Chapter 4
Contributions

This chapter begins with a definition of "contribution" and provides guidelines necessary for proper reporting, including a discussion on valuing nonmonetary contributions. For information on state contribution limits, see Chapter 2.

What is a Contribution?
A "contribution" is a monetary or nonmonetary payment made to or received by a candidate or committee for which the recipient has not provided full and adequate consideration in return. A contribution may take any of the following forms:

- Money (cash, check, credit card, wire transfers);
- Funds collected through payroll deduction or membership dues that are earmarked or allocated for the purpose of making contributions to state or local candidates or committees;
- Nonmonetary items (donated goods or services);
- Payments made at the behest of a candidate or committee for advertising or other communications (see Chapter 5);
- Loans (including loan guarantees, co-signing, and lines of credit); and
- Enforceable promises (for example, a contributor promises, in writing, to pay for specific goods or services and, based on that written promise, the committee expends funds or enters into a legally-enforceable contract to purchase the goods or services).

Each type of contribution is reported differently. In fact, when a contribution is received or made is determined in part by what type of contribution it is.

Generally, a monetary contribution is received on the date that the committee or an agent of the committee obtains possession or control of the cash, check, or other item that constitutes the contribution. (See Chapter 3 for detailed information about when a monetary contribution is received.)

Examples

John Burns, the campaign consultant for Citizens for Cleaner Air, received a hand-delivered check at a May 14, Friday evening fundraiser for Citizens. John did not give the check to the committee's treasurer for deposit until the following Monday, May 17. The contribution was received on May 14, the day the committee's agent obtained possession of the check.

Citizens for Cleaner Air also contracts with a website service to receive contributions over the Internet. The website service sends the committee's treasurer an email each time a contributor logs on to the website service and enters his or her donor information and credit card number. Logging onto the website service, the treasurer can accept the contribution and receive the funds. The committee reports receipt of the contribution on the date it receives the email from the website service because it controls the contribution on that date.

A monetary contribution is made on the date the contribution is mailed, delivered, or otherwise transmitted to the candidate or committee. The date of the check or other negotiable instrument by which a contribution is made may be used instead of the date of mailing, delivery, or other transmission, as long as the date on the check is no later than the date of mailing, delivery, or other transmission.
A **nonmonetary** contribution is made by the contributor and received by a candidate or committee on the **earlier** of the following:

- The date funds were expended by the contributor for the goods or services;
- The date the recipient or an agent of the recipient obtained possession or control of the goods or services; or
- The date the recipient received the benefit of the expenditure.

An **enforceable promise** is made by the contributor and received by a candidate or committee on the date the candidate or committee or an agent of the candidate or committee is provided documents verifying that the contributor has made a legally-enforceable promise to pay for goods or services. A pledge card is not considered an enforceable promise to make a contribution. “Enforceable promise” also does not include a contributor’s agreement to make future installment payments through wire transfer, credit card transaction, debit account transaction, or similar electronic payment.

When an agent of a committee, such as a professional fundraiser, receives a contribution for the committee, the treasurer must be notified by the agent no later than the closing date of the next campaign statement due.

**Exceptions**

There are many exceptions to the definition of “contribution” that are contained in the Act and FPPC regulations. Exceptions for certain types of political communications are discussed in detail in Chapter 5. Some of the most common exceptions include:

**Volunteer Personal Services**

If an individual donates his or her personal or professional services to a committee, no contribution has been made or received.

However, if an employer donates employee services to a committee, and any employee spends more than 10% of his or her compensated time in a calendar month providing the services, the employer has made a nonmonetary contribution to the committee.

**Home/Office Fundraisers**

If someone holds a fundraiser or other campaign event for a candidate or committee in his or her home or office, the costs incurred by the occupant of the home or office need not be reported as long as the total cost of the event is $500 or less. However, if someone else donates food, beverages, or anything else of value to the event, the fair market value of those donated goods is a nonmonetary contribution and must be counted to determine if the cost of the event is $500 or less.

**Example** Jaleel Baker holds a fundraiser in his home for your committee. He spends $250 on decorations, food, and drinks for the event. His neighbor, Sheila Mkemo, brings some door prizes with a fair market value of $50. Since the total cost of the event is under $500, Jaleel’s $250 is not reportable. However, since Sheila is not the occupant of the home, her nonmonetary contribution of $50 is reportable.

