MEMORANDUM

To: Commissioners
From: Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
Date: March 21, 2018
Subject: Proposed Rule-Making

Contribution Limits and Ranked Choice Voting

Under 21-A M.R.S.A. §§ 1015(1) & (2), the limits on contributions to candidates apply per election. (This year’s limits are $1,600 per election for candidates for Governor, and $400 per election for legislative candidates.) As interpreted in the Commission’s Rules (Ch. 1, §6(7)):

- a party candidate may designate contributions received before the primary election to the primary election limit or the general election limit
- all contributions to a candidate who lost the primary election for the purpose of liquidating debts and liabilities with respect to their candidacy are deemed to be made in the primary election
- all contributions made to a general election candidate from the day after the primary election are deemed to be for the general election.

The Ethics Commission has received questions from candidates for Governor in both major political parties expecting that the Secretary of State’s determination of the June 12, 2018 primary election winners will take longer than usual (two weeks or more), due to ranked choice voting. Some of these candidates anticipate that there could be a recount in the gubernatorial race and possibly litigation. The candidates expressed that they may wish to continue campaigning during this period and pay expenses such as staff, rent, or their financial database consultants.
These candidates have asked how they could finance these activities prior to the final determination of the primary election results.

After consulting with the Commission’s Counsel, the staff’s initial recommendation is that candidates use primary election contributions for these activities. The Commission may wish to consider a rulemaking to receive public comment and to amend its contribution limits rule (Ch. 1, §6(7)) to address these issues. Attached is a proposed amendment that would extend the primary election fundraising period for elections covered by ranked choice voting until the Secretary of State tabulates the primary election results. Our proposed amendment is intended to start the discussion, and we are not opposed to other policies that might be proposed by the affected candidates, government reform groups or other members of the public.

Recounts
With respect to recounts, the Maine Legislature has adopted 21-A M.R.S.A. § 1018-A which states that candidates may receive donations for purposes of a recount, but no Maine Clean Election Act funds may be used for recount expenditures. The cash and services received by a candidate may not exceed the contribution limits applicable to that candidate under §§ 1015(1) & (2), except that no limitation applies to donations from party committees, caucus campaign committees and from attorneys, consultants and their firms that are donating their services without reimbursement. The Commission staff proposes inserting these policies into the Commission’s rules in Ch. 1, §6(7) and Ch. 3, §9(1). We are also proposing that these same policies apply to any litigation to challenge the results of a recount.

Ch. 3, §9(1) governs whether a candidate who has received Maine Clean Election Act funds may spend those funds for the general election, if the primary election results are being challenged in a recount.1 The Commission proposes amending Ch. 3, §9(1) to clarify that the Commission will

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1 Under the existing rule, if the winner’s margin in the primary election is 1% or more of the total vote, that candidate may spend the MCEA funds during the recount. If the margin is less than 1%, the candidate must freeze his or her spending until the recount is concluded. (This rule predates the current Commission staff.)
make the general election payment to the primary election winner no later than three days after the Secretary of State submits the tabulation of primary election results to the Governor.

**Timing of Commission Rule-Making**
The Commission staff is still conferring with the Commission Counsel concerning the timing of any rule-making. Preliminarily, we would suggest:

- proposing the amended rules for public comment at your March 28th meeting
- holding a public hearing to receive public comment at your April 25th meeting
- adopting the amendments at your May 30th meeting.

If you elect to proceed with a rule-making to address these issues, it might be necessary for the Chapter 3 rules amendments (considered major substantive) to be adopted through an emergency rulemaking, so that they would take effect in time for the June 12, 2018 primary election.

