

[Question 4: What Kind of Gift Is It, and Do Special Rules Apply as a Result?](#)

Campaign Contributions

Technically, campaign contributions fit within the definition of a gift (something received but not paid for). As such, they would be subject to the limitations on gifts were it not for a special exemption.¹ The exemption recognizes that those that receive campaign contributions must disclose such contributions under other provisions of the [Political Reform Act](#).²

Campaign contributions, including rebates or discounts received in connection with campaign activities, are not subject to the limitations on gifts.³ However, campaign contributions must be reported in accordance with the law governing campaign disclosure.⁴

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Although the Institute tries to help local officials understand laws that apply to their public service, these materials are not legal advice. Attorneys can and do disagree on the best interpretation of the law in any given area. In addition, the law can and does change over time. Officials are encouraged to consult with an attorney or relevant regulatory authorities for up-to-date information and advice on specific situations.

As the acknowledgements section indicates, the Institute's work reflects input from a variety of sources. The Institute welcomes feedback and suggestions for improving this resource:

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¹ See Cal. Gov't Code § 82028.

² See Cal. Gov't Code § 84100 and following; 2 Cal. Code Regs. § 18401 and following.

³ Cal. Gov't Code § 82028(b)(4); 2 Cal. Code Regs. § 18942(a)(4); Fair Political Practices Commission, *Limitations and Restrictions on Gifts, Honoraria, Travel and Loans*, Feb. 2010, at p. 3-4.

⁴ *Id.*