

Alaska House of Representatives

Representative Calvin Schrage

Co-Chair: House Finance Committee

Session:

**Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-4931**



Interim:

**1500 W. Benson
Blvd. Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 269-0205**

Proudly serving our friends and neighbors in the Abbott Loop - Lower Hillside Community.

House Bill 16 - version N

Sponsor Statement

"An Act requiring a group supporting or opposing a candidate or ballot proposition in a state or local election to maintain an address in the state; amending campaign contribution limits for state and local office; directing the Alaska Public Offices Commission to adjust campaign contribution limits for state and local office once each decade beginning in 2031; relating to campaign contribution reporting requirements; relating to administrative complaints filed with the Alaska Public Offices Commission; relating to state election expenditures and contributions made by a foreign-influenced corporation or foreign national; and providing for an effective date."

In 2024, Alaska 23RCF2 was certified after a grassroots effort that gathered signatures from nearly 30,000 registered Alaskan voters and met the 7% threshold in 32 out of Alaska's 40 house districts. 23RCF2 will be put before voters in the 2026 primary election if the Alaska Legislature does not pass materially similar legislation.

Alaska has historically touted some of the strongest, most effective campaign finance laws in the nation, which served to promote better accountability and trust in our elections and elected officials. In recent years, Alaskans have shown their support for fair and reasonable contribution limits, including a 2006 ballot initiative that passed overwhelmingly with 73% support. However, in 2021, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals struck down Alaska's statutory campaign contribution limits, opening our state and local elections to the threat of unlimited political contributions directly to candidates from anyone, anywhere in the country.

House Bill 16 (HB 16) reinstates fair, reasonable, and constitutional campaign contribution limits, which will be adjusted based on Alaska's consumer price index rates moving forward. This will ensure that these limits remain constitutional.

April 14, 2025

To accomplish this, HB 16 does the following:

- Moves Alaska's campaign contributions to a "per election cycle" basis.
- Increases the statutory individual-to-candidate limit from \$500 per year to \$2,000 per election cycle and the group-to-candidate limit from \$1,000 per year to \$4,000 per election cycle.
- Directs the Alaska Public Offices Commission to adjust contribution limits for inflation.

These changes address the concerns laid out by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and United States Supreme Court precedent while upholding the expressed desire of Alaskan voters for fair and reasonable contribution limits and transparency in our elections.