**Example** Shannon Priestly sponsors an event after work in her business’ downtown office to raise contributions for the committee sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce. Shannon spends $450 to have the event catered. Jason Cameron, who has a flower shop in the building next door, supplies a centerpiece worth $125. Since the total cost of the event exceeds $500, both Shannon’s contribution of $450 and Jason’s $125 flower arrangement are reportable by the Chamber’s committee.
Member Communications
Payments made by an organization (including a political party) for certain communications that are sent only to the organization’s members, employees, or shareholders, or their families, are not contributions to a candidate or committee. Chapter 5 contains detailed information and examples of member communications and Chapters 8 and 9 review the reporting requirements when payments for member communications are made by a recipient committee.

Administrative Expenses of Sponsors
A committee’s sponsoring organization may pay for the “establishment and administration” of the committee without counting those payments as contributions to the committee. (See Chapter 1 for the definition of “sponsored committee.”)

“Establishment and administration” of a sponsored committee means the cost of office space, phones, salaries, utilities, supplies, legal and accounting fees, and other expenses incurred in setting up and running a sponsored committee. Although these costs are not contributions from the sponsor to the committee, the committee reports them on Schedule C (Nonmonetary Contributions Received) of its campaign disclosure report (Form 460). The amount paid by the sponsor during the reporting period is disclosed in the “Description of Payment” column on Schedule C, with zeroes in the “Amount” columns.

Example
Members of the Firefighters Local 524 formed a political action committee and earmarked a portion of their union dues for political contributions to support candidates and ballot measures. Local 524 provides the administrative services for the committee which includes the general routine costs of preparing campaign reports; depositing the contributions; balancing bank statements; and following up on incomplete contributor information. The committee discloses the earmarked dues payments as monetary contributions from the members on Schedule A of its campaign reports. The administrative expenses described above are reported in the “Description of Goods or Services” column on Schedule C of its campaign reports.

Other costs paid by a sponsoring organization are contributions to the committee, such as the cost of raising funds for the committee, and are subject to regular reporting and to contribution limits for committees that make contributions to state candidates. (See Chapter 2.)

In addition, if the sponsoring organization provides services to a candidate or a committee other than its sponsored committee, those payments are contributions to the candidate or committee, which must be reported by the sponsoring organization. The sponsoring organization may file its own reports to disclose the contributions or, in most circumstances, the contributions may be disclosed on the sponsored committee’s campaign statements.

Restrictions
There are restrictions on the receipt of contributions.

• Contributions received by committees that make contributions to support or oppose state candidates are subject to contribution limits. (See Chapter 2.)

• Contributions of $100 or more must be made by written instrument and may not be made or received in cash. (See Chapter 10.)

• Contributions of $100 or more must be returned if the contributor’s name, street address, occupation, and employer are
not obtained within 60 days of receipt of the contribution. (See Chapter 3.)

- Contributions to state candidates are subject to limits. (See Chapter 2.)

## Receiving Contributions
### Aggregating Contributions from Affiliated Entities
Contributions made by certain combinations of individuals and entities must be added together to determine the total amount that will be treated as received from a single contributor.

The following are aggregated:

- Contributions made from the personal funds of an individual and contributions made by any entity the individual directs and controls.
- Contributions made by two or more entities if a majority of the same persons directs and controls the contributions of each entity.
- Contributions made by entities that are majority owned by any person and the contributions of the majority owner and all other entities majority owned by that person, unless those entities act independently in their decisions to make contributions.

The term “person” includes an individual, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate, business trust, company, corporation, limited liability company, and association.

“Majority owned” means an ownership of more than 50 percent.

The following are basic examples to provide general guidance regarding aggregation of contributions. Every case is unique. If these examples are not helpful, contact the FPPC for advice.

**The Global Corporation has a board of directors and the Corporation has a sponsored general purpose recipient committee with a separate board of directors. (No one director serves on both boards.) Global Corporation may make the maximum contribution to an Assembly candidate for the primary election and the sponsored PAC may also make the maximum contribution to the same candidate for the primary election.**

A union has two committees; a small contributor committee and another committee that makes contributions to state candidates. The contributions of both committees are approved by a single board of directors. If the small contributor committee contributes the maximum amount allowed to a Lt. Governor candidate’s general election, the other committee may not make a contribution to the candidate for the same election.

Sally Perez Jones contributed $98 from her personal funds and another $98 from the funds of her business, Flowers by Sally, to the Committee to Advance Public Education. Because contributions from an individual and his or her business, or from any other account he or she directs and controls, are considered from a single contributor, the committee must itemize both contributions and report a cumulative amount received of $196 on its campaign statement.