If you have any questions, please telephone me at 287-4179. Thank you for your consideration of the proposed amendments.
7. For the purposes of the limitations imposed by 21-A M.R.S.A. §1015(1), 21-A M.R.S.A. §1015(2), 21-A M.R.S.A. §1015(3), 21-A M.R.S.A. §1018-B and 21-A M.R.S.A. §1056, the following guidelines shall apply:

A. All contributions received through the day of the primary election by candidates enrolled in a political party, are deemed to be received for the primary election, unless the candidate shall designate the contribution for the general election on the applicable campaign finance report whether the candidate received the contribution for the primary or the general election. If a candidate receives a contribution before the primary election and designates it for the general election, the candidate must deposit the contribution in an account that is separate from all funds received for the primary election and may not use the contribution in any way to promote the candidate’s nomination in the primary election.

A-1. For an election determined by ranked-choice voting, the day of the primary election is deemed to be the date on which the Secretary of State submits the tabulation of election results to the Governor, pursuant to Title 21-A, section 722.

B. Notwithstanding division (c) below, if a candidate loses in the primary, all contributions made to that candidate for the purpose of liquidating debts and liabilities associated with the candidate's candidacy are deemed to be made in the primary election.

C. All contributions made to a general election candidate from the day after the primary election through the date of the general election are deemed to be made for the general election.

D. Notwithstanding division (e) below, all contributions made after the general election to a general election candidate for the purpose of reducing debts and liabilities associated with the candidate's candidacy are deemed to be made in the general election.

E. After the day of a candidate’s last election, all contributions made after the day of the general election to a candidate who has liquidated all debts and liabilities associated with that election are deemed to be made in support of the candidate's candidacy for a subsequent election.

F. Subparagraphs A through E above shall apply to any write-in candidate who has qualified under 21-A M.R.S.A. §723, or who has received contributions or made expenditures with the intent of qualifying as a candidate.
G. Candidates (including Maine Clean Election Act candidates) may receive donations for purposes of a recount of an election or to challenge the results of a recount. The donations must be within the limitations of 21-A M.R.S.A. § 1015, except that no limitation applies to donations from party committees and caucus campaign committees and from attorneys, consultants and their firms that are donating their services without reimbursement.

...
SECTION 9. RECOUNTS, VACANCIES, WRITE-IN CANDIDATES, SPECIAL ELECTIONS

1. Recounts. Certified candidates may not spend Fund revenues for purposes of a recount or a court challenge to the results of a recount, but they may receive donations for these purposes in accordance with 21-A M.R.S.A. § 1018-B. The Commission will make the initial distribution for the general election no later than three days after the Secretary of State submits the tabulation of primary election results to the Governor in accordance with Title 21-A, section 722. [§1125(7)(C)]

After a primary election, if there is a recount governed by Title 21-A, chapter 9, subchapter III, article III [§737-A], the primary election winner may spend Fund revenues consistent with and either the leading candidate or the 2nd-place candidate is a certified candidate, the following provisions will apply:

A. If the margin between the leading candidate and the 2nd-place candidate is less than 1% of the total number of votes cast in that race and a recount is presumed necessary, the certified candidate immediately must halt the expenditure of revenues disbursed to the candidate from the Fund upon receiving notice of the recount until the recount is complete.

B. If the recount results in a changed winner, the certified candidate who originally received the disbursement must return any unspent distributions from the Fund to the Commission, payable to the Fund. If the new winner is a certified candidate, the Commission will distribute the applicable disbursement amount to the candidate.

C. If the margin between the leading candidate and 2nd-place candidate is 1% or greater of the total number of votes cast in that race and the 2nd-place candidate requests a recount, the leading candidate, if a certified candidate, is not required to freeze expenditures of the disbursement.

D. If the recount results in a changed winner, the certified candidate must return any unspent distributions from the Fund to the Commission, payable to the Fund. If the new winner is a certified candidate, the Commission will distribute the applicable disbursement amount to the candidate.

