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**CONTRIBUTIONS TO REGISTERED CANDIDATES**

*Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (Section 88.8 and 88.9)*

**CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS [SECTION 88.8 (1) – (4)]**

**Contributions to candidates**

A contribution shall not be made to or accepted by a person or an individual acting under the person’s direction unless the person is a candidate.

**Only during election campaign**

A contribution made to or accepted by a candidate, or to an individual acting under the candidate’s direction, shall only be made during the candidate’s election campaign period.

**Who may contribute**

Contributions shall only be made by the following:

* An individual who is normally resident in Ontario;
* The candidate and his or her spouse, subject to if the spouse of a candidate is not normally resident in Ontario, a candidate and his or her spouse may make contributions only to the candidate’s election campaign.

**Who cannot contribute**

The following shall not make a contribution:

* A federal political party registered under the *Canada Elections Act* or any federal constituency association or registered candidate at a federal election endorsed by that party.
* A provincial political party, constituency association, registered candidate or leadership contestant registered under the *Election Finances Act*.
* A corporation that carries on business in Ontario;
* A trade union that holds bargaining rights for employees in Ontario;
* The Crown in right of Canada or Ontario, a municipality or local board.

**ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS [SECTION 88.8 (6) – (10)]**

**Who may accept contribution and contributors**

A contribution may be accepted only by a candidate or an individual acting under the direction of the candidate. A contribution may be accepted only from a person or entity that is entitled to make a contribution.

**Contributions exceeding $25**

A contribution of money that exceeds $25 shall not be contributed in the form of cash and shall be contributed in a manner that associates the contributor’s name and account with the payment or by money order signed by the contributor.

**Exception re making information public**

The listing of the phone number and email address and/or hyperlink to the candidate’s website by the municipality or local board does not constitute a contribution to a candidate.

**MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANDIDATES (SECTION 88.9)**

**Maximum contributions to candidates**

A contributor shall not make contributions exceeding a total of:

* $1,200 to any one candidate in an election;
* If a person is a candidate for more than one office a contributor’s total contributions to that candidate in respect of all the offices shall not exceed $1,200;
* $5,000 to two or more candidates for office on the same council or local board;
* Except if the candidate is contributing to the candidates own election campaign, then the maximum contributions do not apply;
* Except if the contributor is the spouse of the candidate, then the maximum contributions do not apply.