



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*

## States that Prohibit Campaign Contributions During Legislative Sessions

### Overview

28 states place restrictions on giving and receiving campaign contributions during the legislative session. In some states, the ban applies only to contributions by lobbyists, principals and/or political committees; other states have a general ban on contributions.

Prohibition/restriction on <i>any</i> contributions during session	Prohibition/restriction only on lobbyist contributions during session
Alabama	Arizona
Alaska	Colorado
Florida	Connecticut
Georgia	Iowa <sup>a</sup>
Illinois <sup>b</sup>	Kansas <sup>a</sup>
Indiana	Louisiana <sup>b</sup>
Maryland	Maine
Nevada	Minnesota <sup>a</sup>
New Mexico	North Carolina
Oregon <sup>c</sup>	Oklahoma
Tennessee	South Carolina
Texas	Vermont
Utah	Wisconsin
Virginia	
Washington	

(a) Political action committee contributions also restricted during session.

(b) Limited ban on fundraisers during session; see below for details.

(c) The ongoing enforcement of Oregon's law is in doubt; see below for details.

### State-by-State Provisions

#### Alabama

Ala. Code § 17-22A-7(b)(2). Candidates for state offices may not solicit or accept contributions during the period when the Legislature is convened in session. Exception for a period of 120 days before any primary, runoff or general election, and for candidates participating in a special election.

#### Alaska

AS §24.60.031. A legislator or legislative employee may not on a day when either house of the legislature is in regular or special session, solicit or accept a contribution or a promise or pledge to make a contribution for a campaign for the state legislature. Exception for the 90 days immediately preceding an election for contributions made outside of the capital city.

<b>Arizona</b>	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 41-1234.01. Lobbyists are prohibited from soliciting, promising to solicit, making or promising to make campaign contributions to members of the Legislature or the Governor during the regular legislative session, and when legislation from the regular session awaits gubernatorial action.
<b>Colorado</b>	West's C.R.S.A. § 1-45-105.5. Lobbyists and the principals of lobbyists are prohibited from making a contribution to a member of or candidate for the general assembly or to any statewide officer or a candidate for statewide office when the general assembly is in regular session or when a measure approved by the general assembly is pending before the governor.
<b>Connecticut</b>	Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-333l (e). Lobbyists and political committees established by or on behalf of lobbyists are prohibited from making or soliciting contributions on behalf of a candidate for nomination/election to the general assembly or state office, or to a political committee related to such a candidate, during regular and special sessions of the general assembly.
<b>Florida</b>	Fundraising during session is prohibited by House rule. (House Rule 26)
<b>Georgia</b>	Ga. Code § 21-5-35. No member of the General Assembly, public officer elected statewide, or campaign committee of either shall accept a contribution during a legislative session.
<b>Illinois</b>	10 ILCS 5/9-27.5. Prohibits holding fundraisers within 50 miles of Springfield on session days during the last 90 days before the scheduled spring session adjournment. Exempts legislators and candidates from districts within that area.
<b>Indiana</b>	IC § 3-9-2-12. A member of or candidate for the General Assembly may not solicit or accept campaign contributions or conduct other fundraising activities during the period between the General Assembly convenes in January of each odd-numbered year and ending when that session adjourns sine die.
<b>Iowa</b>	IA Code § 56.15A. Political action committees and lobbyists are prohibited from making campaign contributions to the campaign of an elected state official, member of the Legislature or candidate for state office during a regular session of the Legislature and, in the case of the Governor or a gubernatorial candidate, for a period of 30 days following the adjournment of a regular legislative session.
<b>Kansas</b>	K.S.A. § 25-4153a. No registered lobbyist or political committee shall make a contribution to any legislator, legislative candidate or candidate committee, or state officer elected on a statewide basis or candidate or candidate committee for such officer or candidate, between Jan. 1 of each year and prior to adjournment sine die of the regular session of the Legislature, or at any other time in which the Legislature is in session.
<b>Louisiana</b>	La. R.S. § 24:56. Lobbyists' principals may not make contributions resulting from a fundraising function while the Legislature is in session.
<b>Maine</b>	1 Me. Rev. Stat. Ann § 1015(3). The Governor, a member of the Legislature or any constitutional officer or the staff or agent of the Governor, a member of the

Legislature or any constitutional officer may not intentionally solicit or accept a contribution from a lobbyist, lobbyist associate or employer during any period of time in which the Legislature is convened before final adjournment.

**Maryland**

MD Election Code Ann. § 13-235. During a regular session of the General Assembly, the Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, a member of the General Assembly, or a person acting on behalf of any of these officeholders, may not solicit, accept or deposition a contribution.

**Minnesota**

Minn. Stat. § 10A.06. Senate and house “caucus” fundraisers are prohibited during session. A constitutional office candidate, legislative candidate or a principal campaign committee may not solicit or accept, during a regular legislative session, a contribution from a registered lobbyist, a political committee, a political fund, a terminating principal campaign committee, or a committee of a legislative party caucus.

