STATE VOLUNTARY SPENDING LIMITS

Please note that there is nothing in Article XXVIII of the Colorado Constitution or Title 1, Article 45 of the Colorado Revised Statutes addressing voluntary spending limits for county or municipal candidates. If you are running for office in a home rule county or municipality, please contact your county clerk and recorder or municipal clerk to see if your county or municipality has its own spending limit guidelines or restrictions.

VOLUNTARY SPENDING LIMITS

This chart reflects the voluntary spending limits as adjusted by CPF Rule 12 pursuant to Article XXVIII, Section 4(7) of the Colorado Constitution effective March 15, 2011, and are current until the next adjustment in 2015.

OFFICE / CANDIDATE	VOLUNTARY SPENDING LIMITS
Governor / Lieutenant Governor	\$2,847,650
Secretary of State	569,525
Attorney General	569,525
State Treasurer	569,525
State Senate	102,500
State House of Representatives	74,025
State Board of Education	74,025
Regent of the University of Colorado	74,025
District Attorney	74,025
Regional Transportation District (RTD)	No Limit

Remember: Contribution limits double for a candidate who has accepted voluntary spending limits if his or her opponent has not accepted the voluntary spending limits and has raised more than 10 percent of the spending limit; however, **this does not double the candidate's spending limit**. Political Party contribution limits cannot be doubled.

QUICK REFERENCE OF COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

This chart reflects contribution limits for all political committees, small donor committees, issue committees and political parties within the State of Colorado. Home Rule counties or municipalities may have their own contribution limits; therefore, you should contact the county clerk and recorder or municipal clerk. The limits in this chart reflect adjustments made by CPF Rule 12 pursuant to Article XXVII, Sec. 3(13) of the Colorado Constitution. In addition, please review Campaign and Political Finance Rule 2.6 and 2.7 relating to issue committee and political committee contributions.

Contributor	Committee Receiving Contribution				
	Political Committee (per State House of Representatives election cycle)	Small Donor Committee (per calendar year)	Political Party (per calendar year)	Issue Committee	Independent Expenditure Committee (donations)
Natural Person	\$550	\$50	\$3,400 (State, county, district, & local levels combined of which no more than \$2,825 may be given to the state party.)	No Limit	No Limit
Political Party	\$550	Prohibited	\$3,400 (State, county, district, & local levels combined of which no more than \$2,825 may be given to the state party.)	No Limit	No Limit
Political Committee (PC)	\$550	Prohibited	\$3,400 (State, county, district, & local levels combined of which no more than \$2,825 may be given to the state party.)	Prohibited	No limit
Small Donor Committee (SDC)	\$550	Prohibited	\$17,075 (State, County, district, and local levels combined of which no more than \$14,225 may be given to the state party.)	Prohibited	No limit
Candidate Committee	\$550, but only if the stated purpose of the political committee includes supporting the candidate who is contributing.	Prohibited	\$3,400 of unexpended campaign funds only. (State, county, district, & local levels combined of which no more than \$2,825 may be given to the state party.)	Prohibited	No limit
Issue Committee	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	No Limit	Prohibited
Independent Expenditure Committee	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	No limit
Business Entity (Other than a Corporation)	\$550	Prohibited	\$3,400 (State, county, district, & local levels combined of which no more than \$2,825 may be given to the state party.)	No Limit	No Limit
Corporations & Labor Unions	\$550	Prohibited	Prohibited	No Limit	No Limit
Federal PAC	\$550	Prohibited	\$3,400 (State, county, district, & local levels combined of which no more than \$2,825 may be given to the state party.)	No Limit	No Limit
Federal 527 Organization	\$550	Prohibited	\$3,400 (State, county, district, & local levels combined of which no more than \$2,825 may be given to the state party.)	No Limit	No Limit