

Member of ACEC New York,

This document is an aide in understanding contribution limits for State-wide and Federal Political Candidates and Political Action Committee funds. Many of our members have recently come under the microscope by the State Board of Elections for exceeding their limits of legal contributions.

Below is a table that explains the legal limits of contributions for political candidates.

Office	Election	Contribution Limits	
		Corporate	Individual
U.S. Senate	Primary	\$0	\$2,400
	General		
U.S. Congress	Primary	\$0	\$2,400
	General		
NY Statewide Offices**	Primary	\$5,000*	\$37,800
	General		
NYS Senate	Primary	\$5,000*	\$6,000
	General		\$9,500
NYS Assembly	Primary	\$5,000*	\$3,800
	General		\$3,800
NY Citywide Offices***	Primary	\$0	\$4,950
	General		
NYC City Council	Primary	\$0	\$2,750
	General		
NYC Borough President	Primary	\$0	\$3,850
	General		

Any cells that are not differentiated between primary and general mean the limit posted is for the full election cycle (term).

* These amounts are the maximum per **calendar year**. Where the limit exceeds \$5,000, a corporation is still restricted to its limit of \$5,000 in a calendar year. But, it may give during each year of the election up to the lesser of its or the candidate's limit.

** This includes the offices of Governor/Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and Comptroller. The offices of Governor/Lieutenant Governor are a joint office, and the contribution limits pertain to both offices, not each singularly.

*** This includes the offices of Mayor, Comptroller and Public Advocate

Some candidates in New York City choose to fund their campaigns through the New York City Public Financing Program. The contributions and limits differ from those shown here. To find information on this program please visit <http://www.nyccfb.info/>

Below is a table that specifies the aggregate amounts that individuals and corporations are legally allowed to contribute to political candidates or PAC's per calendar year.

New York State (including NYC) – Contributions allowed per calendar year

Federal		State-wide	
Corporate	\$0	Corporate	\$5,000
Individual	\$5,000	Individual	\$150,000

As a member of ACEC New York, your State-wide contributions are submitted through your dues bill check-off. It is important to keep track of how much of your dues are going in the ACEC New York State PAC. You may contribute to other State PAC's or political candidates, but it is essential to keep a record of these contributions. The State Board of Elections Campaign Finance upholds these strict guidelines as to how much an entity or individual can donate.

For the Federal PAC, ACEC may solicit individuals within your firm for contributions. Corporations are not permitted to contribute to Federal PAC's, with one exception. Although corporations are not permitted to donate to Federal PAC's, they are permitted to sponsor ACEC PAC events. This does not count as a contribution.

If you have any questions as to how much your firm has given to the State PAC, individuals to the Federal PAC, or any other concerns, please feel free to contact Director of Government Relations, Tom Coté at ACEC New York: 518.452.8611 or tom@acecny.org.

Useful Links for Additional Information

<http://www.elections.state.ny.us/Contributions.html#Limits>

<http://www.nyccfb.info/candidates/candidates/limits/2009.htm>

http://www.fec.gov/pages/brochures/fecfeca.shtml#Contribution_Limits