EXtream Snowboards, Inc. made a contribution of $99 to the Committee to Advance Public Education. EXtream Snowboards, Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of LeesureTech Industries, which made a contribution of $99 to the committee.

Because there was coordination between EXtream Snowboards and LeesureTech Industries, their contributions are considered to be from a single contributor. The committee must itemize both contributions and report a cumulative amount received of $198 on its campaign statement.
William Dutch is a developer with four separate corporations. William makes political contributions from his personal funds and directs and controls the contributions of each of his corporations. William made a contribution of $2,000 from his personal funds and contributions of $1,000 from the funds of each of his corporations to the Committee to Advance Public Education. Because William directed and controlled all of these contributions, they are considered to have been made by a single contributor. The committee must itemize each contribution and show a cumulative amount received of $6,000. If the committee makes contributions to state candidates, the contributions from William and his corporations must be aggregated for purposes of the contribution limit as well.

Southwest TeleCom has a greater than 50% ownership interest in American TeleCom. Each entity, entirely on its own, and with separate decisionmaking bodies, makes a contribution of $1,000 to the Committee to Advance Public Education. The committee does not aggregate these contributions because Southwest TeleCom and American TeleCom acted completely independently in their decisions to make the contributions.

Credit Card, Electronic, and Other Types of Contributions

Contributions may be made or received by credit card, wire transfer, debit account transaction, or similar electronic payment options (including contributions received via the Internet or telephone). All of the reporting and recordkeeping requirements apply to these contributions. (See Chapter 3.) Some tips are:

- The entire amount charged to the contributor is reported as a contribution.
- Fees associated with this type of fundraising or deducted by the vendor before the contributions are sent to the committee are reported as expenditures; the fees are not deducted from the amount of each contribution reported.

Fundraisers

The full amount (face value) of a ticket to a committee fundraiser is a reportable contribution.

Example

Your committee holds a fundraiser and charges $100 per person. After the event, you determine that your committee spent $25 per person to pay for the caterer, hall rental, entertainment, invitations, etc. Report on Schedule A of the Form 460 each contributor’s name, address, and if applicable, occupation and employer and the full $100 per ticket contribution. Do not subtract $25 from each ticket sold.

Exception. If your committee provides a single ticket to a public official for his or her own use, and the event is held in California, the ticket has no value.

Auctions and Garage Sales

When items are donated for auction or sale at a fundraiser, the donated item is a nonmonetary contribution. (See below for determining the value.) When someone buys an item, the payment is usually considered a “Miscellaneous Increase to Cash” and is reported as such. (See Chapter 8.) If any one person pays $100 or more, the payment is itemized.

However, when someone pays more for an item than it is worth, the amount that is equal to the fair market value is reported as a miscellaneous increase to cash and the amount over the fair market value as a
monetary contribution. Each is itemized at $100.

**Example** Andy Foster owns an electronics store and donates a TV worth $500 to your committee. At your committee’s auction, Gloria Fernandes bids $600 for the TV. Itemize $500 as a nonmonetary contribution from Andy’s store. Then, itemize $500, that part of Gloria’s payment that is the fair market value of the TV, as a miscellaneous increase to cash. Also itemize $100, the amount over the fair market value, as a monetary contribution from Gloria.

**Bar Receipts**
Funds received by selling drinks at a fundraiser at fair market value are reported as miscellaneous increases to cash, not contributions.

**Raffle Tickets**
Receipts from the sale of raffle tickets at a fundraiser are reported as contributions. Items donated for raffle prizes are reported as nonmonetary contributions. (Note that Penal Code section 319 imposes some restrictions on raffles. Contact your county’s district attorney for further information.)

**Intermediary**
An intermediary is a person or entity that makes a contribution on behalf of another person and has been or will be reimbursed for the contribution. For each contribution of $100 or more from an intermediary, the name, street address, and, if applicable, the occupation and employer information must be disclosed for both the true source of the contribution and the intermediary.

**Example** Berry Barr and Vienna Waltz each made a $100 contribution from their personal funds to support the Committee to Advance Public Education, with the understanding that they would be reimbursed by their employer, the Music Company. Berry and Vienna must tell the committee that they are acting as intermediaries on behalf of their employer, the Music Company. The committee must itemize the $200 contribution from the Music Company, and also itemize Berry Barr and Vienna Waltz as intermediaries of $100 each on its campaign statement.

Failure to disclose the true source of a contribution is considered one of the most serious violations of the Political Reform Act.

