

**RESTRICTIONS ON THE “PERSONAL USE” OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS<sup>1</sup>**

| <b>State</b>  | <b>Summary of relevant restrictions</b>   | <b>Stronger than NYS?</b> |
|---------------|---|---------------------------|
| Alabama       | Little restriction; can use contributions in role as a public official for expenses that would exist “irrespective of the candidate’s role as a Legislator,” except for food and beverages. Cannot use funds for “legislative living expenses.”   | Y                         |
| Alaska        | Little restriction; caps the amount of contributions a lawmaker can spend on office holding activities to no more than \$5000 multiplied by the number of years in the lawmaker’s term.   | Y                         |
| Arizona       | Significant restriction; “Clean Election” candidates must return any unused contributions, and non-participating candidates cannot use surplus campaign money for office holding activities.  | Y                         |
| Arkansas      | No restriction on use of campaign contributions for expenses in role as officeholder.   | N                         |
| California*   | Restrictive: use of campaign contributions for officeholders limited to when such expenses are “directly related to a political, legislative or governmental purpose.”  | Y                         |
| Colorado      | No restriction on use of campaign contributions for expenses in role as officeholder.   | N                         |
| Connecticut   | Restrictive: use of campaign contributions for officeholders limited solely to unreimbursed expenses.   | Y                         |
| Delaware      | Significant restriction on use of campaign contributions, cannot purchase personal meals for example.   | Y                         |
| Florida       | Little restriction; caps the amount that can be spent on office holding expenses to \$2500 multiplied by the number of years in a term or \$20,000 for statewide offices.   | Y                         |
| Georgia       | Restrictive; use of campaign contributions for officeholders limited solely to unreimbursed expenses.   | Y                         |
| Hawaii        | Little restriction; allows use of campaign funds to defray ordinary and necessary expenses of holding office. Such expenses cannot include “travel or related expenses, food or other professional or personal services.”   | Y                         |
| Idaho         | Restrictive; allows use of campaign funds for officeholders, but prohibits use for costs that would exist “irrespective of the individual’s duties as a holder of public office,” like country club memberships, vacations or other noncampaign-related trips, admission to a events (sporting, theatre, concert, etc.) not associated with a campaign. Allows meals. | Y                         |
| Illinois      | Little restriction; allows use of campaign funds to defray ordinary and necessary expenses of holding office.   | N                         |
| Indiana       | No restriction on use of campaign contributions for expenses in role as officeholder.   | N                         |
| Iowa          | Can only use campaign contributions for campaigning.  | Y                         |
| Kansas        | Restrictive: use of campaign contributions for officeholders limited solely to unreimbursed expenses.   | Y                         |
| Kentucky      | Restrictive; “expenditures made to defray the expenses of an individual’s performance of his official duties as an officeholder” are NOT permitted. However, if the officeholder can draw a connection showing the expense is related to campaigning, it is allowed.  | Y                         |
| Louisiana     | Little restriction; allows use of funds for expenses of holding office.   | N                         |
| Maine         | Restrictive; public financing candidates must return funds after the campaign, but nonparticipating candidates allowed to use of funds for expenses of holding office.  | Y                         |
| Maryland      | Can only use campaign contributions for campaigning.  | Y                         |
| Massachusetts | Restrictive: use of campaign contributions for officeholders limited solely to unreimbursed expenses.   | Y                         |
| Michigan      | Restrictive: use of campaign contributions for officeholders limited solely to unreimbursed expenses.   | Y                         |
| Minnesota     | Little restriction; allows use of funds for expenses of holding office.   | N                         |
| Mississippi   | No restriction on use of campaign contributions for expenses in role as officeholder.   | N                         |
| Missouri      | Little restriction; allows use of campaign funds to defray ordinary and necessary expenses of holding office.   | N                         |
| Montana       | Little restriction; allows use of campaign funds to defray ordinary and necessary expenses of holding office.   | N                         |
| Nebraska      | Restrictive: use of campaign contributions for officeholders limited solely to unreimbursed expenses.   | Y                         |

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| Nevada          | No restriction on use of campaign contributions for expenses in role as officeholder.  | N |
| New Hampshire   | Little restriction; allows use of campaign funds to defray ordinary and necessary expenses of holding office.  | N |
| New Jersey      | Little restriction; allows use of campaign funds to defray "normal and necessary" expenses of holding office.  | N |
| New Mexico      | Can only use campaign contributions for campaigning.   | Y |
| <b>New York</b> | <b>"Unless you out-and-out stick it in your pocket and walk away, everything's legal," says NYS Board of Elections spokesman Lee Daghlian.<sup>2</sup> No restriction on use of campaign contributions for expenses in role as officeholder.</b> |   |
| North Carolina  | No restriction on use of campaign contributions for expenses in role as officeholder.  | N |
| North Dakota*   | Unclear, could not find any limitation.  | N |
| Ohio            | Restrictive: use of campaign contributions for officeholders limited solely to unreimbursed expenses.  | Y |
| Oklahoma*       | Restrictive: use of campaign contributions for officeholders limited solely to unreimbursed expenses.  | Y |
| Oregon          | Little restriction; allows use of campaign funds to defray ordinary and necessary expenses of holding office.  | N |
| Pennsylvania    | Restrictive; use of campaign contributions for officeholders limited solely to "campaign expenses" – which seems broadly defined.  | Y |
| Rhode Island    | Little restriction; allows use of campaign funds to defray ordinary and necessary expenses of holding office.  | N |
| South Carolina  | Limited restriction; does prohibit the spending of campaign contributions on meals at the Capitol.   | Y |
| South Dakota*   | Unclear, could not find any limitation.  | N |
| Tennessee       | Restrictive; use of campaign contributions for officeholders limited solely to unreimbursed expenses.  | Y |
| Texas           | Restrictive; use of campaign contributions for officeholders limited solely to unreimbursed expenses.  | Y |
| Utah            | Restrictive; "expenditures made to defray the expenses of an individual's performance of his official duties as an officeholder" are NOT permitted.  | Y |
| Vermont         | Can only use campaign contributions for campaigning.   | Y |
| Virginia        | Restrictive; use of campaign contributions for officeholders limited solely to unreimbursed expenses.  | Y |
| Washington      | Restrictive; use of campaign contributions for officeholders limited solely to unreimbursed expenses.  | Y |
| West Virginia   | Little restriction; allows use of campaign funds to defray ordinary and necessary expenses of holding office.  | N |
| Wisconsin       | Cannot be used for legislative expenses.   | Y |
| Wyoming         | Little restriction; allows use of campaign funds to defray ordinary and necessary expenses of holding office.  | N |

<sup>1</sup> Sources: Federal Elections Commission, see: [www.fec.gov/pubrec/cfi/cfi02/cfi02.htm](http://www.fec.gov/pubrec/cfi/cfi02/cfi02.htm) go to "Part II" (calendar year 2002); correspondence with state officials, review of state statutes. States were considered to have a tougher standard than New York State's if they placed any specific restriction on the use of campaign funds by elected officials. Specific restrictions are detailed in the chart.

<sup>2</sup> *Times Union*, [Laughable Rules](#), 5/16/2005. See Election Law Section 14-130. "Contributions received by a candidate or a political committee may be expended for any lawful purpose. Such funds shall not be converted to personal use which is unrelated to a political campaign or the holding of a public office or party position."

\* States that we were unable to confirm our 2006 analysis of the FEC report. In these cases, we solely relied on the FEC information. Every state was contacted for confirmation. In the event the state did not respond, we examined their statute or other relevant documents. If we could not confirm the FEC's analysis with those sources, we relied on the FEC.