



NEWS RELEASE

NEW YORK TO CELEBRATE “CITIZENS UNITED ANNIVERSARY” BY RAISING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS STATE’S CONTRIBUTION LIMITS TO PARTIES TO TOP \$100K

For Immediate Release:
January 21, 2011

For More Information:
Blair Horner, (518) 669-0886

Today marks the one year anniversary of the now-infamous U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Citizens United v. FEC*. Despite Albany’s rhetoric for reform, next week the state is scheduled to adjust upwards its campaign contribution limits. Our analysis finds that New York will become the first state in the nation to have a legal contribution limit in excess of \$100,000 of those states that have limits (though there are five states that have no contributions limits at all).

In the years succeeding statewide general elections, New York’s contribution limits automatically are adjusted for inflation using the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics’ consumer price index for all urban consumers. This year’s new numbers will make the state’s limits – already the highest in the country for states that impose limits¹ – soar to record highs.

Type of Election	Old Limit	Estimated New Limit ²
Party Committee Donation	\$94,200	\$102,300
GOP Statewide Primary ³	\$14,034	\$14,602
Dem Statewide Primary	\$18,100	\$19,700
Statewide General	\$37,800	\$41,000
Senate Primary	\$6,000	\$6,500
Senate General	\$9,500	\$10,300
Assembly Primary	\$3,800	\$4,100
Assembly General	\$3,800	\$4,100

¹ Comparative contribution limits were obtained from data maintained by the National Conference of State Legislatures. Information for limits applicable to donating to parties can be found at <http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabId=16552> Information for limits applicable to donating to candidates can be found at http://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/documents/legismgt/limits_candidates.pdf In 2010, NCSL found that only six states – IL, MO, NM, OR, UT, and VA – had no contribution limits. Illinois has since established limits.

² NYPIRG adjusted the previous limits for inflation using the consumer price index. All calculations were rounded to the nearest \$100. The methodology for adjusting limits can be found in NYS Election Law §14-114.

³ Primary election limits reflect both inflation and the number of enrolled voters in a party, hence the difference between Democrats and Republicans.