

Constitutional Amendment 3 – Contribution Limits and Lobbyist Gift Restrictions

On November 3, 2020, Missouri voters approved Constitutional Amendment 3, which contained provisions pertaining specifically to the General Assembly.

Article III, Section 2 adjusts campaign contribution limits on candidates for the Missouri Senate and House of Representatives and prohibits lobbyists gifts to members and employees of the General Assembly.

December 3, 2020 is the effective date of this Amendment according to MO Const. Article XII, Sec. 2(b).

The following discussion is a summary of these provisions.

Lobbyist Gifts

“No person serving as a member of or employed by the General Assembly shall accept directly or indirectly a gift of any tangible or intangible item, service, or thing of value from any paid lobbyist or lobbyist principal. This Article shall not prevent Candidates for the General Assembly, including candidates for reelection, or candidates for offices within the senate or house from accepting campaign contributions consistent with this Article and applicable campaign finance law. Nothing in this section shall prevent individuals from receiving gifts, family support or anything of value from those related to them within the fourth degree by blood or marriage.”

- This section only applies to members and persons employed by the General Assembly.
- This section prohibits “gifts of tangible and intangible items, services or things of value” from paid lobbyists or lobbyist principals.
- Candidates for the General Assembly may still accept campaign contributions according to applicable limits.
- Individuals may still receive gifts, family support or anything of value from relatives within the fourth degree by blood or marriage.

NOTE: Amendment 3 makes no changes in lobbyist reporting of expenditures under Missouri statutes, and lobbyists will still be required to file monthly expenditure reports under Section 105.473, RSMo.

Campaign Contribution Limits

“The General Assembly shall make no law authorizing unlimited campaign contributions to candidates for the General Assembly, nor any law that circumvents the contribution limits contained in this Constitution. In addition to other campaign contribution limitations or restrictions provided for by law, the amount of contributions made to or accepted by any candidate or candidate committee from any person other than the candidate in any one election to the office of State Representative or State Senator shall not exceed the following:

- (1) To elect an individual to the office of State Senator, two thousand four hundred dollars [**\$2,400**]; and
- (2) To elect an individual to the office of State Representative, two thousand dollars [**\$2,000**].

The contribution limits and other restrictions of this section shall also apply to any person exploring a candidacy for the office of State Representative or State Senator.”

- This section sets forth campaign contribution limits for candidates for State Senator or House of Representatives, as well as persons with exploratory committees.
- These contribution limits apply to each election cycle and go into effect December 3, 2020.
- Because this limit changes during an election cycle, aggregate contributions received prior to December 3, 2020, can be up to the limits in effect at that time; however, aggregate contributions received after this date cannot exceed these new limits.

For example, if a candidate for State Senator receives \$1,000 from a contributor between now and December 2, 2020, thereafter, the candidate can only receive up to \$1,400 to avoid exceeding the new contribution limit of \$2,400.

- For more information about election cycles, please consult the information and advisory opinions found [here](#).

Contribution Limits for Candidates

Effective December 3, 2020

From any person to a candidate running:

For the Office of Governor	\$2,650
For the Office of Lieutenant Governor	\$2,650
For the Office of Secretary of State.....	\$2,650
For the Office of State Treasurer	\$2,650
For the Office of State Auditor	\$2,650
For the Office of Attorney General	\$2,650
For the Office of State Senator.....	\$2,400
For the Office of State Representative.....	\$2,000
For State Judicial Office	\$2,650

From any person to a political party for any state, county, municipal, district, ward, or township level election \$25,550

From any committee to a political party for any state, county, municipal, district, ward, or township level election..... \$25,550