

## Financial Contributions

In recent years, states have begun passing legislation that provides for oversight of campaign contributions, particularly contributions made by registered lobbyists or the organizations they represent.

The primary purpose of this oversight is to let the public know who is contributing to whom and how the money is being spent. Under our system of representative government, it is very important to maintain a high level of confidence in our political system. People need assurance that large contributors, who definitely are in the minority, do not control any political agenda through their contributions and that ours is truly a government of the people.

You, as a citizen lobbyist, more than likely will not be affected by the laws relating to campaign finance. Therefore, following your review and approval of a candidate's qualifications and proposals, you should seriously consider making a financial contribution. Call any candidate's campaign headquarters for the address to which the contribution should be sent. In local races, it is usually appropriate to call the candidate's home to get this information.

Fundraising events for incumbents are also important events to attend. Outside of a metropolitan area, they are often inexpensive and casual events. Whether you share a political party or philosophy with the legislator is not important. Issues do not need to be discussed in this setting. Just get the name and your organization's name connected for future follow-up.

**REMEMBER:** Even a small contribution will be received with open arms by a grateful candidate!