



Post *McCutcheon* Fact Sheet

The April 2, 2014, U.S. Supreme Court decision in *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission* struck down aggregate limits on contributions to federal candidates, political parties and political action committees (PACs). This ruling makes it possible for individuals to contribute millions of dollars to candidates, parties and PACs.

Decision Opens Door to Massive Contributions

Prior to the *McCutcheon* decision, an individual could contribute a maximum of \$123,200 in any two-year election cycle, with sub-limits of \$48,600 to candidates and \$74,600 to PACs and political parties. However, following the ruling, an individual can use joint fundraising committees to contribute as much as \$5.9 million to these entities, according to an [analysis](#) done by Public Citizen. The \$5.9 million includes:

- \$2.44 million to House, Senate candidates and presidential candidates
- \$1 million to state, local and district party committees
- \$194,400 to three national party committees
- \$2.28 million to leadership PACs.

Joint fundraising committees will likely increase in number and power as they will allow a donor to write just a few multimillion dollar checks to the party leaders and elected officials who administer them. There are only a few hundred people likely to write multimillion-dollar checks, strengthening wealthy donor's chokehold over our democracy.

Base Limits Remain Intact

The decision did not affect base contributions limits, which remain at \$2,600 for candidates, \$32,400 for national party committees, and \$10,000 for state, district, and local party committees.

Old System	New Reality
<p>\$123,200 biennial limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$48,600 to all candidate committees• \$74,600 to all PACs and party committees	<p>\$5,918,400 biennial limit*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$2,444,000 to candidate committees• \$1 million to state, local, and district party committees• 194,400 to national party committees• \$2,280,000 to Leadership PACs

*Based on Public Citizen's [analysis](#).