

2015 Special Committee on Ethics, Elections, and Local Government
Testimony by Carol Williams, Governmental Ethics Commission
Campaign Finance Issues-Contribution Limitations
October 6, 2015

The Governmental Ethics Commission was established in 1974. The 1974 Legislature enacted the Campaign Finance Act and the Governmental Ethics Laws. In the past 41 years, contribution limitations in the state have changed five times. The following table illustrates those changes:

Year	Statewide Candidates	State Candidates*	Local Candidates**	State Party Committees	County Central Committees	Recognized Party Committees***
1974	\$2,500	\$500-all	n/a	No limit	No limit	n/a
1981	\$3,000	\$750-all	n/a	No limit	No limit	n/a
1989	\$2,000	\$500-all	n/a	\$25,000-Nat'l Party, \$500- PAC, \$1,500- all other persons	\$1,500-Nat'l Party, \$500-PAC, \$1,500- all other persons	\$1,000 -any person other than PAC, \$500- PAC for each primary and general election period
1990	\$2,000	\$1,000-Senate \$500-House and other state candidates	\$500-all	\$25,000- National Party, \$5,000- PAC, \$15,000- all other persons per calendar year	\$10,000-Nat'l Party, \$5,000-all other persons per calendar year	\$5,000 per calendar year from all sources
2012	Same	\$1,000-Senate \$1,000-State School Board, \$500-House and other state candidates	Same	Same	Same	Same

*State candidates are candidates for the Senate, House of Representatives, State School Board, District Attorney, District Judge, or District Magistrate Judge. Limits are for each primary and each general election.

**Local candidates are candidates for county office, candidates for a city of the first class, Wichita school board candidates and candidates for the Board of Public Utilities. Local candidates came under the Campaign Finance Act in 1990. Limits are for each primary and each general election.

***There are four recognized party committees. Two committees exist in the Senate and two committees exist in the House of Representatives. The state political parties established one such committee in each chamber.