

Chapter 9: Contributions

A contribution is:

- A gift, subscription, conveyance, deposit, loan, payment or distribution of money or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing the results of an election or making an electioneering communication. These include contributions in-kind, having an attributable monetary value in any form;
- A transfer of funds between political committees, between electioneering communications organizations, or between any combination of these groups;
- The payment, by any person other than a candidate, of compensation for the personal services of another person which are rendered to a candidate without charge to the candidate for such services; or
- The transfer of funds by a campaign treasurer or deputy campaign treasurer between a primary depository and a separate interest-bearing account or certificate of deposit. The term includes any interest earned on such account or certificate.

The exceptions are:

- Services provided without compensation by individuals volunteering a portion or all of their time on behalf of a candidate including, but not limited to, legal and accounting services;
- Editorial endorsements.

Note: The law provides no exceptions for reporting contribution information, regardless of the size of the contribution (e.g., the reporting requirements would be the same for a 50 cent contribution as for a \$500 contribution).

(Section [106.011\(5\)](#), F.S.)

Unauthorized Contributions

Any contribution received by a candidate with opposition in an election or by the campaign treasurer or deputy campaign treasurer **on the day of that election or less than five days prior to the day of the election** must be returned to the contributor and may not be used or expended by or on behalf of the candidate.

(Section [106.08\(3\)](#), F.S.)

Anonymous Contributions

When a candidate receives an anonymous contribution it must be reported on the candidate's campaign treasurer's report as an anonymous contribution. A letter should be submitted to the filing officer explaining the circumstances surrounding the acceptance of the anonymous contribution.

The candidate cannot spend the anonymous contribution, but at the end of the campaign can donate the amount to an appropriate entity under Section [106.141](#), F.S.

(Division of Elections Advisory Opinion [89-02](#))