

Coalition for Integrity

The State Campaign Finance Index 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2022 – Today, Coalition for Integrity released the first edition of its *State Campaign Finance Index 2022*. The Index analyzes the laws of 50 states and the District of Columbia relating to the scope, independence, and powers of state agencies which regulate campaign finance, as well as each state’s laws on campaign coordination, campaign contributions, disclosure of those contributions, requirements for transparency of funding of independent expenditures and political advertisements, and the availability of campaign finance information. The Index focuses on laws pertaining to state executive and legislative races. Washington led the country in scoring, ranking No. 1.

How these races are financed and how much transparency is required are key to curbing the influence of money in our political system and enhancing trust that politicians are not representing only wealthy special interests. A state’s score does not necessarily mean its politicians are more or less corrupt than another, but it does reflect the willingness of the state’s politicians to favor special interests and lessen the appearance that politicians are beholden to donors who write the biggest checks.

The 2022 Index demonstrates the wide disparity among state campaign finance laws and the significant deficiencies in regulating the millions of dollars flowing to state level campaigns.

- No state achieved a perfect score, but Washington scored 83.99, California scored 80.95, and Maine scored 80.48.
- 17 states scored below 60.
- South Dakota (45.06), Utah (45.48), and Indiana (38.33) scored at the bottom.
- Nine states (Arizona, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and West Virginia) have no power to sanction violations.
- Agencies in 35 states lack independent authority to enjoin, in any way, violators of campaign finance laws.
- 13 states only have the authority to issue minimal fines of \$25 a day or less for late filing of campaign reports.
- For fines with respect to other substantive violations, 27 states either have no authority to impose fines, can only impose fines for one or two kinds of violations or can impose only minimal fines.
- 18 states do not statutorily protect the members of their campaign finance agency from removal without cause.
- Five states – Virginia, Alabama, Oregon, Utah, and Nebraska – have no contribution limits from any source.
- 16 states have no limits on individual contributions or allow individuals to contribute more than \$10,000 per election.
- The majority of states (28) have no limits on individual or PAC contributions to a state political party or permit individuals and PACs to contribute in excess of \$36,500.



1100 13th Street, N.W.
8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Tel: 202-589-1616
EMAIL: administration@coalitionforintegrity.org
WEBSITE: www.coalitionforintegrity.org

Coalition for Integrity

- On campaign coordination, 19 states have detailed rules defining the types of conduct and campaign spending that count as coordination. Only nine states authorize the creation of firewalls as a means to prevent coordination.
- South Carolina and Indiana do not require independent spenders to report any information about their contributors.
- Georgia is the only state that does not require the disclosure of payors of political advertisements across any media – print, television/radio, and the Internet.

Shruti Shah, President and CEO of the Coalition, commented that “The State Campaign Finance Index 2022 showcases the wide variation in state campaign finance laws across the country and highlights gaps that continue to exist. We hope that our index will enable constituents to demand commitment from public officials to address the shortcomings of their state’s campaign finance laws.”

Notes to Editors:

1. The State Campaign Finance Index 2022 report can be found [here](#).
2. The State Campaign Finance Index 2022 map, scoring chart, scoring rubric, state rankings, our findings, analysis, and individual state reports can be found [here](#).
3. [Coalition for Integrity](#) is a non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization. We work in coalition with a wide range of individuals and organizations to combat corruption and promote integrity in the public and private sectors.
4. To learn more about the Coalition for Integrity’s recent projects, our Year in Review 2021-2022 animated video can be found [here](#).

Press Contact:

Shruti Shah
President & CEO
Coalition for Integrity
Email: sshah@coalitionforintegrity.org



1100 13th Street, N.W.,
8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Tel: 202-589-1616
EMAIL: administration@coalitionforintegrity.org
WEBSITE: www.coalitionforintegrity.org