

ELEMENTS of [SB 336](#) (Campaign Finance Limitations)

Senator Jeff Golden

2021 session

Only two categories of Donors are permitted:

- INDIVIDUALS, defined as human beings. Individuals can give up to \$750 per election (once for a primary, a second time for a general election campaign) to state legislative candidates and up to \$2000 per election for candidates for Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer and Labor Commissioner.
- COMMITTEES, groups that aggregate money to donate to specific candidates. There are only three of these that can give more than an individual can: legislative caucus committees (eg, Senate Democratic Leadership Fund), state party committees, and small donor committees. Donations from these committees are limited to twenty times the limits on individuals, ie, \$15,000 per election to legislative candidates and \$40,000 per election to statewide candidates.
 - LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS committees (for legislative races only), defined as connected to the one caucus of the candidate's party, in the chamber s/he's running for (a candidate can accept contributions from only one caucus committee).
 - PARTY committees, defined as connected to a recognized Oregon political party. A statewide or legislative candidate can accept contributions from only one recognized party committee—either a statewide or county/regional committee, as they choose.
 - SMALL DONOR committees (SDCs), organized solely for the purpose of raising and contributing funds to support or oppose a single designated candidate. They are formed not earlier than the day on which an individual files for office, and expire not later than 10 business days after a candidate's race ends (i.e., the general election, or a primary election in which the candidate is defeated, or when a candidate withdraws from the race). When an SDC dissolves, any remaining funds will be transferred to a special election-related account (e.g., to help fund Voter pamphlet costs). SDCs register with the Secretary of State's Election Division through an application process simple enough to create no barrier to formation. Any registered Oregon voter or group of voters can apply for formation of an SDC, but can be involved in organizing only one SDC for a specific candidate.. An individual's contribution to any SDC is limited to \$200. The total of an individual's contributions to all SDCs combined is limited to \$1000 per election.

[The bill also provides for multi-candidate committees that can support multiple candidates, and candidate committees that can contribute to the campaigns of other candidates. But unlike the other three committees, these two have the same contribution limits as individuals (\$750/election for legislative campaigns, \$2000/election for statewide].

[The following is depicted graphically by the attached table]

Limits on individual contributions, multi-candidate committees and legislative/statewide candidate committee contributions to

- State legislative races: \$750/election*
- Statewide races: \$2000/election
- State Party committees: \$2000/yr to all party committees affiliated with the same party
- Legislative Caucus committees: \$2000/yr
- Small Donor committees: \$200/election
- Multi-Candidate committees: \$200/election

("per election" means contributions are allowed to specified limits once in a primary and a once in a general election, e.g. total limit for a legislative race could be $\$750 \times 2 = \1500)*

Limits on Legislative Caucus Committee contributions to *[applying multiple of 20 to individual limits]*

- State legislative races: \$15,000/election
- Statewide races: \$40,000/election
- State Party committees: zero
- Small Donor committees: \$200
- Multi-Candidate committees: zero

Limits on State Party Committee contributions to *[applying multiple of 20 to individual limits]*

- State legislative races: \$15,000/election
- Statewide races: \$40,000/election
- Legislative Caucus committees: \$40,000/yr
- Small Donor committees: \$200
- Multi-Candidate committees: zero


Limits on Small Donor Committee contributions to *[applying multiple of 20 to individual limits]*

- State legislative races: \$15,000/election
- Statewide races: \$40,000/election
- State Party committees: zero
- Legislative Caucus committees: zero
- Multi-Candidate committees: zero

Additional elements:

- Local races are not addressed, leaving that determination to local jurisdictions.
- Contribution limits on an individual apply to the total sums that s/he gives directly to a candidate and to any SDCs supporting that candidate.
- "Soft money" ban: makes it unlawful for any candidate or office holder or affiliated individual (officer/staff of campaign, family member) to solicit or advocate for contributions, for the purpose of influencing legislative or statewide Oregon elections, to any committee or organization that is not expressly permitted in this statute. This is consistent with federal law since 2002.

Contribution Limits SB 336 (Golden)
(per election = primary and general are separate elections)

DONORS 	RECIPIENTS					
	Principal candidate committee (non-statewide*)	Principal candidate committee (statewide**)	State party committee	Legislative caucus committee	Multi-legislative candidate committee	Small donor committee
Individuals	\$750 per election	\$2,000 per election	\$2,000 per year	\$2,000 per year	\$200 per election	\$200 per election
Principal candidate committee (non-statewide*)	\$750 per election	\$2,000 per election	\$2,000 per year	\$2,000 per year	\$200 per election	\$200 per election
Principal candidate committee (statewide**)	\$750 per election	\$2,000 per election	\$2,000 per year	\$2,000 per year	\$200 per election	\$200 per election
Multi-legislative candidate committee	\$750 per election	\$2,000 per election	\$2,000 per year	\$2,000 per year	\$200 per election	\$200 per election
State party committee	\$15,000 per election	\$40,000 per election	zero	\$40,000 per year	zero	\$200 per election
Legislative caucus committee	\$15,000 per election	\$40,000 per election	zero	zero	zero	zero
Small donor committee	\$15,000 per election	\$40,000 per election	zero	zero	zero	zero

* Non-statewide principal candidate committee refers to a candidate running for the Oregon Legislature or judge.

** Statewide principal candidate committee refers to a candidate running for Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General or Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries.