

# Georgia Campaign Finance Commission raises limits on state election contributions

May 6, 2019

A week after Governor Brian Kemp appointed David Emadi, former chief assistant district attorney for Douglas County, as Executive Secretary of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission, the ethics oversight body has voted to raise state campaign contribution limits in advance of the 2020 election cycle.

Under the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Act, O.C.G.A. § 21-5-41(k), the Campaign Finance Commission is authorized to raise or lower the maximum contribution limit set forth in the Act in \$100 increments based on inflation or deflation as determined by the Consumer Price Index published by the US Department of Labor. Now, for the first time since 2016, the Commission has decided to raise the ceiling on maximum allowable political contributions to candidates for elected office in Georgia in primaries, general elections and runoff elections.

As of April 18, 2019, statewide candidates for governor, attorney general, commissioner of agriculture, commissioner of insurance, commissioner of labor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state school superintendent and the state's five public service commissioners can collect \$7,000 per donor for both the primary and general elections, and an additional \$4,100 per donor for both the primary runoff and general runoff elections.

All other candidates, including those seeking election to the General Assembly and those pursuing county, municipal and other local elected positions, can raise \$2,800 per donor in both the primary and general elections and \$1,500 per donor in both the primary runoff and general runoff elections.

Previously, contribution limits were \$6,600 for the general and primary and \$3,900 for any required run-offs. After the adjustment, statewide candidates who participate in primary, primary runoff and general elections—a fairly common occurrence—can now raise as much as \$18,100 from a single donor, an increase of \$1,000.

Both monetary and in-kind contributions are subject to these limits. Candidates, campaign committees and political action committees should take careful note of the new limits and remain mindful of their obligations not to exceed the applicable caps, whether acting as donors or recipients. The Dentons Public Policy and Political Law team can assist with any needs you may have when engaging in Georgia's political arena.

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## Your Key Contacts



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