
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6344

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senate Government Operations & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Fairley, Prentice, Hargrove, Kauffman, Marr, and McDermott)

READ FIRST TIME 01/28/10.

1 AN ACT Relating to campaign contribution limits; amending RCW
2 42.17.640; and adding a new section to chapter 42.17 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.17.640 and 2006 c 348 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The contribution limits in this section apply to:

7 (a) Candidates for state legislative office;

8 (b) Candidates for state office other than state legislative
9 office;

10 (c) Candidates for county office in a charter county (~~that has~~
11 ~~over two hundred thousand registered voters~~));

12 (d) Candidates for county office in a noncharter county;

13 (e) Candidates for special purpose district office if that district
14 is authorized to provide freight and passenger transfer and terminal
15 facilities and that district has over two hundred thousand registered
16 voters;

17 ((+e)) (f) Persons holding an office in (a) through ((+d)) (e) of
18 this subsection against whom recall charges have been filed or to a

1 political committee having the expectation of making expenditures in
2 support of the recall of a person holding the office;

3 ~~((f))~~ (g) Caucus political committees;

4 ~~((g))~~ (h) Bona fide political parties.

5 (2) No person, other than a bona fide political party or a caucus
6 political committee, may make contributions to a candidate for a state
7 legislative office or county office that in the aggregate exceed seven
8 hundred dollars or to a candidate for a public office in a special
9 purpose district or a state office other than a state legislative
10 office that in the aggregate exceed one thousand four hundred dollars
11 for each election in which the candidate is on the ballot or appears as
12 a write-in candidate. Contributions to candidates subject to the
13 limits in this section made with respect to a primary may not be made
14 after the date of the primary. However, contributions to a candidate
15 or a candidate's authorized committee may be made with respect to a
16 primary until thirty days after the primary, subject to the following
17 limitations: (a) The candidate lost the primary; (b) the candidate's
18 authorized committee has insufficient funds to pay debts outstanding as
19 of the date of the primary; and (c) the contributions may only be
20 raised and spent to satisfy the outstanding debt. Contributions to
21 candidates subject to the limits in this section made with respect to
22 a general election may not be made after the final day of the
23 applicable election cycle.

24 (3) No person, other than a bona fide political party or a caucus
25 political committee, may make contributions to a state official, a
26 county official, or a public official in a special purpose district
27 against whom recall charges have been filed, or to a political
28 committee having the expectation of making expenditures in support of
29 the recall of the state official, county official, or public official
30 in a special purpose district during a recall campaign that in the
31 aggregate exceed seven hundred dollars if for a state legislative
32 office or county office or one thousand four hundred dollars if for a
33 special purpose district office or a state office other than a state
34 legislative office.

35 (4)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, no bona fide
36 political party or caucus political committee may make contributions to
37 a candidate during an election cycle that in the aggregate exceed (i)
38 seventy cents multiplied by the number of eligible registered voters in

1 the jurisdiction from which the candidate is elected if the contributor
2 is a caucus political committee or the governing body of a state
3 organization, or (ii) thirty-five cents multiplied by the number of
4 registered voters in the jurisdiction from which the candidate is
5 elected if the contributor is a county central committee or a
6 legislative district committee.

7 (b) No candidate may accept contributions from a county central
8 committee or a legislative district committee during an election cycle
9 that when combined with contributions from other county central
10 committees or legislative district committees would in the aggregate
11 exceed thirty-five cents times the number of registered voters in the
12 jurisdiction from which the candidate is elected.

13 (5)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (3) of this section, no bona fide
14 political party or caucus political committee may make contributions to
15 a state official, county official, or a public official in a special
16 purpose district against whom recall charges have been filed, or to a
17 political committee having the expectation of making expenditures in
18 support of the state official, county official, or a public official in
19 a special purpose district during a recall campaign that in the
20 aggregate exceed (i) seventy cents multiplied by the number of eligible
21 registered voters in the jurisdiction entitled to recall the state
22 official if the contributor is a caucus political committee or the
23 governing body of a state organization, or (ii) thirty-five cents
24 multiplied by the number of registered voters in the jurisdiction from
25 which the candidate is elected if the contributor is a county central
26 committee or a legislative district committee.

27 (b) No official holding an office specified in subsection (1) of
28 this section against whom recall charges have been filed, no authorized
29 committee of the official, and no political committee having the
30 expectation of making expenditures in support of the recall of the
31 official may accept contributions from a county central committee or a
32 legislative district committee during an election cycle that when
33 combined with contributions from other county central committees or
34 legislative district committees would in the aggregate exceed thirty-
35 five cents multiplied by the number of registered voters in the
36 jurisdiction from which the candidate is elected.

37 (6) For purposes of determining contribution limits under

1 subsections (4) and (5) of this section, the number of eligible
2 registered voters in a jurisdiction is the number at the time of the
3 most recent general election in the jurisdiction.

