



## FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

### [NOTICE 2015-01]

#### **Price Index Adjustments for Contribution and Expenditure Limitations and Lobbyist Bundling Disclosure Threshold**

**AGENCY:** Federal Election Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of adjustments to contribution and expenditure limitations and lobbyist bundling disclosure threshold.

**SUMMARY:** As mandated by provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (“FECA” or “the Act”), the Federal Election Commission (“FEC” or “the Commission”) is adjusting certain contribution and expenditure limitations and the lobbyist bundling disclosure threshold set forth in the Act, to index the amounts for inflation. Additional details appear in the supplemental information that follows.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The effective date for the limitation at 52 U.S.C. 30116(a)(1)(A) is November 5, 2014. The effective date for the limitations at 52 U.S.C. 30104(i)(3)(A), 30116(a)(1)(B), 30116(d) and 30116(h) is January 1, 2015.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Elizabeth S. Kurland, Information Division, 999 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20463; (202) 694-1100 or (800) 424-9530.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, 52 U.S.C. 30101 *et seq.*, coordinated party expenditure limits (52 U.S.C. 30116(d)(2) and (3)(A), (B)), certain contribution limits (52 U.S.C. 30116(a)(1)(A) and (B), and (h)), and the disclosure threshold for contributions bundled by lobbyists (52 U.S.C. 30104(i)(3)(A)) are adjusted periodically to reflect changes in the consumer price

index. See 52 U.S.C. 30104(i)(3) and 30116(c)(1), and 11 CFR 109.32 and 110.17(a), (f). The Commission is publishing this notice to announce the adjusted limits and disclosure threshold.

### **Coordinated Party Expenditure Limits for 2015**

Under 52 U.S.C. 30116(c), the Commission must adjust the expenditure limitations established by 52 U.S.C. 30116(d) (the limits on expenditures by national party committees, state party committees, or their subordinate committees in connection with the general election campaign of candidates for Federal office) annually to account for inflation. This expenditure limitation is increased by the percent difference between the price index, as certified to the Commission by the Secretary of Labor, for the 12 months preceding the beginning of the calendar year and the price index for the base period (calendar year 1974).

#### 1. Expenditure Limitation for House of Representatives in States with More Than One Congressional District

Both the national and state party committees have an expenditure limitation for each general election held to fill a seat in the House of Representatives in states with more than one congressional district. This limitation also applies to those states and territories that elect individuals to the office of Delegate or Resident Commissioner.<sup>1</sup> The formula used to calculate the expenditure limitation in such states multiplies the base figure of \$10,000 by the difference in the price index (4.80133), rounding to the nearest \$100. See 52 U.S.C. 30116(c)(1)(B) and 30116(d)(3)(B), and 11 CFR 109.32(b) and

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<sup>1</sup> Currently, these states are the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands. See <http://www.house.gov/representatives>.

110.17. Based upon this formula, the expenditure limitation for 2015 general elections for House candidates in these states is \$48,000.

2. Expenditure Limitation for Senate and for House of Representatives in States with Only One Congressional District

Both the national and state party committees have an expenditure limitation for a general election held to fill a seat in the Senate or in the House of Representatives in states with only one congressional district. The formula used to calculate this expenditure limitation considers not only the price index but also the voting age population (“VAP”) of the state. The VAP of each state is published annually in the Federal Register by the Department of Commerce. 11 CFR 110.18. The general election expenditure limitation is the greater of: The base figure (\$20,000) multiplied by the difference in the price index, 4.80133 (which totals \$96,000); or \$0.02 multiplied by the VAP of the state, multiplied by 4.80133. Amounts are rounded to the nearest \$100. See 52 U.S.C. 30116(c)(1)(B) and 30116(d)(3)(A), and 11 CFR 109.32(b) and 110.17. The chart below provides the state-by-state breakdown of the 2015 general election expenditure limitation for Senate elections. The expenditure limitation for 2015 House elections in states with only one congressional district<sup>2</sup> is \$96,000.

**Senate General Election Coordinated Expenditure Limits – 2015 Elections**

<b>State</b>	<b>Voting Age Population (VAP)</b>	<b>VAP x .02 x the price index (4.80133)</b>	<b>Senate Expenditure Limit (the greater of the amount in column 3 or \$96,000)</b>
Alabama	3,741,806	\$359,300	\$359,300
Alaska	550,189	\$52,800	\$96,000
Arizona	5,109,792	\$490,700	\$490,700
Arkansas	2,259,350	\$217,000	\$217,000
California	29,649,348	\$2,847,100	\$2,847,100

<sup>2</sup> Currently, these states are: Alaska, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming. See <http://www.house.gov/representatives/>.