**Nevada**

Nev. Rev. Stat. §§ 294A.300, 294.310. It is unlawful for a member of the legislature, the lieutenant governor or the governor to solicit or accept any monetary contributions for any political purpose during the period beginning 30 days before a regular session of the legislature and ending 30 days after the final adjournment of a regular session.

**New Mexico**

NMSA § 1-19-34.1. Legislators, candidates for state legislator, and the governor are prohibited from soliciting contributions beginning January 1 prior to a regular session of the legislature, or after the proclamation for a special session has been issued, and ending on adjournment of the regular or special session.

**North Carolina**

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-278.13B. While the General Assembly is in regular session, no registered lobbyist, lobbyist’s agent, lobbyist’s principal, or a political committee that employs or contracts with or whose parent entity employs or contracts with a lobbyist may make a contribution to a member of or candidate for the Council of State or a member of or candidate for the General Assembly. Exception for the three weeks prior to a second primary if the contributee is a candidate who will be on the ballot. Violation is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

**Oklahoma**

21 O.S. 187.1(G) No lobbyist or lobbyist principal as defined in Section 4249 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall make or promise to make a contribution to, or solicit or promise to solicit a contribution for a member of the Oklahoma Legislature or a candidate for a state legislative office during any regular legislative session, beginning the first Monday in February, through its adjournment, and for five (5) calendar days following sine die adjournment. A member of the Oklahoma Legislature or a candidate for a state legislative office shall not intentionally solicit or accept a contribution from a lobbyist or lobbyist principal as defined in Section 4249 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes during any regular legislative session and for five (5) calendar days after sine die adjournment.

Ethics Commission Rules § 257:10-1-6. Fundraising events for members of the legislature may not be held in Oklahoma County during the regular legislative session. Does not apply to members whose districts include any portion of Oklahoma County.

<b>Oregon</b>	Or. Rev. Stat. § 260.174. During the period beginning January 1 <sup>st</sup> immediately before a regular biennial session of the Legislative Assembly, or at the start of any special session, and continuing until adjournment, no person shall make, attempt to make or promise to make a campaign contribution to any legislative official, statewide official or candidate for these offices.
	NOTE: The Oregon Attorney General issued an opinion in 2001 concerning this statute. The AG ruled that the statute was a violation of Oregon’s constitutional right to freedom of expression, and expressed the opinion that the statute would not be enforced. Or. Atty. Gen. Op. 8274 (2001). However, the statute is still Oregon law at this time.
<b>South Carolina</b>	S.C. Code § 2-17-80. A lobbyist shall not offer, solicit, facilitate, or provide contributions on behalf of any member of the General Assembly, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, any other statewide constitutional officer, any public official of any state agency. (Not limited to just during session)
<b>Tennessee</b>	Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-10-310. A member of the General Assembly may not solicit or accept contributions from the convening of the General Assembly’s regular annual session to the earlier of May 15 or the conclusion of the annual session. Tenn. Code Ann. § 3-6-108(i). A lobbyist or an employer of a lobbyist cannot make a contribution to a candidate for Governor or General Assembly during the regular annual session of the General Assembly.
<b>Texas</b>	V.T.C.A., Election Code § 253.034, Texas Ethics Commission Rule § 22.11. During a period beginning on the 30 <sup>th</sup> day before the date a regular session convenes and continuing through sine die adjournment, neither a person nor a PAC may make a political contribution to a statewide officeholder or a member of the legislature, and such persons shall not accept a political contribution during this period.
<b>Utah</b>	Utah Code §36-11-305. It is unlawful for any person, lobbyist, principal or political committee to make contributions to members of the legislature or the governor or to a campaign committee of such a person during a legislative session.
<b>Vermont</b>	2 V.S.A. § 266(3). Lobbyists’ employers are prohibited from making or promising to make a political contribution to any member of the assembly or member’s campaign committee when the Vermont General Assembly is in session.
<b>Virginia</b>	Va. Code § 24.2-940. No member of the General Assembly or statewide official shall solicit or accept a contribution from any person or political committee on and after the first day of a regular session of the General Assembly through adjournment sine die of that session.
<b>Washington</b>	RCW § 42.17.710. Contributions may not be solicited or accepted by statewide elected officials or state legislators during the period from 30 days before until 30 days after the regular session of the Legislature. Contributions are prohibited during any special legislative session.

**Wisconsin**

Wis. Stats. § 13.625. A licensed lobbyist may only make campaign contributions to elective state officials and candidates for elective state office during the year of the candidate's election, between June 1 and the date of the general election, and only when the Legislature is not in session.

Senate Policy. Bans fundraising in Dane County on days that the legislature is in session. Assembly has similar (but unwritten) ban.