**Examples** The California Automobile Insurers Association’s (CAIA) sponsored general purpose committee received a $5,000 check from one of its members. The member asked the committee treasurer to contribute the funds to the Yes on Proposition 42 Committee. The CAIA committee treasurer did not inform the ballot measure committee that the member was the true source of the funds. The CAIA committee has violated the Political Reform Act.

The Playa del Sol Stockbrokers Emporium asked its employees to support a local ballot measure by making contributions to the California Water Conservation Committee. Three employees wrote personal checks for $100 each payable to the committee. The checks were transmitted to the committee by the Emporium. Because the Emporium merely transmitted the employee’s checks, it was not acting as an intermediary. The treasurer for the committee will simply itemize each employee’s contribution on the Form 460.

Committees are required to check, and, if necessary, inquire about and correct any information regarding the true source of a contribution that a person of reasonable prudence would question based on all of the
surrounding circumstances. If there is reason to question the source of a contribution, e.g., if there is reason to believe the information contained on the contribution check does not contain the name of the person who is actually making the contribution, the donor should be asked if he or she is acting as an intermediary for the true source of the contribution.

Checking Accounts

Joint Checking Accounts

Individuals (including spouses) may make separate contributions from a joint checking account. For reporting purposes, the full amount of the contribution is reported as coming from the individual who signs the check. If two or more individuals sign the check, the contribution is divided equally between or among the signers, unless there is an accompanying document signed by each individual whose name is printed on the check that clearly indicates a different apportionment.

Example: Linda and Jerry Nelson have a joint checking account. From this account, Linda signed a $100 check payable to Californians Against Drug Abuse. The committee identifies Linda Nelson as the contributor of the full $100.

A check drawn on a joint checking account that is signed by an individual not listed on the check (e.g., an accountant) must be accompanied by a document signed by at least one of the individuals listed on the check stating to whom the check is to be attributed.

Business Accounts

Generally, if a check is drawn on the account of a business entity, the contributor is the business entity, not the person who signs the check.

Minor Children

A contribution made by a child under the age of 18 is presumed to be a contribution from his or her parent or guardian, unless the facts show that the child actually chose to make the contribution.

$5,000 Notification to Potential “Major Donors”

Candidates and committees that receive one or more contributions totaling $5,000 or more in a calendar year from an individual or entity that made the contribution(s) from personal, business, or corporate funds must send the contributor written notice that they may need to file a campaign statement if their contributions to state and local candidates and committees total $10,000 or more in a calendar year. The notice may be tailored as long as it contains language substantially similar to the language below:

If your contribution(s) to this committee and to other California state or local committees total(s) $10,000 or more in a calendar year, California law requires you to file a Major Donor Committee Campaign Statement (Form 461). The deadline and location for filing this statement will depend upon the timing and type of contribution(s) you have made. In addition, once you become a major donor, you are required to file a late contribution report within 24 hours if you make contributions totaling $1,000 or more to a single candidate, his or her controlled committee, or to a committee primarily formed to support or oppose a candidate or ballot measure during the 16 days before the election in which the candidate or measure is being voted upon or make contributions totaling $1,000 or more to a state or county political party committee during the 16 days prior to a state election.
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Failure to file campaign statements may result in late filing penalties ($10/day) and fines (up to $5,000/violation). For more information, contact the Fair Political Practices Commission toll free at (866) 275-3772 or refer to their website: www.fppc.ca.gov.

Additionally, if you make contributions of $50,000 or more in a calendar year in California and some or all of those contributions are to state candidates, committees, or ballot measures, you are required to file your Form 461 electronically with the Secretary of State. For more information on the electronic filing requirements, contact the Secretary of State’s Office at (916) 653-6224.

The notice is not required if the source of the contribution is an existing committee, because it already is required to file campaign statements.

The notice must be mailed, faxed, or emailed to the contributor within two weeks of receipt of the $5,000 contribution(s). No further notices are required for subsequent contributions received from the same contributor within the same calendar year.

A copy of each notice or a record of all notices showing the date mailed, faxed, or emailed, and the name and address of the person receiving the notice must be retained.

Valuing Nonmonetary Contributions

This section provides assistance in determining how to value nonmonetary contributions so that they may be reported accurately. The varieties of nonmonetary contributions are vast, so not all possibilities are presented. Contact the FPPC for assistance.

Fair Market Value

When a nonmonetary contribution is made or received, the fair market value of the goods or services must be reported.

Example

The owner of a winery donates $500 worth of wine for your committee fundraiser. Although the wine costs the store owner less than $500, the fair market value of the wine (the amount it would cost any member of the public to purchase the wine) is $500. Therefore, the nonmonetary contribution from the winery is $500.