2. Death, Withdrawal, or Disqualification of a Candidate During Campaign

A. Death, Withdrawal, or Disqualification Before Primary Election. If a candidate dies, withdraws, or is disqualified before the primary election, the Commission will establish a qualifying period during which any replacement candidate may become a participating candidate, collect qualifying contributions, and apply to become a certified candidate.
B. **Death, Withdrawal, or Disqualification After the Primary Election and before 5:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday in July Preceding the General Election.** If a candidate dies, withdraws, or is disqualified before 5:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday in July preceding the general election, any replacement candidate will have a qualifying period from the time of the candidate’s nomination until 30 days after the 4th Monday in July as a participating candidate to collect qualifying contributions and request certification.

C. **Death, Withdrawal, or Disqualification after 5:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday in July Preceding the General Election.** If a candidate dies, withdraws, or is disqualified after 5:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday in July preceding the general election, the Commission will establish a qualifying period during which any replacement candidate may become a participating candidate, collect qualifying contributions, and apply to become a certified candidate.

D. **Replacement Candidates Who Are Participating Candidates.** Any replacement candidate choosing to become a participating candidate must otherwise comply with the requirements of this chapter and the Act including, but not limited to, seed money limits and qualifying contribution requirements. The Commission will notify any replacement candidates of the opportunity to participate in the Act and the procedures for compliance with this chapter during a special election.

3. **Write-In Candidates**

A. Write-in candidates are subject to the registration requirements of Title 21-A M.R.S.A. §1013-A and the campaign finance reporting requirements of §1017, as soon as they qualify as a nominee pursuant to 21-A M.R.S.A §723, file a declaration of write-in candidacy with the Secretary of State pursuant to 21-A M.R.S.A. §722-A, or receive contributions or make expenditures with the intent of qualifying as a candidate in the primary or general election, whichever first occurs.

B. Write-in candidates may not participate in the Maine Clean Election Act, except as provided in paragraph C.

C. A write-in candidate in a primary election who becomes a party’s nominee may participate in the Maine Clean Election Act for the general election. The Commission will establish a qualifying period during which the candidate may become a participating candidate, collect qualifying contributions, and apply to become a certified candidate.

D. A candidate who is participating in the Maine Clean Election Act and who has no opponent listed on the ballot will be presumed to be in an uncontested election even if there are one or more individuals running as write-in candidates. The participating candidate may rebut this presumption by presenting evidence to the Commission that the write-in opponent(s) received or spent substantial campaign funds. Based upon the evidence presented, the Commission may make a determination that it is a “contested election” and make a distribution of public funds to the participating candidate on that basis.
4. **Special Election When One or More Candidates Desire to Become Certified Candidates.** If a vacancy occurs in the office of Governor, Senator, or Representative because an incumbent dies, resigns, becomes disqualified, or changes residence to another electoral division, and a special election will be held to fill the vacant office, the following provisions apply:

   A. The Commission, in consultation with the Secretary of State, will establish a qualifying period during which any candidate in a special election may decide to become a participating candidate, collect qualifying contributions, and apply to become a certified candidate; and

   B. Any candidate in a special election must otherwise comply with the requirements of this chapter and the Act including, but not limited to, seed money limits and qualifying contribution requirements. The Commission will notify any candidates of the opportunity to participate in the Act and the procedures for compliance with this chapter during a special election.

5. **Return of Unspent Fund Revenues.** Any time a certified candidate withdraws, is disqualified, or dies before an election, the candidate or the candidate’s agent must return to the Commission all unspent amounts distributed to the candidate by check or money order payable to the fund, within 2 weeks of the termination of the candidacy.

   ...
§723-A. DETERMINATION OF WINNER IN ELECTION FOR AN OFFICE ELECTED BY RANKED-CHOICE VOTING

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Batch elimination" means the simultaneous defeat of multiple candidates for whom it is mathematically impossible to be elected. [2015, c. 3, §5 (NEW).]

