

## HOUSE BILL NO. 221

INTRODUCED BY M. MILLER

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS; REVISING  
5 THE PROCESS TO DETERMINE AN INFLATION ADJUSTMENT FOR CONTRIBUTION LIMITATIONS;  
6 UPDATING CONTRIBUTION LIMITS TO REFLECT CURRENT LIMITS PRESCRIBED BY RULE; AND  
7 AMENDING SECTIONS 13-37-216 AND 13-37-218, MCA."

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9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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11 **Section 1.** Section 13-37-216, MCA, is amended to read:  
12 **"13-37-216. Limitations on contributions -- adjustment.** (1) (a) Subject to adjustment as provided for  
13 in subsection (4), aggregate contributions for each election in a campaign by a political committee or by an  
14 individual, other than the candidate, to a candidate are limited as follows:  
15 (i) for candidates filed jointly for the office of governor and lieutenant governor, not to exceed ~~\$500~~ \$630;  
16 (ii) for a candidate to be elected for state office in a statewide election, other than the candidates for  
17 governor and lieutenant governor, not to exceed ~~\$250~~ \$310;  
18 (iii) for a candidate for any other public office, not to exceed ~~\$130~~ \$160.  
19 (b) A contribution to a candidate includes contributions made to the candidate's committee and to any  
20 political committee organized on the candidate's behalf.  
21 (2) (a) A political committee that is not independent of the candidate is considered to be organized on  
22 the candidate's behalf. For the purposes of this section, an independent committee means a committee that is  
23 not specifically organized on behalf of a particular candidate or that is not controlled either directly or indirectly  
24 by a candidate or candidate's committee and that does not act jointly with a candidate or candidate's committee  
25 in conjunction with the making of expenditures or accepting contributions.  
26 (b) A leadership political committee maintained by a political officeholder is considered to be organized  
27 on the political officeholder's behalf.  
28 (3) All political committees except those of political party organizations are subject to the provisions of  
29 subsections (1) and (2). For purposes of this subsection, "political party organization" means any political  
30 organization that was represented on the official ballot at the most recent gubernatorial election. Political party

1 organizations may form political committees that are subject to the following aggregate limitations, adjusted as  
2 provided for in subsection (4), from all political party committees:

3 (a) for candidates filed jointly for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor, not to exceed ~~\$18,000~~  
4 \$22,600;

5 (b) for a candidate to be elected for state office in a statewide election, other than the candidates for  
6 governor and lieutenant governor, not to exceed ~~\$6,500~~ \$8,150;

7 (c) for a candidate for public service commissioner, not to exceed ~~\$2,600~~ \$3,260;

8 (d) for a candidate for the state senate, not to exceed ~~\$1,050~~ \$1,300;

9 (e) for a candidate for any other public office, not to exceed ~~\$650~~ \$800.

10 (4) (a) ~~The~~ For elections held in 2014, the commissioner shall adjust the limitations in subsections (1)  
11 and (3) by multiplying each limit by an inflation factor, which is determined by dividing the consumer price index  
12 for June of the year prior to the year in which a general election is held by the consumer price index for June  
13 2002. For elections held after 2014, the commissioner shall adjust the limitations in subsections (1) and (3) by  
14 multiplying each limit by an inflation factor, which is determined as provided in subsection (4)(b).

15 (b) (i) By January 15, 2014, and by January 15 of each subsequent odd-numbered year, the  
16 commissioner shall develop a campaign costs index after completing a survey of the costs of items typically used  
17 in political campaigns in Montana. The commissioner shall determine the inflation factor by dividing the campaign  
18 costs index for January of the year prior to the year in which a general election is held by the campaign costs  
19 index for January 2014.

20 (ii) The survey should include but is not limited to the costs of:

21 (A) campaign advertising, including television, radio, print, and mailed advertising, as well as campaign  
22 signs and postage; and

23 (B) items related to operating a campaign, such as office supplies and rent, gasoline used for campaign  
24 travel, staff salaries, and consultant fees.

25 ~~(b)(c)~~ (c) The resulting figure must be rounded up or down to the nearest:

26 (i) \$10 increment for the limits established in subsection (1); and

27 (ii) \$50 increment for the limits established in subsection (3).

28 ~~(e)(d)~~ (d) The commissioner shall publish the revised limitations as a rule.

29 (5) A candidate may not accept any contributions, including in-kind contributions, in excess of the limits  
30 in this section.

1 (6) For purposes of this section, "election" means the general election or a primary election that involves  
2 two or more candidates for the same nomination. If there is not a contested primary, there is only one election  
3 to which the contribution limits apply. If there is a contested primary, then there are two elections to which the  
4 contribution limits apply."

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6 **Section 2.** Section 13-37-218, MCA, is amended to read:

7 **"13-37-218. Limitations on receipts from political committees.** A candidate for the state senate may  
8 receive no more than ~~\$2,150~~ \$2,650 in total combined monetary contributions from all political committees  
9 contributing to the candidate's campaign, and a candidate for the state house of representatives may receive no  
10 more than ~~\$1,300~~ \$1,600 in total combined monetary contributions from all political committees contributing to  
11 the candidate's campaign. The limitations in this section must be multiplied by an inflation factor, which is  
12 determined by dividing the consumer price index for June of the year prior to the year in which a general election  
13 is held by the consumer price index for June 2003 as provided in 13-37-216(4). The resulting figure must be  
14 rounded up or down to the nearest \$50 increment. The commissioner shall publish the revised limitations as a  
15 rule. In-kind contributions must be included in computing these limitation totals. The limitation provided in this  
16 section does not apply to contributions made by a political party eligible for a primary election under 13-10-601."

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