

# Campaign Finance Guidelines for Hosting Swing Left Fundraisers

This document is taken from our full fundraising guide. [Check out the full guide](#) to learn more, or view this [compliance chart](#) for additional details.

Hosting a political fundraiser can seem pretty daunting, but it's actually quite simple and one of the most impactful ways to help flip the White House, the Senate, and the State Houses key to rolling back Republican gerrymandering. To help you navigate the rules the Federal Election Commission and state election agencies have put forth, our team has put together this guide.

## Who Can (and Can't) Give

Who can (and can't) give to campaigns is standard across federal and state legislative campaigns.

**Any individual** can be involved in your fundraiser, either as a host or attendee, **as long as they're a U.S. citizen or green card holder**. Individuals must give their own money. No borrowing or giving in someone else's name.

**Meanwhile, the rule around who can't support your event is pretty simple:** Corporations, unions, LLCs taxed as corporations, federal contractors, and non-citizens/green card holders can't buy tickets or give to your fundraiser, either directly or through in-kind contributions.

If you're ever unsure which bucket a person or organization falls into, just ask them! That's the best way to keep your event running smoothly and above board.

Only accept monetary contributions through your [custom fundraising page](#) or through this [check form](#). It is prohibited to accept contributions in the form of cash or other cash transfer applications (e.g. venmo).

## What They Can Give

The rules we've talked about so far are standard for giving across all state and federal races in Swing Left's Super States. However, it's a bit more complex when it comes to how much an individual can give to a Swing Left fund. To find out how much an individual can give to the Fund you are fundraising for, [check out this chart](#).

## In-kind donations (gifts of stuff)

**An in-kind donation** is a contribution of anything that isn't money, including services, space rental, and food and drinks. Even if someone LOVES your cause, you can't accept anything for free or at a discount that also isn't normally provided for free or at a discount to other nonprofits without writing it off as an in-kind donation—and depending on who's offering, that may not be allowed.

**All the rules that apply to giving money apply to in-kind donations too**, including contribution limits. An individual who gives \$1,100 in cash and \$1,700 in in-kind donations to a federal Swing Left fund has maxed out for the election cycle for this particular district.

**You'll need to fill out this [in-kind form](#)** any time you get an in-kind donation, and send it to our awesomely helpful team of progressive lawyers within a week of receiving the contribution.

## Expenses

Please make sure that total expenses for your fundraising event do not exceed \$1k. Any individual or group that spends more than \$1k on federal election activities may be required to register as a PAC with the FEC.

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