B. "Continuing ballot" means a ballot that is not an exhausted ballot. [2015, c. 3, §5 (NEW).]

C. "Continuing candidate" means a candidate who has not been defeated. [2015, c. 3, §5 (NEW).]

D. "Exhausted ballot" means a ballot that does not rank any continuing candidate, contains an overvote at the highest continuing ranking or contains 2 or more sequential skipped rankings before its highest continuing ranking. [2015, c. 3, §5 (NEW).]

E. "Highest continuing ranking" means the highest ranking on a voter's ballot for a continuing candidate. [2015, c. 3, §5 (NEW).]

F. "Last-place candidate" means the candidate with the fewest votes in a round of the ranked-choice voting tabulation. [2015, c. 3, §5 (NEW).]

G. "Mathematically impossible to be elected," with respect to a candidate, means either:

   (1) The candidate cannot be elected because the candidate's vote total in a round of the ranked-choice voting tabulation plus all votes that could possibly be transferred to the candidate in future rounds from candidates with fewer votes or an equal number of votes would not be enough to surpass the candidate with the next-higher vote total in the round; or

   (2) The candidate has a lower vote total than a candidate described in subparagraph (1). [2015, c. 3, §5 (NEW).]

H. "Overvote" means a circumstance in which a voter has ranked more than one candidate at the same ranking. [2015, c. 3, §5 (NEW).]

I. "Ranking" means the number assigned on a ballot by a voter to a candidate to express the voter's preference for that candidate. Ranking number one is the highest ranking, ranking number 2 is the next-highest ranking and so on. [2015, c. 3, §5 (NEW).]
2. Procedures. Except as provided in subsections 3 and 4, the following procedures are used to determine the winner in an election for an office elected by ranked-choice voting. Tabulation must proceed in rounds. In each round, the number of votes for each continuing candidate must be counted. Each continuing ballot counts as one vote for its highest-ranked continuing candidate for that round. Exhausted ballots are not counted for any continuing candidate. The round then ends with one of the following 2 potential outcomes.

A. If there are 2 or fewer continuing candidates, the candidate with the most votes is declared the winner of the election. [2015, c. 3, §5 (NEW).]

B. If there are more than 2 continuing candidates, the last-place candidate is defeated and a new round begins. [2015, c. 3, §5 (NEW).]

3. Ties. A tie under this section between candidates for the most votes in the final round or a tie between last-place candidates in any round must be decided by lot, and the candidate chosen by lot is defeated. The result of the tie resolution must be recorded and reused in the event of a recount. Election officials may resolve prospective ties between candidates before the election.

4. Modification of ranked-choice voting ballot and tabulation. Modification of a ranked-choice voting ballot and tabulation is permitted in accordance with the following.

A. The number of allowable rankings may be limited to no fewer than 6. [2015, c. 3, §5 (NEW).]

B. Two or more candidates may be defeated simultaneously by batch elimination in any round of tabulation. [2015, c. 3, §5 (NEW).]

5. Effect on rights of political parties. For all statutory and constitutional provisions in the State pertaining to the rights of political parties, the number of votes cast for a party's candidate for an office elected by ranked-choice voting is the number of votes credited to that candidate after the initial counting in the first round described in subsection 2.
6. Application. This section applies to elections held on or after January 1, 2018.

[2015, c. 3, §5 (NEW).]

§737-A. RECOUNT

Once a recount is requested for an election for the office of State Senator or State Representative or for a county office that does not encompass more than one county, the Secretary of State shall notify the State Police, who shall take physical control of all ballots and related materials involved in the recount as soon as possible. When a recount is requested for a statewide office, congressional office or statewide referendum or for a county office that encompasses more than one county, the Secretary of State may direct the State Police to retrieve ballots from certain voting jurisdictions so that the recount may be conducted in stages until the requesting candidate or the lead applicant for a referendum recount concedes or until all the ballots are recounted. [2017, c. 141, §3 (AMD).]

