

COVINGTON

FEC Increases Contribution Limits, Permitting Individuals to Contribute over \$800K to National Party Committees

February 2, 2015

Election and Political Law

The Federal Election Commission has increased the limits on the amount an individual can contribute to a candidate or national political party for the 2015-2016 election cycle. An individual can now give up to **\$2,700** per election to a candidate for federal office, up from \$2,600. Because the primary and general count as separate elections, individuals may now give **\$5,400** per candidate per cycle and couples may give **\$10,800**.

This cycle's adjustments are especially significant, however, because they are the first that will apply to a series of national political party accounts created by the omnibus spending legislation Congress passed in December. As we noted at the time, that legislation allows national party committees to create up to three additional specialized "accounts," each of which can receive contributions from individuals and PACs that are **triple** the amount that can be given to the main party account, which has increased from \$32,400 to **\$33,400**. These accounts can be used to pay for expenses related to presidential nominating conventions, headquarters buildings of the party, and election recounts, contests, and other legal proceedings. Effectively, this means that individuals can now give up to **\$801,600** to a party's various accounts each year. And a couple can give up to **\$3,206,400** to a party in the 2015-2016 election cycle.

The following chart shows more details on the limits for individuals in 2015 and 2016:

An individual may contribute to ...		
Federal Candidates	\$2,700	per election
National party committees -- main account	\$33,400	per year
National party committees -- convention account (RNC and DNC only)	\$100,200	per year
National party committees -- party building account	\$100,200	per year
National party committees -- legal fund account	\$100,200	per year
State or local party committees' <u>federal</u> accounts	\$10,000	per year
Federal PACs	\$5,000	per year

If you have any questions concerning the material discussed in this client alert, please contact the following members of our Election and Political Law practice group:

Robert Kelner	+1 202 662 5503	rkelner@cov.com
Bob Lenhard	+1 202 662 5940	rlnhard@cov.com
Anthony Herman	+1 202 662 5280	aherman@cov.com
Zack Parks	+1 202 662 5208	zparks@cov.com
Kevin Shortill	+1 202 662 5113	kshortill@cov.com
Brian Smith	+1 202 662 5090	bdsmith@cov.com
Perrin Cooke	+1 202 662 5139	pcooke@cov.com
Andrew Garrahan	+1 202 662 5841	agarrahan@cov.com
Kevin Glandon	+1 202 662 5003	kglandon@cov.com
Derek Lawlor	+1 202 662 5091	dlawlor@cov.com
Brendan Parets	+1 202 662 5897	bparets@cov.com
Angelle Smith	+1 202 662 5211	asmith@cov.com
Tim Visser	+1 202 662 5030	tvisser@cov.com
Alex Wong	+1 202 662 5748	awong@cov.com

This information is not intended as legal advice. Readers should seek specific legal advice before acting with regard to the subjects mentioned herein.

Covington & Burling LLP, an international law firm, provides corporate, litigation and regulatory expertise to enable clients to achieve their goals. This communication is intended to bring relevant developments to our clients and other interested colleagues. Please send an email to unsubscribe@cov.com if you do not wish to receive future emails or electronic alerts.