***Gubernatorial Campaign Finance Law Database***

Compiled by Jennifer M. Jensen and Thad Beyle

**Coding Information**

The Gubernatorial Campaign Finance Law Database was compiled by Jennifer M. Jensen and Thad Beyle, professor emeritus at the University of North Carolina.   [Frank Vander Valk](https://frankvandervalk.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), then a doctoral student at the University at Albany, provided extensive research assistance.

We ask that you include a citation in all papers that use these data. Please refer to the database as the Gubernatorial Campaign Finance Database, compiled by Thad Beyle and Jennifer M. Jensen. For further information, see the following:

Jensen, Jennifer M. and Thad Beyle. 2003. "Of Footnotes, Missing Data, and Lessons for 50-State Data Collection: The Gubernatorial Campaign Finance Project, 1977-2001." State Politics and Policy Quarterly 3 (Summer): 203-214.

These data are presented in a series of Microsoft Excel spreadsheets. There are five sets of spreadsheets; each set has individual spreadsheets detailing the laws in different years. The data were collected from the U.S. Federal Election Commission's Campaign Finance Law series. The FEC published this document triennially starting in 1977; since 1984 it has been published biennially. Details regarding the database are found in our SPPQ article.

All data were drawn from the Federal Election Commission’s *Campaign Finance Law* series of publications. If you have particular concerns about a given variable and/or year, we encourage you to refer to the relevant hard copy of the publication.

In all cases, 1=yes and 0=no. However, please note that in many cases the coding of “1” is replaced by more specific text explanation in the cell.

**State Laws Regarding Gubernatorial Campaign Filing Deadlines**

**Gubernatorial candidate must file:**Coded 1 if either the candidate or candidate committee is required to file.

**30-60 days before election, and 7-29 days before election:**
Coded 1 if required for either primary or general elections, or both.

**Late donations trigger special report:**
Coded 1 if late donations trigger a requirement to file a special report. This is regardless of the number of days before an election defined as “late” (e.g. “2 days before”; “after last reporting period”; “between 2 and 6 days before election”).

**Filing within 30 days after an election:**
Coded 1 for either primary or general election, or both.  Filing requirements that were not clearly within 30 days after were coded no (anything from 35 days after, to something like, “3rd Thursday of second month after election).

**Quarterly:**

If it was not specified in the FEC material that a report was required only for election or non-election years, we assumed that any quarterly filing requirement referred to both election years and non-election year, and thus in these cases we coded this variable 1 for both election years and non-election years.  This was the majority of “1” codes.  Also (perhaps quite obviously), if reports were due roughly every 3 months, coded 1.

**Semi-annual in non-election years:**
Once again, if it was not specified in the FEC material that a report was required only for either election or non-election years, we assumed that any quarterly filing requirement referred to both election years and non-election year, and thus in these cases we coded this variable 1 for both election years and non-election years.

**Annually in non-election years:**
Same as semi-annual coding.  No distinction was made between “supplemental reports” and mere “reports.”

**State Laws Regarding Gubernatorial Campaign Expenditure Limits**

If a state has a law, it is listed in the appropriate cell.  The only exception to this occurs in the early years covered by the dataset, where laws themselves were referenced in the charts — in this case an abbreviated version was given without reference to specific section, sub-section, etc.

**State Laws Regarding Contributions by Individuals**

Please note that laws regarding spousal contributions usually specify that a spouse may make unlimited contributions; otherwise, spouses are subject to the same contribution limits as any other individual.

**State Laws Regarding Contributions by Organizations**

All columns — Coded 1 if there are any limits on contributions to a gubernatorial candidate or relevant candidate committee.  Generally listed verbatim in relevant sections.  In some cases the wording was condensed or paraphrased, if it was possible without loss of clarity.

**State Laws Regarding Election Funding: Tax Provisions and Public Financing**

Entered as listed in the original FEC *Campaign Finance Law* charts.  Years 1978 and 1981 had the final column (Distribution of Funds) removed, as the charts for those years were not in the same format.