The State Police shall store and maintain exclusive control over the ballots and other materials pending and during the recount except when the counting is being conducted by the Secretary of State. [1993, c. 473, §31 (NEW); 1993, c. 473, §46 (AFF).]

A candidate who is the apparent loser and who desires a recount must file with the Secretary of State a written request for a recount within 5 business days after the election. The recount is held under the supervision of the Secretary of State, who shall allow the candidate's representatives or counsel to recount the ballots. The candidate may not act as a counter of ballots. [2007, c. 515, §9 (AMD).]

If, after the official tabulation is submitted to the Governor, the apparent winner is determined the losing candidate, that candidate may request a recount within 3 business days after the date the Governor receives the tabulation. [2015, c. 447, §28 (AMD).]

1. Deposit for legislative or single county office recount. This subsection applies to a recount for an election for the office of State Senator or State Representative or for a county office that does not encompass more than one county. All deposits required by this section must be made with the Secretary of State when a recount is requested by a losing candidate or an undeclared write-in candidate. Once the State Police have taken custody of the ballots and other election materials from the municipalities, the deposit made by the candidate requesting the recount is forfeited to the State if the resulting count fails to change the outcome of the election. If the recount reverses the election, the deposit must be returned to the candidate requesting the recount. The amount of the deposit is calculated as follows.
A. If the percentage difference shown by the official tabulation between the leading candidate and the requesting candidate is 1.5% or less of the total votes cast for that office, a deposit is not required. [2015, c. 447, §29 (AMD).]

B. If the percentage difference shown by the official tabulation between the leading candidate and the requesting candidate is more than 1.5% and less than or equal to 4% of the total votes cast for that office, the deposit is $500. [2015, c. 447, §29 (AMD).]

C. If the percentage difference shown by the official tabulation between the leading candidate and the requesting candidate is more than 4% and less than or equal to 6% of the total votes cast for that office, the deposit is $1,000. [2003, c. 447, §25 (AMD).]

D. If the percentage difference shown by the official tabulation between the leading candidate and the requesting candidate is more than 6% and less than or equal to 8% of the total votes cast for that office, the deposit is $2,500. [2003, c. 447, §25 (NEW).]

E. If the percentage difference shown by the official tabulation between the leading candidate and the requesting candidate is more than 8% and less than or equal to 10% of the total votes cast for that office, the deposit is $5,000. [2003, c. 447, §25 (NEW).]

F. If the percentage difference shown by the official tabulation between the leading candidate and the requesting candidate is more than 10% of the total votes cast for that office, the deposit is $10,000. [2003, c. 447, §25 (NEW).]

[ 2017, c. 141, §4 (AMD) .]

1-A. Deposit for statewide or multicounty office recount. This subsection applies to a recount for an office not described by subsection 1. A losing candidate who requests a recount must pay the deposit required by this subsection when the recount is requested. The amount of the deposit is calculated as follows.

A. If the difference shown by the official tabulation between the leading candidate and the requesting candidate is 1% or less of the total votes cast for that office or not more than 1,000 votes, whichever is less, a deposit is not required. A candidate who is not required to pay a deposit pursuant to this subsection may not be charged for the recount regardless of whether the procedure changes the result of the election. [2017, c. 141, §5 (NEW).]

B. If the difference shown by the official tabulation between the leading candidate and the requesting candidate is more than 1% of the total votes cast for that office or more than 1,000 votes, whichever is less, the deposit is $5,000 or 10% of the reasonable estimate of the cost to the State of performing the first stage of the recount, whichever is greater. After completion of the recount, if the recount has not changed the result of the election, the Secretary of State shall calculate the actual cost of the procedure, which must be paid by the requesting candidate. If the deposit is
greater than the actual cost, the overpayment must be refunded to the candidate. If the actual cost is greater than the deposit, the candidate shall pay the remainder of the actual cost to the State. Once the State Police have taken custody of the ballots and other election materials for the first stage of the recount, the deposit made by the candidate requesting the recount is forfeited to the State even if the candidate withdraws from the recount before the recount begins. If a recount reverses the election, the deposit must be returned to the candidate requesting the recount. [2017, c. 141, §5 (NEW).]