If employee time is donated to a campaign, the amount the individual is paid for working on the campaign is reportable only if the employee spends more than 10% of his or her compensated time in a calendar month working on the campaign.

Example

Your committee donates the services of one of its employees to a ballot measure committee during the last month of the campaign. The employee spends 25% of her time working for the campaign, for which her gross compensation is $2,500. The amount of the contribution from your committee, therefore, is $2,500.

However, if the employee used vacation or other noncompensated time to volunteer her services to the ballot measure campaign, neither committee would be required to report the employee’s time as a nonmonetary contribution.

If a committee receives discounts on goods or services it purchases and the discounts are not offered to the public in the regular course of business, the discount is a nonmonetary contribution that must be reported.
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Your committee treasurer knows the owner of Janns’ Printing Shop and gets the owner to give your committee a 50% discount on the printing of a fundraising invitation that normally would cost $1,200. Your committee has received a nonmonetary contribution of $600 from Janns’ Printing Shop.

If a committee does not know the fair market value of a nonmonetary contribution it has received, such as an original piece of artwork, the committee may send a letter requesting that the contributor provide the value of the contribution in writing. The contributor is legally obligated to provide an amount if the value of the contribution is $100 or more.

During the late contribution period before an election (see Chapter 9), a committee that makes a nonmonetary contribution of $1,000 or more to a candidate being voted on or to a primarily formed committee must notify the recipient of the value of the contribution within 24 hours. The notification must be made by personal delivery, fax, or guaranteed overnight mail.

Mailings
Generally, the fair market value of a mailing is reported as a contribution when the mailing expressly advocates support of or opposition to a candidate or ballot measure and was made at the behest of the affected candidate or a committee primarily formed to support or oppose the measure. (See Chapter 5 for the definition of “at the behest.”)

The Service Workers Union produces and sends mailing for a candidate for city council. Although the union has its own print shop and receives paper at a discounted rate, the value of the nonmonetary contribution is the amount it would have cost the candidate to pay fair market value for the mailing.

Multiple Candidates/Measures: If a mailer expresses support of or opposition to more than one ballot measure or candidate, the fair market value attributable to each may be calculated by prorating the costs among the featured candidates and ballot measures. The prorated value is based on the amount of space allotted to each candidate or measure supported or opposed in the mailer.

The Weston Chamber of Commerce PAC produces and mails a one-page flyer urging voters to vote for Proposition 310 and to vote for two statewide candidates. Half of the flyer is devoted to supporting Proposition 310 and the other half equally supports the candidates. The PAC coordinates the mailing with the committee primarily formed to support Proposition 310, but does not coordinate with either candidate’s committee. The total cost of producing and mailing the flyer is $14,000. The PAC has made a nonmonetary contribution to the committee supporting Proposition 310 valued at $7,000, and has made independent expenditures of $3,500 apiece supporting the two candidates.

The value of a mailer that supports or opposes candidates and measures being voted on in different jurisdictions may be prorated based on the number of mailers sent to each candidate’s or ballot measure’s jurisdiction.

Political and Non-Political Material: The cost of a mailing containing both express advocacy in support of or opposition to a candidate or ballot measure and other nonpolitical material can be prorated. Costs directly associated with the political message are reportable as nonmonetary contributions, including, for example, compensation paid to
employees who spend more than 10% of their compensated time in a calendar month producing or mailing the political materials, and the pro rata cost of paper, envelopes, and postage. The allocation may be based on the additional weight of the political material or the comparative number of pages as between the political and non-political material.

Member Communications: Payments made by an organization or its sponsored committee for a communication that supports or opposes a candidate or ballot measure are not contributions or expenditures as long as the communication is made only to the organization’s members, employees, or shareholders, or the families of its members, employees, or shareholders. The communication may not be for general public advertising, such as billboards, newspaper ads, or radio or television ads. Payments made by a recipient committee for member communications must be disclosed as regular expenditures on the committee’s campaign disclosure statements (Form 450 or 460).

Bulk Rate Permits: Except for the use of a nonprofit sponsor’s bulk rate by its sponsored committee, use of another organization’s bulk rate permit is a nonmonetary contribution from the organization. If the candidate or committee using the permit pays the actual postage costs incurred, the fair market value of the contribution is either:

- The price the organization paid for the bulk mailing permit; or
- The difference in postage costs between the bulk mailing rate and that of regular mail.

