



## 2023 Contribution Limits

With the passage of [Measure W](#), important amendments to the Oakland Campaign Reform Act (OCRA) took effect on January 1, 2023, including changes to Oakland’s contribution limits. This advisory serves as a reminder of the new limits to ensure compliance with the recent changes. **We encourage candidates and treasurers to review their contributions for compliance before the upcoming semi-annual campaign statement deadline, so any necessary refunds can be made and recorded on the campaign statement.**

### New Contribution Limits (O.M.C. 3.12.050)

Effective January 1, 2023, contribution limits for candidate-controlled committees are as follows:

Individual, Business, or Other Organization	\$600
Broad-Based Political Committee <sup>1</sup>	\$1,200

**PEC staff routinely screen campaign statements for contribution limit violations. Violations may result in enforcement penalties in addition to forfeiture of the excess contribution amount.**

### I didn’t know about the new contribution limits. What do I do if I received a contribution in 2023 that is over the new limit?

The contribution must be returned to the donor no later than five (5) business days after the closing date of the campaign statement on which the contribution would otherwise be reported. **The closing date for the first campaign statement period in 2023 is June 30, and any excess contributions should be returned by July 7, 2023.**

### I ran for office in the 2022 election. Do new contribution limits apply to me?

Yes. All candidate committees are now subject to the new contribution limits, and any contributions received on or after January 1, 2023, are subject to the new limits.

### I received a \$900 contribution to my 2024 campaign in 2022, which exceeds the new limit. Do I need to return the contribution?

No. Contributions received prior to January 1, 2023, are subject to the contribution limits in effect the year they were received.

### What are the contribution limits for officeholder committees?

Oakland law allows each elected City Official to maintain an officeholder committee for non-campaign expenses associated with the office currently held by the elected City Official. Contributions to an

<sup>1</sup> Not all political action committees qualify as broad-based committees. To qualify as a broad-based political committee the committee must meet **all** the following conditions:

1. In existence for more than six months,
2. Receive contributions from 100 or more persons, and
3. Make contributions to five or more candidates.

officeholder committee are subject to the same contribution limits that apply to candidate committees. However, the contribution limits for officeholder committees are annual rather than by election cycle. This means elected City Officials may receive contributions to their designated officeholder account from any person or broad-based political committee of up to \$600/\$1,200 annually. In addition, OCRA imposes a limit on the total amount the officeholder committee may receive in contributions per year in office as follows [OMC 3.12.150(A)]:

District Councilmembers, City Auditor, and School Board Directors	\$25,000
Councilmember-At-Large and City Attorney	\$30,000
Mayor	\$50,000

To stay up-to-date on Oakland campaign finance rules, visit our webpage: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/recent-campaign-rules> and subscribe for updates.

Please contact Jelani Killings at (510) 484-1292 or [jkillings@oaklandca.gov](mailto:jkillings@oaklandca.gov) if you have any questions.