2. Recount request. If a ballot contains the names of state and local candidates or questions, the Secretary of State shall determine which requests for recount must be honored first when more than one request is presented. If a recount is requested for more than one office or referendum question that is included on the same ballot for one or more jurisdictions, the Secretary of State may determine a process for counting the ballots for both offices or questions simultaneously.

[2017, c. 141, §6 (AMD).]

2-A. Recount for write-in candidates. For the purposes of this section, a declared write-in candidate who has complied with the requirements of section 722-A is treated the same as any candidate whose name is printed on the ballot.

[2017, c. 141, §7 (AMD).]

3. Notice of recount. The Secretary of State shall send written notice of a recount to the candidates for the office in question, stating the time and place of the recount.

[1993, c. 473, §31 (NEW); 1993, c. 473, §46 (AFF).]

4. Time of recount and designated recount candidates. The recount must be held as soon as reasonably possible at a time and place that affords the designated recount candidates a reasonable opportunity to be present. For purposes of this section, "the designated recount candidates" means the leading candidate and each candidate who has requested a recount and paid the applicable fee in accordance with this section. The recount involves a new count of the results for the designated recount candidates only. Once a candidate has requested a recount, the other candidates for that elective office must be notified of the request as soon as possible. Candidates for that elective office whose vote totals fall between the totals of the leading candidate and the requesting candidate must be provided with an opportunity to be included in the recount as a designated recount candidate by making a written request to join the recount and paying the applicable fee, either within 5 business days after the election or, if the recount request is made on the last day of that period, by the close of business on the next business day. Candidates for that elective office other than the
designated recount candidates may be present to observe the recount but are not included in the recount, and their vote totals remain as indicated in the official results reported by the municipalities.

[ 2003, c. 447, §26 (AMD) .]

5. **Persons prohibited from working at recount.** Confidential state employees, employees of the Legislature, candidates and elected state officials may not participate in ballot recounts in any capacity. This subsection does not prohibit employees within the Department of the Secretary of State, election officials and staff of the Department of the Attorney General and the Judicial Department from performing their duties with respect to a recount.

[ 1993, c. 473, §31 (NEW); 1993, c. 473, §46 (AFF) .]

6. **List of recount personnel.** The Secretary of State shall maintain a list of recount personnel for 2 years after the recount.

[ 1993, c. 473, §31 (NEW); 1993, c. 473, §46 (AFF) .]

7. **Disputed ballots segregated.** At the recount, the Secretary of State shall segregate disputed ballots. Disputed ballots that are not resolved must be photocopied by a representative of the Secretary of State. The photocopy of the ballot is not a public record and must be kept separate from the original ballots. When a recount is requested by a write-in candidate who did not receive the minimum number of votes required, if the write-in candidate is the only candidate at the recount and it appears from the recount that a sufficient number of votes for that candidate has been received at the election, then all ballots from that election are considered "disputed."

[ 1993, c. 473, §31 (NEW); 1993, c. 473, §46 (AFF) .]

8. **Mistake in ballot count.** If it is found that a mistake was made in counting the ballots on election day, or if the recount results show that an undeclared write-in candidate received votes for a particular office, the Secretary of State shall submit a corrected tabulation to the Governor.

[ 2009, c. 253, §44 (AMD) .]

9. **Package resealed and marked.** After a recount, if the election remains in dispute, the Secretary of State shall copy the incoming voting list, before proceeding to reseal the packages of ballots and incoming voting lists, noting the fact and date of the recount on the packages. The Secretary of State shall immediately send or deliver the copy of the incoming voting list to the clerk for the purpose of updating voter participation history in the central voter registration system. The clerk shall immediately send a receipt to the Secretary of State noting the date and time of delivery of the copy. All challenged and disputed ballots must be packaged separately. The challenged and disputed ballots must
be kept until released to the court or to the Senate or the House of Representatives, if applicable, in case of an appeal.

