



NEW 2025-2026 Contribution Limits

On January 29, the Public Ethics Commission increased campaign contribution limits for Oakland and Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) candidates to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as required by the Oakland Campaign Reform Act. **The new contributions limits take effect immediately.**

2025-2026 Contribution Limits for Candidates

Effective January 29, contribution limits for candidate committees are as follows:

Individual, Business, or Other Organization	\$650
Broad-Based Political Committee ¹	\$1,300

{O.M.C. 3.12.050}

Contribution limits apply to all candidates for City of Oakland and Oakland Unified School District offices, including candidates running in the April 15, 2025, Special Election and the November 3, 2026, Regular Election.

Guidance for Candidates and Treasurers

Q. Which offices do the new contribution limits apply to?

Contribution limits apply to City of Oakland elected offices, including Mayor, City Auditor, City Attorney, Councilmember At-Large, and District Councilmember. Contributions limits also apply to the office of Oakland School Board Director.

Q. I've set up a committee to raise funds for the 2026 regular election. Do the new contribution limits apply?

Yes, the change in contribution limits applies to all candidates running in the 2025-2026 election cycle for a City of Oakland or Oakland Unified School District office, including candidates for Mayor, City Auditor, District City Councilmember, and Oakland School Board Director.

Q. I've set up a committee to raise funds for the 2025 special election. Do the new contribution limits apply?

Yes.

¹ Not all political action committees qualify as broad-based committees. A broad-based political 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.

Q. Can I accept more money from an individual who already contributed \$600 to my 2025 or 2026 campaign? Can I accept more money from a broad-based committee that already contributed \$1,200 to my 2025 or 2026 campaign?

Yes. Candidates may now receive up to \$650 from individuals, businesses, and other organizations. Candidates may receive up to \$1,300 from a broad-based committee. For example, an individual that contributed \$600 prior to January 29th may give \$50 more to your campaign.

Q. Do the new contribution limits apply to officeholder committees?

Yes. Officeholder committees may accept up to \$650 per year from an individual and up to \$1,300 per year from a broad-based committee. The total contributions an officeholder committee may receive each year are:

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

[OMC 3.12.150(A)]

Q. Are the new contribution limits retroactive?

No. The increase is effective January 29, 2025. Contributions made before January 29 may not exceed the 2023 - 2024 limits. Violations of contribution limits in prior periods are still subject to enforcement action.

Limits for Candidates Participating in Public Financing

Oakland's public financing program is not funded for the 2025 or 2026 elections currently. However, the Commission also adjusted voluntary spending limits and the maximum amount of Democracy Dollars proceeds for participating candidates, as required by the Oakland Campaign Act and Oakland Fair Elections Act. Visit the Commission [website](#) to view the complete list.

Public financing available for 2026 candidates will be announced after the City's FY 2025-2027 budget is adopted.

To stay up-to-date, visit our [webpages](#) and [subscribe to receive email updates](#).

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