Colorado	4,109,494	\$394,600	\$394,600
Connecticut	2,821,247	\$270,900	\$270,900
Delaware	731,367	\$70,200	\$96,000
Florida	15,839,713	\$1,521,000	\$1,521,000
Georgia	7,604,061	\$730,200	\$730,200
Hawaii	1,111,117	\$106,700	\$106,700
Idaho	1,203,384	\$115,600	\$115,600
Illinois	9,892,106	\$949,900	\$949,900
Indiana	5,014,928	\$481,600	\$481,600
Iowa	2,381,172	\$228,700	\$228,700
Kansas	2,181,355	\$209,500	\$209,500
Kentucky	3,400,843	\$326,600	\$326,600
Louisiana	3,536,183	\$339,600	\$339,600
Maine	1,071,112	\$102,900	\$102,900
Maryland	4,625,863	\$444,200	\$444,200
Massachusetts	5,354,940	\$514,200	\$514,200
Michigan	7,686,087	\$738,100	\$738,100
Minnesota	4,175,347	\$400,900	\$400,900
Mississippi	2,262,810	\$217,300	\$217,300
Missouri	4,670,966	\$448,500	\$448,500
Montana	798,555	\$76,700	\$96,000
Nebraska	1,414,894	\$135,900	\$135,900
Nevada	2,175,874	\$208,900	\$208,900
New Hampshire	1,059,672	\$101,800	\$101,800
New Jersey	6,926,094	\$665,100	\$665,100
New Mexico	1,583,623	\$152,100	\$152,100
New York	15,517,321	\$1,490,100	\$1,490,100
North Carolina	7,656,415	\$735,200	\$735,200
North Dakota	570,955	\$54,800	\$96,000
Ohio	8,955,859	\$860,000	\$860,000
Oklahoma	2,925,352	\$280,900	\$280,900
Oregon	3,112,217	\$298,900	\$298,900
Pennsylvania	10,086,316	\$968,600	\$968,600
Rhode Island	842,321	\$80,900	\$96,000
South Carolina	3,747,734	\$359,900	\$359,900
South Dakota	642,768	\$61,700	\$96,000
Tennessee	5,054,826	\$485,400	\$485,400
Texas	19,841,344	\$1,905,300	\$1,905,300
Utah	2,038,787	\$195,800	\$195,800
Vermont	504,976	\$48,500	\$96,000
Virginia	6,457,174	\$620,100	\$620,100
Washington	5,458,809	\$524,200	\$524,200
West Virginia	1,470,179	\$141,200	\$141,200
Wisconsin	4,457,375	\$428,000	\$428,000
Wyoming	445,830	\$42,800	\$96,000

**Limitations on Contributions by Individuals, Non-Multicandidate Committees and Certain Political Party Committees Giving to U.S. Senate Candidates for the 2015-2016 Election Cycle**

The Act requires inflation indexing to: (1) The limitations on contributions made by persons under 52 U.S.C. 30116(a)(1)(A) (contributions to candidates) and 30116(a)(1)(B) (contributions to national party committees); and (2) the limitation on contributions made to U.S. Senate candidates by certain political party committees at 52 U.S.C. 30116(h). See 2 U.S.C. 30116(c). These contribution limitations are increased by multiplying the respective statutory contribution amount by 1.33702, the percent difference between the price index, as certified to the Commission by the Secretary of Labor, for the 12 months preceding the beginning of the calendar year and the price index for the base period (calendar year 2001). The resulting amount is rounded to the nearest multiple of \$100. See 52 U.S.C. 30116(c) and 11 CFR 110.17(b). Contribution limitations shall be adjusted accordingly:

Statutory Provision	Statutory Amount	2015-2016 Limit
52 U.S.C. 30116(a)(1)(A)	\$2,000	\$2,700
52 U.S.C. 30116(a)(1)(B)	\$25,000	\$33,400
52 U.S.C. 30116(h)	\$35,000	\$46,800

The increased limitation at 52 U.S.C. 30116(a)(1)(A) is to be in effect for the two-year period beginning on the first day following the date of the general election in the preceding year and ending on the date of the next regularly scheduled election. Thus the \$2,700 figure above is in effect from November 5, 2014, to November 8, 2016. The limitations under 52 U.S.C. 30116(a)(1)(B) and 30116(h) shall be in effect beginning

January 1st of the odd-numbered year and ending on December 31st of the next even-numbered year. Thus the new contribution limitations under 52 U.S.C. 30116(a)(1)(B) and 30116(h) are in effect from January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2016. See 11 CFR 110.17(b)(1).

### **Lobbyist Bundling Disclosure Threshold for 2015**

The Act requires certain political committees to disclose contributions bundled by lobbyists/registrants and lobbyist/registrant political action committees once the contributions exceed a specified threshold amount. The Commission must adjust this threshold amount annually to account for inflation. The disclosure threshold is increased by multiplying the \$15,000 statutory disclosure threshold by 1.17429, the difference between the price index, as certified to the Commission by the Secretary of Labor, for the 12 months preceding the beginning of the calendar year and the price index for the base period (calendar year 2006). The resulting amount is rounded to the nearest multiple of \$100. See 52 U.S.C. 30104(i)(3)(A) and (B), 30116(c)(1)(B) and 11 CFR 104.22(g). Based upon this formula ( $\$15,000 \times 1.17429$ ), the lobbyist bundling disclosure threshold for calendar year 2015 is \$17,600.

On behalf of the Commission,

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Ann M. Ravel  
Chair  
Federal Election Commission

DATED: January 28, 2015

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