

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SSB 6344

---

---

C 206 L 10  
Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Concerning campaign contribution limits.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Fairley, Prentice, Hargrove, Kauffman, Marr and McDermott).

**Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections**  
**House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs**

**Background:** In 1992 the Legislature passed the Fair Campaign Practices Act in response to the passage of Initiative 134. Initiative 134 imposed campaign contribution limits on elections for statewide and legislative office, further regulated independent expenditures, restricted the use of public funds for political purposes, and required public officials to report gifts received in excess of \$50. The stated purposes of the initiative were to: (1) give individuals and interest groups equal opportunities to influence elective and governmental processes; (2) reduce the influence of large organizational contributors; and (3) restore public trust in governmental institutions and the electoral process. In 2006 contribution limits were expanded to include elections for certain county and special purpose district offices and for judicial offices.

Contributions from an individual, a union or business, or a political action committee may not in the aggregate exceed \$800 per election to a candidate for state legislative office or county office, and may not in the aggregate exceed \$1,600 per election to a candidate for a public office in a special purpose district or a state office other than a state legislative office.

Limits also apply to political parties. State party central committees, minor party committees, and legislative caucus committees may contribute an aggregate of up to 80 cents per registered voter in the candidate's jurisdiction for an election cycle. County central committees and legislative district committees may contribute an aggregate of up to 40 cents per registered voter in the candidate's district. Contributions received from county central committees and legislative district committees combined may not exceed an amount more than 40 cents times the number of registered voters in the jurisdiction from which the candidate is elected.

These dollar amounts are adjusted for inflation by the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) every even-numbered calendar year.

---

*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Summary:** The list of public offices requiring campaign contribution limits is expanded to include all charter county, noncharter county, city council, and mayoral offices. Contributions from an individual, a union, or business may not in the aggregate exceed \$800 per election to a candidate for such offices. Political party contributions are limited to 80 cents per registered voter in the candidate's jurisdiction for an election cycle. The PDC adjusts these limits for inflation every even-numbered calendar year.

Local districts with contribution limits currently established for city council or mayoral campaigns may continue to apply such standards so long as the contribution limits do not exceed the limits set by the PDC.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

Senate	39	9	
House	90	6	(House amended)
Senate	35	11	(Senate concurred)

**Effective:** June 10, 2010