

Elections and Facts

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Fact

- a thing done
- the quality of being actual
- something that has actual existence
- an actual occurrence
- a piece of information presented as having objective reality

Verification guide

- Does it make sense?
- Check background
- Use forensic sites
- Check fact checking sites
- Multiple sources

What to ask of fact checkers

Some basic online questions:

- Who is producing the information?
- When was it produced? Is it out of date?
- Who is paying for it?
- Do they link to original documents?
- Do they talk about methodology?

Fact checking sites

Politifact

- <http://www.politifact.com/>

Factcheck

- <http://www.factcheck.org/>

- New York Times

http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/us/elections/fact-check.html?_r=0

Fact checking sites

NPR

- <http://www.npr.org/2016/09/26/495115346/fact-check-first-presidential-debate>

Research Clinic

- <http://researchclinic.net/>

Snopes

- <http://www.snopes.com/>

Government Web sites for campaign disclosure

- Federal Election Commission

<http://www.fec.gov/pindex.shtml>

- Center for Responsive Politics – better for searching FEC data

<https://www.opensecrets.org/>

- Illinois Campaign Disclosure Guide

<http://www.elections.il.gov/downloads/campaigndisclosure/pdf/campdiscguide.pdf>

Government Web sites for campaign disclosure

- Illinois Campaign Disclosure Guide

<http://www.elections.il.gov/downloads/campaigndisclosure/pdf/campdiscguide.pdf>

- Illinois State Election Board

<http://www.elections.il.gov/>

Campaign Finance Un-Reform

Slate article on Supreme Court

http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/politics/2012/03/the_supreme_court_s_citizens_united_decision_has_led_to_an_explosion_of_campaign_spending.html

Mother Jones on Dark Money

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2012/06/history-money-american-elections>

Polling

Nate Silver's 538 Statistical

<http://fivethirtyeight.com/>

Pew Research Center

<http://www.pewresearch.org/>

What's the Matter with Polling

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/21/opinion/sunday/whats-the-matter-with-polling.html>

Real Clear Politics - Aggregation

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/latest_polls/elections/

More polling and web sites for Illinois candidates

- Paul Simon Institute polling

<http://paulsimoninstitute.siu.edu/>

- Elections analytics at Illinois

<http://electionanalytics.cs.illinois.edu/index.php>

- Champaign County Clerk

<http://champaigncountyclerk.com/elections/candidates.php>

- Illinois State Board of Elections

<http://www.elections.il.gov/infoforcandidates.aspx>

State Contribution Limits

For the past decade, Illinois has been one of just six states that did not limit contributions to candidates. Earlier in 2009, New Mexico enacted limits, bringing that number down to five. With the passage of SB 1466 in Illinois, just four states remain without limits on contributions.

- <http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/illinois-enacts-campaign-contribution-limits.aspx>

Sample of contribution Limits

- **Limits on Contributions to Candidates**
- \$5,000 from an individual
- \$10,000 from a corporation, labor union, or association
- \$50,000 from a political action committee or another candidate political committee

Contribution Limits

- \$200,000 for statewide candidates
- \$125,000 for a candidate political committee established to support a candidate seeking nomination to the Senate, the Supreme Court or Appellate Court in the First Judicial District, or an office elected by all voters in a county with 1,000,000 or more residents

Campaign Finance Report Dates

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- General Primary Election
- March Quarterly Report
- June Quarterly Report
- September Quarterly Report
- General Election
- December Quarterly Report Schedule A-1 Reports (\$1,000 or more)