

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Olympia Washington

BilAnalysis

Bill No. HB 1960

Limiting contributions for local offices
Brief title

Public Arg: 3/597

Reps. Ogden/Pennington/Lantz
Sponsor

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BACKGROUND:

No person or entity may contribute more than \$500 to a candidate for the Legislature for a primary or general election. No person or entity may contribute more than \$1,000 to a candidate for a state-wide elected office for a primary or general election.

However, a bona fide political party or caucus political committee may make contributions as follows to such candidates during an election cycle:

- o An amount not exceeding 50 cents multiplied by the number of registered voters in the district or jurisdiction from which the candidate is selected, from a caucus political committee or governing body of a state organization; and
- o An amount not exceeding 25 cents multiplied by the number of registered voters in the district or jurisdiction from which the candidate is selected, from county central committees or legislative district committees.

The same limitations are placed on contributions to such officials against whom recall charges have been filed and to a political committee having expectations of making expenditures in support of such an official.

Commencing in 1994, these amounts are adjusted for inflation every two years by the Public Disclosure Commission.

SUMMARY:

Contributions are limited to candidates for the offices of county executive, county legislator, authority, city mayor, city council, port district commissioner and public utility district (PUD) commissioner that are similar to existing limitations on contributions to candidates for the legislature and state elected offices. Varying limitations are provided for candidates for these county and city elected positions based upon the population of the county or city. A single limitation on contributions is established for port district and PUD commissioner.

Continued

These limitations are as follows:

Counties		
≥ 1 million	\$ 1,000	50 per voter
½ mill. < 1 mill.	\$ 750	40 per voter
< ½ mill.	\$ 500	30 per voter
Cities		
≥ ½ mill.	\$ 750	N.A.
< ½ mill.	\$ 500	N.A.
Portdist.	\$ 250	N.A.
PUD	\$ 250	N.A.

The same limitations apply to each primary or general election. The same limitations apply to contributions to such officials against whom recall charges have been filed and to a political committee having expectations of making expenditures in support of such an official.

These amounts will be adjusted for inflation every even-numbered year by the Public Disclosure Commission every two years.

FISCAL NOTE: Not requested.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bills passed.