

State of Wisconsin \ Government Accountability Board

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JUDGE THOMAS H. BARLAND
Chairperson

KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 9, 2014

TO: All Candidates, PACs, Political Parties and Legislative Campaign Committees

FROM: Government Accountability Board

SUBJECT: Impact of *CRG v Barland* preliminary injunction (45%/65% limits)

On Friday, September 5, 2014, the Federal District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, in *CRG Network v. Barland et al.*, issued a preliminary injunction against enforcement of Wis. Stat. §11.26(9). This statute limits the amount of campaign contributions candidates may accept in aggregate from PACs, political parties, candidate committees and legislative campaign committees in a campaign period. Although there is no final decision yet in the case, after conferring with the Wisconsin Department of Justice, the Government Accountability Board will not enforce these limits while this preliminary injunction is in place.

Candidates are still limited on how much they may accept from a single PAC or other candidate committee in accordance with Wis. Stat. §11.26(2), and from a single individual in accordance with Wis. Stat. §11.26(1). The preliminary injunction allows a candidate to accept the maximum donation from an unlimited number of committees. The only limit on how much a political party committee or legislative campaign committee could contribute to a candidate had been the aggregate limit contained in Wis. Stat. §11.26(9) - 65% limit. This preliminary injunction allows a candidate to accept unlimited donations from political party committees and legislative campaign committees.

The table below summarizes the remaining limits for individuals and single committees.

Office	Individual Contribution Limit	Single PAC or Candidate Committee Contribution Limit	Party and Legislative Campaign Committees
Governor	\$10,000	\$43,128	Unlimited
Lt. Governor	10,000	12,939	Unlimited
Atty. General	10,000	21,560	Unlimited
State Treasurer	10,000	8,625	Unlimited
Secretary Of State	10,000	8,625	Unlimited
State Senate	1,000	1,000	Unlimited
State Assembly	500	500	Unlimited

The following limits apply to individuals and committees giving to non-candidate committees:

Receiving Committee Type	Individual Contribution Limit	Single PAC or Candidate Committee Contribution Limit		Party and Legislative Campaign Committees
PAC	Unlimited	Unlimited		Unlimited
Party	Unlimited	\$6,000	aggregate \$150,000 / biennium	Unlimited
Legislative Campaign Committee	Unlimited	\$6,000	aggregate \$150,000 / biennium	Unlimited

All contributions are required to be reported by both the committee receiving the donation and the committees making donations.