

Campaign Finance in the United States

Election Management Training Institute
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Contributions Limits in Federal Elections

Individual Contribution Limits

\$2300 to a candidate per election

\$\$28,500 to a national party committee each calendar year

\$10,000 to state, district and local party committees each calendar year

\$5,000 to any other political committee each calendar year

\$\$108, 200 overall two year limit

\$42,000 to all candidates

\$65,500 to all PACs and parties

National Party Committee Contribution Limits

- \$5,000 to each candidate per election
 - except, \$39,900 to a Senate candidate per campaign
- \$5,000 to any other political committee each calendar year

State, District and Local Party Contribution Limits

- \$5,000 to each candidate per election (combined limit)
- \$5,000 to any other political committee each calendar year

Political Action Committee (PAC) Contribution Limits

- \$5,000 to each candidate per election
- \$15,000 to national party committee each calendar year
- \$5,000 to state, district and local party committees each calendar year (combined limit)
- \$5,000 to any other political committee

Presidential Campaign Funding

To qualify for partial public funding in the nomination process candidates must raise \$5,000 in 20 states in amounts of \$250 or less.

Candidates who qualify for partial public funding have contributions of \$250 or less from individuals matched with government funds.

There are state by state spending limits. The limit in the smallest states was \$841,000 and in California, the largest state, was \$18,279,300 in 2008.

The overall primary spending limit in 2008 was \$42.05 million.

The nominees of the Democratic and Republican parties will receive \$84.1 million for the general election. If they accept this money, they can accept no other contributions to their campaigns.

Presidential Fundraising in 2008 (through April 30, 2008)

- Barack Obama
 - Raised \$265,439,277
 - Spent \$218,884,220

- Hilary Clinton
 - Raised \$214,883,437
 - Spent \$185,216,984

- John McCain
 - Raised \$96,654,783
 - Spent \$72,666,309