

HB 1322 -- Campaign Contributions

Sponsor: LeVota

Beginning January 1, 2011, this bill changes the laws regarding campaign contributions to candidates and committees. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Limits campaign donations from any person other than the candidate in any one election to candidates for statewide office at \$2,000; for state senator, \$1,000; and for state representative, \$500. Contribution limits for local candidate donations are based on population and are specified in the bill. Candidate committees will be exempt from these limits;

(2) Limits donations made or accepted by political party committees to \$2,000 for a statewide candidate; \$1,000 for a state senator candidate; \$500 for a state representative candidate; and 10 times the allowable individual contribution for candidates for other local offices;

(3) Requires contributions from children younger than 14 years of age to be counted equally toward their parents' contribution limits or, in the case of a single parent, counted fully against that parent's contribution;

(4) Establishes a surcharge penalty payable to the Missouri Ethics Commission of \$1,000 plus the amount of the nonallowable contribution for a violation of the campaign contribution limits by any committee and requires the candidate to return the nonallowable contribution to the contributor within 10 business days; and

(5) Requires a separate accounting procedure for funds used before January 1, 2011, and allows the use of those funds based on the current laws.