

AMENDMENTS TO THE OHIO CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

The following amendments to the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct (Jud. Cond. Rules 4.2, Comment [1]; 4.3, Comment [1]; and 4.4) were adopted by the Supreme Court of Ohio. The history of these amendments is as follows:

November 29, 2016	Final adoption by conference
January 1, 2017	Effective date of amendments

OHIO CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

RULE 4.2 Political and Campaign Activities of Judicial Candidates

[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]

Comment

[1] A judicial candidate remains subject to Rules 4.1, 4.3, and 4.4, in addition to the requirements of this rule. For example, a candidate continues to be prohibited from soliciting funds for a political party, knowingly making false statements during a campaign, or making certain promises, pledges, or commitments related to future adjudicative duties. See Rule 4.1(A), 4.3, and 4.4(F).

[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]

RULE 4.3 Campaign Standards and Communications

[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]

Comment

[1] A judicial candidate must be scrupulously fair and accurate in all statements made by the candidate and his or her campaign committee. This rule obligates the candidate and the committee to refrain from making statements that are false.

[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]

RULE 4.4 Campaign Solicitations and Contributions

[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]

(I) Except as otherwise provided in division (J) of this rule, the campaign committee of a *judicial candidate* shall not directly or indirectly solicit or receive in the fundraising period allowed by division (E), (F), or (G) of this rule a campaign *contribution aggregating* more than the following:

(1) From an individual other than the *judicial candidate* or a member of his or her *immediate family*, three thousand eight hundred dollars in the case of a *judicial candidate* for chief justice or justice of the Supreme Court, one thousand three hundred dollars in the case of a *judicial candidate* for the court of appeals, or six hundred dollars in the case of a *judicial candidate* for the court of common pleas, municipal court, or county court.

(2) From any *organization*, seven thousand dollars in the case of a *judicial candidate* for chief justice or justice of the Supreme Court or three thousand eight hundred dollars in the case of all other *judicial candidates*.

(3) From a *political party*:

(a) Three hundred forty-seven thousand six hundred dollars in the case of a *judicial candidate* for chief justice or justice of the Supreme Court;

(b) Seventy-five thousand nine hundred dollars in the case of a *judicial candidate* for the court of appeals;

(c) Seventy-five thousand nine hundred dollars in the case of a *judicial candidate* for a court of common pleas, municipal court, or county court that serves a territorial jurisdiction with a population of more than seven hundred fifty thousand;

(d) Sixty-three thousand one hundred dollars in the case of a *judicial candidate* for a court of common pleas, municipal court, or county court that serves a territorial jurisdiction with a population of seven hundred fifty thousand or less;

(J) If a *judicial candidate* is opposed in a primary election, the campaign committee of that *judicial candidate* shall not directly or indirectly solicit or receive either of the following:

(1) A campaign *contribution* from an individual or an *organization aggregating* more than the applicable limitation contained in division (I)(1) or (2) of this rule in a primary election period or in a general election period;

(2) A campaign *contribution* from a *political party aggregating* more than the applicable limitation contained in division (1)(3) of this rule in a general election period or aggregating more than the following during a primary election period:

(a) One hundred eighty-nine thousand five hundred dollars in the case of a *judicial candidate* for chief justice or justice of the Supreme Court;

(b) Thirty-seven thousand nine hundred dollars in the case of a *judicial candidate* for the court of appeals;

(c) Thirty-seven thousand nine hundred dollars in the case of a *judicial candidate* for a court of common pleas, municipal court, or county court that serves a territorial jurisdiction with a population of more than seven hundred fifty thousand;

(d) Thirty-one thousand six hundred dollars in the case of a *judicial candidate* for a court of common pleas, municipal court, or county court that serves a territorial jurisdiction with a population of seven hundred fifty thousand or less.

[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS
Effective January 1, 2017

CANDIDATE FOR:	INDIVIDUAL		ORGANIZATION		POLITICAL PARTY	
	Primary*	General	Primary*	General	Primary*	General
Supreme Court Chief Justice and Justice	\$3,800	\$3,800	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$189,500	\$347,600
Court of Appeals	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$3,800	\$3,800	\$37,900	\$75,900
Common Pleas, Municipal, and County Court more than 750,000	\$600	\$600	\$3,800	\$3,800	\$37,900	\$75,900
750,000 or less	\$600	\$600	\$3,800	\$3,800	\$31,600	\$63,600

*Primary limits apply only if the judicial candidate has a contested primary. If there is no contested primary, the general election limits apply throughout the permissible fundraising period.

[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]

FORM OF CITATION, EFFECTIVE DATE, APPLICATION

[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]

(K) The amendments to Jud. Cond. Rules 4.2, Comment [1], 4.3, Comment [1], and 4.4(I) and (J) adopted by the Supreme Court of Ohio on November 29, 2016, shall take effect on January 1, 2017. The amended contribution limits shall apply to fundraising that occurs on behalf of judicial candidates who campaign for election to judicial offices that will appear on the ballot in the 2017 and subsequent years. The contribution limits that were in effect prior to January 1, 2017, shall apply to fundraising that has occurred or will occur on behalf of judicial candidates who campaigned for election to judicial offices that appeared on the ballot in calendar year 2016.