
Before a candidate for statewide judicial office, court of appeals, district court, statutory county court at law, or statutory probate court may accept political contributions or make political expenditures in connection with an election, the candidate must file either a sworn declaration of compliance with the expenditure limits of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act or a declaration of intent to exceed those limits. Elec. Code § 253.164

EXPENDITURE LIMITS

Applicable for each election in which the candidate is involved. Elec. Code § 253.168.

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| 1. | Statewide Judicial Office | \$2 million |
| 2. | Court of Appeals | |
| | a. judicial district population over one million | \$500,000 |
| | b. judicial district population one million or less | \$350,000 |
| 3. | Other Judicial Office | |
| | a. judicial district population over one million | \$350,000 |
| | b. judicial district population 250,000 to one million | \$200,000 |
| | c. judicial district population less than 250,000 | \$100,000 |

If a candidate files a declaration of intent to exceed the expenditure limits, the candidate is a "non-complying" candidate. As a consequence, the Texas Ethics Commission must order the suspension of the limits on contributions, reimbursement of personal funds, and expenditures for all "complying" candidates for the office. Additionally, all political advertising by a noncomplying candidate or a specific-purpose committee for supporting such a candidate must include this statement:

Political advertising paid for by [name of candidate or committee],
[who or which] has rejected the voluntary limits of the Judicial Campaign
Fairness Act.

Elec. Code §§ 253.165, 255.008.
