



Contribution issues

Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

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. Contact the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board if you have specific questions.

Prohibited contributions

Sessional fundraising

- During a regular legislative session registered candidate committees and committees of a legislative party caucus may not solicit or accept contributions from:
 1. registered lobbyists,
 2. political committees,
 3. political funds, and
 4. associations not registered with the Board

AND: registered lobbyists, political committees, political funds, and associations not registered with the Board may not give contributions to registered candidate committees or committees of a legislative party caucus.

- The prohibition does not apply to *judicial* or to *special election* candidates.
- Contributions from individuals who are not lobbyists and from political party units are acceptable during regular session.

Contributions between candidate committees

- Contributions from one candidate committee to another candidate committee are prohibited unless the donating committee is terminating its registration. Contributions from terminating candidate committees count toward the accepting committee's aggregate political party unit 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 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 90 days or are deemed to be accepted.

Aggregate limits

Aggregate contributions from special sources

- All candidates (except for judicial candidates) 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. associations not registered with the Board

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.

Recordkeeping requirements

Cash and in-kind contributions over \$20; loans

- 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 \$200;
 5. contributor's Campaign Finance Board registration number if contributor is a lobbyist, political committee, political fund, party unit, or principal campaign committee;
 6. a signed agreement for each loan (loans are subject to the contribution limit unless lender is a financial institution).

In-kind contributions over \$20; approved expenditures

- For these contributions you must also have records of:
 1. a description of the donated good or service;
 2. the fair market value; and
 3. the original vendor's name and address (for approved expenditures).
- Approved expenditures require **advance, written approval** by the candidate or treasurer. Approved expenditures apply to the contribution limit and to the spending limit if the candidate has signed a public subsidy agreement.

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.