If the organization pays for the costs of the mailing using its bulk rate permit, and the candidate or committee does not have such a permit, the amount it would have cost to pay for the mailing using regular mail or the cost of the bulk rate mailing plus the cost of a permit should be reported as a nonmonetary contribution.

A sponsored committee’s use of its sponsor’s nonprofit postal permit is not a contribution from the sponsor to the committee, since the committee could obtain the same permit at no cost. (See Chapter 1 for the definition of “sponsored committee.”)

Phone Banks
Businesses and other entities will sometimes allow a committee to use their phones to call prospective voters during non-business hours. The fair market value of the use of the phones is calculated to determine the amount reported as a nonmonetary contribution, even if only local calls are made. One method to determine the fair market value is to contact organizations that provide phone banks as a business.

Polls and Surveys
A person or entity that provides data from a public opinion poll or survey to a candidate or committee is making a nonmonetary contribution if the candidate or committee requests the data or the data are used for political purposes. FPPC staff has advised that a formula utilized by the Federal Election Commission (11 CFR 106.4) may be used for valuing polling or survey data, as long as the formula is used in a reasonable manner to provide a fair estimate. The formula calculates the value based on the age of the data. The chart below illustrates the fair market value of data based on the number of days that pass from the date the entity originally received the data to the date the data were provided to the candidate or committee.
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**Age of Data**

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<td>0 - 15 days</td>
<td>Full Value</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 - 60 days</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61 - 180 days</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than 180 days</td>
<td>No Value</td>
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When only a portion of a survey is provided to or for the benefit of a candidate or committee, the nonmonetary contribution is the prorated portion of the total value of the survey.

**Returning Contributions**

There are several provisions in the Act and FPPC regulations that regulate the return of contributions.

**Reporting**

A contribution is not required to be reported if it is not deposited, cashed, or negotiated and it is returned to the contributor before the closing date of the campaign statement on which it would otherwise be reported. A “late contribution” (a contribution of $1,000 or more received by a candidate or ballot measure committee during the last 16 days before the candidate or measure’s election, or by a political party committee during the last 16 days before a state election) is not required to be reported if it is not deposited, cashed, or negotiated and it is returned within 24 hours of receipt. Once a contribution is deposited, cashed, or negotiated, it must be disclosed on the next campaign statement, even if it is subsequently returned. (See Chapter 8 for detailed information on reporting returned contributions.)

**Contributions that Exceed the Limits**

Contributions that exceed the contribution limits are not considered accepted if they are not deposited into the committee’s bank account and are returned within 14 days of receipt. For nonmonetary contributions, either the item itself, its monetary value, or the monetary amount by which the value of the nonmonetary contribution exceeds the limits must be returned within 14 days of receipt. Contributions that exceed the contribution limits may, under certain circumstances, be deposited into a general purpose committee’s “restricted use” account. (See Chapter 2.)

**Missing Contributor Information**

A contribution of $100 or more must be returned within 60 days of receipt if the committee has not obtained the contributor’s name, street address, and, in the case of a contributor who is an individual, his or her occupation and employer. (See Chapter 3.)

**General Rule**

A committee may return contributions to its contributors as long as the return is reasonably related to a political, legislative, or governmental purpose.

**Authority**

The following Government Code sections and Title 2 regulations provide authority for the information in this chapter:

**Government Codes Sections**

- 82015 Contribution.
- 82018 Cumulative Amount.
- 82025 Expenditure.
- 82025.5 Fair Market Value.
- 82027.5 General Purpose Committee.
- 82041.5 Mass Mailing.
- 82043 Measure.
- 82047 Person.
- 84104 Recordkeeping.
- 84105 Notification of Contributors.
- 84211 Contents of Campaign Statements.
- 84216 Loans.
- 84300 Cash and In-Kind Contributions; Cash Expenditures.
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<td>Contributions by Intermediary or Agent.</td>
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<td>84306</td>
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<td>Communications to Members of an Organization.</td>
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<td>85319</td>
<td>Returning Contributions.</td>
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<td>85700</td>
<td>Donor Information Requirements; Return of Contributions.</td>
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### Title 2 Regulations

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<td>18531.7</td>
<td>Payments for Communications – Section 85312.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18533</td>
<td>Contributions from Joint Checking Accounts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18534</td>
<td>Required Committee Bank Accounts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18570</td>
<td>Return of Contributions with Insufficient Donor Information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18946.4</td>
<td>Reporting and Valuation of Gifts: Tickets to Nonprofit and Political Fundraisers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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