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League of Women Voters of Illinois
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Additional Information
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If there are contributions limits, how does the State deal with self-funders?

First of all there are very few candidates that are self-funders. If there are self-funders this is usually not a factor in the outcome of the election. The Center for Responsive Politics found in Congressional Elections that Candidates who spent more than \$350,000 of their personal wealth to challenge incumbents won just two out of 32 times since the 2004 election. In contests for open seats since 2004, self-financed candidates won seven of 14 elections. Candidates need to reach out and have the support of the voters to win. Additionally for the candidate who is not tapping his/her own wealth the contribution limits could be increased to enable the candidate to raise more campaign funds.

If there are contribution limits, how does the State deal with unregulated interest groups?

Unregulated interest groups are covered by limits; they cannot spend or advertise in windows around the election except with funds raised under the limits and disclosed under the Election Code. Limits work in 45 states and in federal elections; these issues are not new, and good people can work through these toward a solution.

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