

Ohio Tax Credit

How you can benefit from contributing to a campaign

Ohio Tax Credit

Since 1995, you can claim a credit against your (State income) tax for contributions of money made during the year to the campaign committee of candidates for state representative. This credit is a way you can be part of the best special interest in Ohio, the citizens. Your participation in the political process can be looked upon as a loan to a candidate you support.

What is the Ohio Tax Credit and how do I use it?

Since 1995, Ohioans are eligible to take a credit on their Ohio tax return for a contribution for state candidates. Up to \$50 for as single (or married filing separately) return and up to \$100 for a joint return.

If you contribute to a state candidate campaign, your state taxes can be reduced, dollar for dollar, by as much as \$100, or your refund can be increased by as much as \$100. You must file an Ohio long form IT-1040 (see example) in order to claim the credit.

Does the tax credit apply to contributions to PACs?

No. The tax credit is only valid for contributions to state candidates and not PACs.

What is the difference between a credit and a deduction?

A credit is a dollar reduction in your Ohio tax. A deduction reduces your taxable income. A credit is more valuable in that it directly reduces your tax. Remember, you do not have to itemize your federal return in order to claim this Ohio tax credit.

What if I've already given to another candidate?

The Ohio tax credit only applies to contributions given to the Ohio House of Representatives, Ohio Senate, Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court, Ohio Board of Education, Ohio Attorney General, Ohio Treasurer of State, Ohio Auditor of State, Ohio Secretary of State, Ohio Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Contributions to the President, candidates for Congress, County commissioner, county judge, mayor or any other local office are not eligible.

Can I carry my tax credit over to next year?

No. If you do not use it in the year you make your contribution you lose the credit!

What if I'm getting a refund?

You will get a refund, but the money you get back will be increased by the amount of the credit.

Ohio Revised Code

"Political Contributions Credit (R.C. 5747.29): A taxpayer may claim a credit for contributions made to political campaign committees of candidates for statewide office or the General Assembly. The credit is the lesser of the amount contributed or \$50 for an individual return or \$100 for a joint return."



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