

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission
Mandatory Limits on Campaign
Contributions

Relevant Authority

Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 2.04.370.H sets forth the methodology for the Commission to adjust campaign contribution limits to account for inflation or deflation using the consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, CPI-W, or a successor index, for the relevant period. Regarding adjustments to the most recently adopted limit, SMC 2.04.370.H provides that the “declaration of the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries every September 30, regarding the rate by which Washington State’s minimum wage rate is to be increased effective the following January 1, shall be the authoritative determination of the rate or percentage of increase or decrease to be adjusted, except that the Commission may round off the new figures to amounts judged most convenient for public understanding.”

Administrative Rule Adjusting Campaign Contribution Limits

Original Contribution Limit (from 2015)	\$500
Current Contribution Limit (as of April 6, 2022)	\$600
New Contribution Limit (as of January 1, 2024)	\$650

In accordance with the authority provided by SMC 2.04.370.H, the Commission established an updated campaign contribution limit of \$650 effective as of January 1, 2024. The adjusted amount is based on the rate established by the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries every September 30, regarding the rate by which Washington State’s minimum wage rate is to be increased effective the following January 1, for the applicable period following the most recent adjustment, which in this case is for years 2023 and 2024. The Commission, as authorized, has rounded off the new figures to amounts judged most convenient for public understanding.