4 (7) Notwithstanding subsections (2) through (5) of this section, no
5 person other than an individual, bona fide political party, or caucus
6 political committee may make contributions reportable under this
7 chapter to a caucus political committee that in the aggregate exceed
8 seven hundred dollars in a calendar year or to a bona fide political
9 party that in the aggregate exceed three thousand five hundred dollars
10 in a calendar year. This subsection does not apply to loans made in
11 the ordinary course of business.

12 (8) For the purposes of RCW 42.17.640 through 42.17.790, a
13 contribution to the authorized political committee of a candidate or of
14 an official specified in subsection (1) of this section against whom
15 recall charges have been filed is considered to be a contribution to
16 the candidate or official.

17 (9) A contribution received within the twelve-month period after a
18 recall election concerning an office specified in subsection (1) of
19 this section is considered to be a contribution during that recall
20 campaign if the contribution is used to pay a debt or obligation
21 incurred to influence the outcome of that recall campaign.

22 (10) The contributions allowed by subsection (3) of this section
23 are in addition to those allowed by subsection (2) of this section, and
24 the contributions allowed by subsection (5) of this section are in
25 addition to those allowed by subsection (4) of this section.

26 (11) RCW 42.17.640 through 42.17.790 apply to a special election
27 conducted to fill a vacancy in an office specified in subsection (1) of
28 this section. However, the contributions made to a candidate or
29 received by a candidate for a primary or special election conducted to
30 fill such a vacancy shall not be counted toward any of the limitations
31 that apply to the candidate or to contributions made to the candidate
32 for any other primary or election.

33 (12) Notwithstanding the other subsections of this section, no
34 corporation or business entity not doing business in Washington state,
35 no labor union with fewer than ten members who reside in Washington
36 state, and no political committee that has not received contributions
37 of ten dollars or more from at least ten persons registered to vote in
38 Washington state during the preceding one hundred eighty days may make

1 contributions reportable under this chapter to a candidate, to a state
2 official against whom recall charges have been filed, or to a political
3 committee having the expectation of making expenditures in support of
4 the recall of the official. This subsection does not apply to loans
5 made in the ordinary course of business.

6 (13) Notwithstanding the other subsections of this section, no
7 county central committee or legislative district committee may make
8 contributions reportable under this chapter to a candidate specified in
9 subsection (1) of this section, or an official specified in subsection
10 (1) of this section against whom recall charges have been filed, or
11 political committee having the expectation of making expenditures in
12 support of the recall of an official specified in subsection (1) of
13 this section if the county central committee or legislative district
14 committee is outside of the jurisdiction entitled to elect the
15 candidate or recall the official.

16 (14) No person may accept contributions that exceed the
17 contribution limitations provided in this section.

18 (15) The following contributions are exempt from the contribution
19 limits of this section:

20 (a) An expenditure or contribution earmarked for voter
21 registration, for absentee ballot information, for precinct caucuses,
22 for get-out-the-vote campaigns, for precinct judges or inspectors, for
23 sample ballots, or for ballot counting, all without promotion of or
24 political advertising for individual candidates; or

25 (b) An expenditure by a political committee for its own internal
26 organization or fund raising without direct association with individual
27 candidates.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 42.17 RCW
29 to read as follows:

30 (1) The contribution limits in this section apply to:

31 (a) Candidates for city council office;

32 (b) Candidates for mayoral office; and

33 (c) Persons holding an office in (a) and (b) of this subsection
34 against whom recall charges have been filed.

35 (2) No person may make contributions to a candidate for city
36 council or mayoral office that in the aggregate exceed eight hundred

1 dollars for each election in which the candidate is on the ballot or
2 appears as a write-in candidate.

3 (3) No person may make contributions to a city councilmember or
4 mayor against whom charges have been filed during a recall campaign
5 that in the aggregate exceed eight hundred dollars if for a city
6 council or mayoral office.

7 (4) A contribution received within the twelve-month period after a
8 recall election concerning a city council or mayoral office is
9 considered to be a contribution during that recall campaign if the
10 contribution is used to pay a debt or obligation incurred to influence
11 the outcome of that recall campaign.

12 (5) The contributions made to a candidate or received by a
13 candidate for a primary or special election conducted to fill a city
14 council or mayoral vacancy shall not be counted toward any of the
15 limitations that apply to the candidate or to contributions made to the
16 candidate for any other primary or election.

17 (6) A corporation or business entity not doing business in
18 Washington state, and a labor union with fewer than ten members who
19 reside in Washington state, may not make contributions reportable under
20 this chapter to a candidate having the expectation of making
21 expenditures in support of the recall of the official. This subsection
22 does not apply to loans made in the ordinary course of business.

23 (7) No person may accept contributions that exceed the contribution
24 limitations provided in this section.

25 (8) A local district with contribution limits already established
26 for city council or mayoral campaigns may continue to practice such
27 standards so long as the contribution limit does not exceed eight
28 hundred dollars.

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