

MICHIGAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW

A basic understanding of rules that define how and how much a citizen may contribute to a political campaign is essential for you to understand.

Act 388 of 1976, the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, is over 60 pages long and deals with regulation of all facets of political activity. Pertinent information can be summarized as follows:

- a. Rules for individuals and political action committees are essentially the same, though contribution limits differ.
- b. Contribution limits are for a full election cycle, defined as “beginning the day following the general election in which the office appeared on the ballot and ending on the day of the general election in which the office next appears on the ballot”.
- c. Contribution limits for individuals per election cycle for the following offices are:

	Governor and Lt. Governor	Sec. of State and Atty. General	State Senator	State Representative
Election Cycle	4 years	4 years	4 years	2 years
Contribution Limit for Each Individual	\$3400	\$3400	\$1000	\$500

Note that the above limits are for each individual, so you and your spouse have a total limit of twice the above figures for each candidate.

- d. Cash contributions exceeding \$20 and all anonymous donations are prohibited.
- e. Contributions from any corporation are prohibited, so you must use a personal check.
- f. In-kind contributions, such as expenses related to holding a fund-raising event, must be counted and reported as part of the contribution by the individual or PAC.