Summary of US Election Costs 1860-2000 and Contribution Limit Data


Democratic and Republican party candidates only. Starting 1976, data include spending by parties on behalf of candidates but not spending by independent groups. Also excluded is non-candidate advertising spending by parties, which is quite large in 1996 and especially 2000.


© 2003 Robert C. Sahr, Political Science Department, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331-6206
e-mail: Robert.Sahr@orst.edu; WWW: http://www.orst.edu/Dept/pol_sci/fac/sahr/sahrhome.html
(note: public funding began 1976)

Starting 1976, data include spending by parties on behalf of candidates but not spending by independent groups. Also excluded is non-candidate advertising spending by parties, which is quite large in 1996 and especially 2000.

Note: "X" in Republican series indicates winner and open diamond in Democratic series indicates winner.

Value Needed to Equal Campaign Contribution Limits of 1974 in Inflation-Adjusted Dollars of Each Year 1974 to 2003

Read this chart as follows: To equal in value the $25,000 per year individual limit set in 1974 would require about $89,000 in the year 2003.
Inflation-adjusted Value of 1974 Campaign Contribution Limits Each Year 1974 to 2003

Read this chart as follows: The $25,000 per year individual limit set in 1974 equals about $7,000 in inflation-adjusted (2002) dollars in the year 2003.