

1 Amend 2 Cal Code of Regulations Section 18215 to read:

2 **§ 18215. Contribution.**

3 (a) A contribution is any payment made for political purposes for which full and adequate  
4 consideration is not made to the donor. A payment is made for political purposes if it is:

5 (1) For the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence the action of the voters for  
6 or against the nomination or election of a candidate or candidates, or the qualification or passage  
7 of any measure; or

8 (2) Received by or made at the behest of the following or any agent thereof:

9 (A) A candidate;

10 (B) A controlled committee;

11 (C) An official committee of a political party, including a state central committee, county  
12 central committee, assembly district committee or any subcommittee of such committee; or

13 (D) An organization formed or existing primarily for political purposes, including, but  
14 not limited to, a political action committee established by any membership organization, labor  
15 union or corporation.

16 (b) The term “contribution” includes:

17 (1) Certain Payments to Nonprofit Organizations and Federal or Out-of-State Political  
18 Organizations Active in California Elections. Any payment made to a person or organization  
19 other than a candidate or committee, when, at the time of making the payment, the donor knows  
20 or has reason to know that the payment, or funds with which the payment will be commingled,  
21 will be used to make contributions or expenditures. If the donor knows or has reason to know  
22 that only part of the payment will be used to make contributions or expenditures, the payment  
23 shall be apportioned on a reasonable basis in order to determine the amount of the contribution.

1           There shall be a presumption that the donor does not have reason to know that all or part  
2 of the payment will be used to make expenditures or contributions, unless the person or  
3 organization has made expenditures or contributions of at least ~~one thousand dollars (\$1,000)~~  
4 \$1,000 in the aggregate during the calendar year in which the payment occurs, or any of the  
5 immediately preceding four calendar years.

6           (2) Candidate's Own Money. A candidate's own money or property used on behalf of his  
7 or her candidacy.

8           (3) Discounted Goods or Services. Any goods or services received by or behested by a  
9 candidate or committee at no charge or at a discount from the fair market value, unless the  
10 discount is given in the regular course of business to members of the public.

11           (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the term "contribution" does not  
12 include:

13           (1) An expenditure made at the behest of a candidate in connection with a communication  
14 directed to voters or potential voters as part of voter registration activities or activities  
15 encouraging or assisting persons to vote, if the expenditure does not constitute express advocacy.

16           (2) Volunteer personal services or payments made by a person for his or her own travel  
17 expenses, if such payments are made voluntarily without any understanding or agreement that he  
18 or she will be repaid.

19           (3) A payment made by an occupant of a home or office for costs related to any meeting  
20 or fundraising event held in the occupant's home or office, if the total cost of the meeting or  
21 fundraising event is \$500 or less, exclusive of the fair rental value of the premises.

22           (4) A payment made at the behest of a candidate, which is for a communication by the  
23 candidate or any other person, that meets all of the following:

1 (i) Does not contain express advocacy;

2 (ii) Does not make reference to the candidate's candidacy for elective office, the  
3 candidate's election campaign, or the candidate's or his or her opponent's qualifications for  
4 office; and

5 (iii) Does not solicit contributions to the candidate or to third persons for use in support  
6 of the candidate or in opposition to the candidate's opponent.

7 (5) A payment made by a candidate or committee for another candidate to attend the  
8 paying candidate's or committee's fundraiser.

9 (6) A payment made by a candidate for a communication publicizing his or her  
10 endorsement by another candidate, provided that the communication does not expressly advocate  
11 the nomination or election of the endorsing candidate or the defeat of an opponent of the  
12 endorsing candidate.

13 (7) A payment made by a ballot measure committee for a communication in which the  
14 ballot measure supported or opposed by the committee is endorsed or opposed by a candidate,  
15 and the communication does not expressly advocate the nomination or election of the endorsing  
16 candidate or the defeat of an opponent of the endorsing candidate.

17 (8) A payment made by any broadcasting station (including a cable television operator,  
18 programmer or producer), website, or a regularly published newspaper, magazine or other  
19 periodical of general circulation, including any Internet or electronic publication, that routinely  
20 carries news and commentary of general interest, for the cost of covering or carrying a news  
21 story, commentary or editorial.

1 (9) A payment by an organization for its regularly published newsletter or periodical, if  
2 the circulation is limited to the organization's members, employees, shareholders, other affiliated  
3 individuals and those who request or purchase the publication. This exception applies only to the  
4 costs regularly incurred in publication and distribution. Any additional costs incurred are  
5 contributions, including, but not limited to, expanded circulation; substantial alterations in size,  
6 style, or format; or a change in publication schedule, such as a special edition.

7 (10) A payment for a debate or other forum sponsored by a nonpartisan organization in  
8 which at least two candidates appearing on the ballot for the same elective office were invited to  
9 participate.

10 (11) A payment for a debate or other forum in which the proponent of a ballot measure  
11 and at least one opponent, or their respective representatives, were invited to participate in equal  
12 numbers.

13 (12) A payment for a debate or other forum sponsored by a political party or affiliated  
14 committee in which a majority of the candidates for that party's nomination were invited to  
15 participate.

16 (13) A payment made by a bona fide service, social, business, trade, union or professional  
17 organization or group for reasonable overhead expenses associated with the organization's  
18 regularly scheduled meeting at which a candidate or an individual representing either side of a  
19 ballot measure speaks, if the organization pays no additional costs in connection with the  
20 speaker's attendance.

21 (14) A payment received by, directed by, or made at the behest of a candidate for  
22 personal purposes. [NOTE: Such payments may constitute gifts, income, or honoraria, and as

1 such may be limited or prohibited, under other provisions of the Act. See also Regulation  
2 18941.1 regarding payments for food.]

3 (15) A payment made by a candidate for a communication in support of or opposition to a  
4 ballot measure, if the communication features the endorsing candidate or clearly identifies him or  
5 her as the sponsor of the communication. [NOTE: this exception does not include a monetary  
6 contribution from a candidate or his or her controlled committee to a ballot measure committee.]

7 (16) A payment by a sponsoring organization for the establishment and administration of  
8 a sponsored committee, provided such payments are reported. Any monetary payment made  
9 under this subdivision to the sponsored committee shall be made by separate instrument. A  
10 “sponsoring organization” may be any person (see Section 82047) except a candidate or other  
11 individual (see Section 82048.7). “Establishment and administration” means the cost of office  
12 space, phones, salaries, utilities, supplies, legal and accounting fees, and other expenses incurred  
13 in setting up and running a sponsored committee.

14 (17) A payment by a non-partisan organization, that is not affiliated with any candidate,  
15 political party, or committee and has not endorsed or contributed to candidates or measures in the  
16 election, to create and operate a website that posts political information designed to encourage  
17 individuals to vote or to register to vote and presents any candidate or measure-related content in  
18 a nonpartisan manner, giving reasonably equal treatment to candidates for the same office or to  
19 both sides of a measure.

20 (18) Uncompensated Internet activity by an individual supporting or opposing a  
21 candidate or measure as stated in Regulation 18215.2.

1           (d) A contribution made at the behest of a candidate for a different candidate or to a  
2 committee not controlled by the behesting candidate is not a contribution to the behesting  
3 candidate.  
4 Note: Authority cited: Section 83112, Government Code. Reference: Sections 82015 and 85312,  
5 Government Code.