

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission

Mandatory Limits on Campaign Contributions

Relevant Authority

SMC 2.04.370.G provides that campaign contribution limits “shall be adjusted commencing before the 2019 election cycle, and prior to each election cycle thereafter, by the Commission 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 period since the effective date of this measure or the prior adjustment, as calculated by the United States Department of Labor.” SMC 2.04.370.G further provides that the “declaration of the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries each 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 Establishing Campaign Contribution Limits

Current Contribution Limit	\$500.00
CPI-W index: October 31, 2015 to December 31, 2019	7.78% growth
Contribution Limit including CPI-W Adjustment	\$538.90

Based on the authority provided by SMC 2.04.370.G, the Commission establishes an updated campaign contribution limit of \$550.00 effective as of February 5, 2020.