[2009, c. 253, §45 (AMD).]

10. Appeals. For all elections, except for the Senate and the House of Representatives, if there are enough challenged or disputed ballots to affect the result of an election, the Secretary of State shall forward the ballots and related records for that election to the clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court. The Supreme Judicial Court shall determine the result of the election pursuant to procedures adopted by court rule. The decision of the Supreme Judicial Court is final and must be certified to the Governor by the Chief Justice.

For all elections to the Senate and the House of Representatives, each House shall establish procedures for recount appeals.

[1993, c. 473, §31 (NEW); 1993, c. 473, §46 (AFF).]

11. Withdrawal from recount. A candidate who requests and receives a recount may withdraw from the recount at any time while the recount shows that candidate to be the loser. If, during the recount, the candidate requesting the recount overtakes and passes the candidate who initially appeared to win the election, the candidate requesting the recount may not withdraw the request and the recount must be completed.

[1993, c. 473, §31 (NEW); 1993, c. 473, §46 (AFF).]

12. Authority to adopt rules. The Secretary of State is authorized to adopt rules governing the conduct and procedures for a recount. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[2009, c. 253, §46 (NEW).]
§1015. LIMITATIONS ON CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES

1. Individuals. An individual may not make contributions to a candidate in support of the candidacy of one person aggregating more than $1,500 in any election for a gubernatorial candidate, more than $350 for a legislative candidate, more than $350 for a candidate for municipal office and beginning January 1, 2012 more than $750 for a candidate for municipal office or more than $750 in any election for any other candidate. This limitation does not apply to contributions in support of a candidate by that candidate or that candidate's spouse or domestic partner. Beginning December 1, 2010, contribution limits in accordance with this subsection are adjusted every 2 years based on the Consumer Price Index as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and rounded to the nearest amount divisible by $25. The commission shall post the current contribution limit and the amount of the next adjustment and the date that it will become effective on its publicly accessible website and include this information with any publication to be used as a guide for candidates.

[ 2011, c. 382, §1 (AMD) .]

2. Committees; corporations; associations. A political committee, political action committee, other committee, firm, partnership, corporation, association or organization may not make contributions to a candidate in support of the candidacy of one person aggregating more than $1,500 in any election for a gubernatorial candidate, more than $350 for a legislative candidate, more than $350 for a candidate for municipal office and beginning January 1, 2012 more than $750 for a candidate for municipal office or more than $750 in any election for any other candidate. Beginning December 1, 2010, contribution limits in accordance with this subsection are adjusted every 2 years based on the Consumer Price Index as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and rounded to the nearest amount divisible by $25. The commission shall post the current contribution limit and the amount of the next adjustment and the date that it will become effective on its publicly accessible website and include this information with any publication to be used as a guide for candidates.

[ 2011, c. 382, §2 (AMD) .]
1. Reporting. Candidates who are involved in a recount of an election shall file a report 90 days after the election containing itemized accounts of cash, goods and services received for the recount and payments made by the candidate for the recount. The reports must be made on forms prepared and sent by the commission. Persons donating services to the candidate are required to provide the candidate with an estimate of the value of the services donated. Political action committees and party committees making expenditures for a candidate's recount shall identify on their regularly filed reports that the expenditures were made for the purposes of a recount.

[ 2005, c. 301, §21 (NEW) .]

2. Limitations. After an election, candidates may receive donations for purposes of a recount. The donations must be within the limitations of section 1015, except that no limitation applies to donations from party committees and caucus campaign committees and from attorneys, consultants and their firms that are donating their services without reimbursement. Candidates may not spend revenues received under chapter 14 for recount expenditures.

[ 2013, c. 334, §14 (AMD) .]