

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6344**

61st Legislature  
2010 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate March 9, 2010  
YEAS 35 NAYS 11

---

**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House February 28, 2010  
YEAS 90 NAYS 6

---

**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved

---

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6344** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

---

**Secretary**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

---

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6344**

---

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2010 Regular Session

**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; and amending RCW  
2 42.17.640.

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 county that has over two~~  
11 ~~hundred thousand registered voters~~);

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

16           (e) Candidates for city council office;

17           (f) Candidates for mayoral office;

18           (g) Persons holding an office in (a) through ((+d+)) (f) of this

1 subsection against whom recall charges have been filed or to a  
2 political committee having the expectation of making expenditures in  
3 support of the recall of a person holding the office;

4 ((+f)) (h) Caucus political committees;

5 ((+g)) (i) Bona fide political parties.

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

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

1 (4)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, no bona fide  
2 political party or caucus political committee may make contributions to  
3 a candidate during an election cycle that in the aggregate exceed (i)  
4 (~~seventy~~) eighty cents multiplied by the number of eligible  
5 registered voters in the jurisdiction from which the candidate is  
6 elected if the contributor is a caucus political committee or the  
7 governing body of a state organization, or (ii) (~~thirty-five~~) forty  
8 cents multiplied by the number of registered voters in the jurisdiction  
9 from which the candidate is elected if the contributor is a county  
10 central committee or a legislative district committee.

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

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

32 (b) No official holding an office specified in subsection (1) of  
33 this section against whom recall charges have been filed, no authorized  
34 committee of the official, and no political committee having the  
35 expectation of making expenditures in support of the recall of the  
36 official may accept contributions from a county central committee or a  
37 legislative district committee during an election cycle that when  
38 combined with contributions from other county central committees or

1 legislative district committees would in the aggregate exceed (~~thirty-~~  
2 ~~five~~) forty cents multiplied by the number of registered voters in the  
3 jurisdiction from which the candidate is elected.

4 (6) For purposes of determining contribution limits under  
5 subsections (4) and (5) of this section, the number of eligible  
6 registered voters in a jurisdiction is the number at the time of the  
7 most recent general election in the jurisdiction.

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

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

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

26 (10) The contributions allowed by subsection (3) of this section  
27 are in addition to those allowed by subsection (2) of this section, and  
28 the contributions allowed by subsection (5) of this section are in  
29 addition to those allowed by subsection (4) of this section.

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

37 (12) Notwithstanding the other subsections of this section, no  
38 corporation or business entity not doing business in Washington state,

1 no labor union with fewer than ten members who reside in Washington  
2 state, and no political committee that has not received contributions  
3 of ten dollars or more from at least ten persons registered to vote in  
4 Washington state during the preceding one hundred eighty days may make  
5 contributions reportable under this chapter to a state office  
6 candidate, to a state official against whom recall charges have been  
7 filed, or to a political committee having the expectation of making  
8 expenditures in support of the recall of the official. This subsection  
9 does not apply to loans made in the ordinary course of business.

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

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

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

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

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

--- END ---