



Appendix E—Comparison of international political financing schemes

Table E.1 Comparison of international political financing schemes

	Election funding	Administrative/ ongoing funding	Disclosure requirements	Threshold	Caps	Bans
New Zealand	Yes Primarily in the form of allocation of broadcast time	No dedicated scheme	Yes Political parties, third parties and candidates are all subject to separate disclosure requirements	\$1 500 Third parties only have to submit disclosure returns if they spend over \$100 000	No general caps There is a maximum amount for 'protected donations' that can be received by political parties Expenditure of political parties, third parties and candidates is also capped during defined periods	Yes Anonymous donations to candidates and political parties over \$1 500 are banned Overseas sourced donations to candidates and political parties over \$1 500 are banned
Canada	Yes, reimbursement scheme	Yes	Yes	\$200	Yes Political donations are capped Third party and political party expenditure are capped	Yes Political donations are banned from all entities apart from individuals that are citizens or permanent residents of Canada
United States	Yes Subsidies for presidential candidates, contingent on agreement to limit campaign expenditure Election funding for new and minor parties	No	Yes Candidates, party committees, and political action committees have disclosure obligations	\$200	Yes There are a complex set of contribution limits applicable to each political participant	Yes Donations from corporations; labour organisations; federal government contractors and foreign nationals are banned

	Election funding	Administrative/ ongoing funding	Disclosure requirements	Threshold	Caps	Bans
United Kingdom	No	Yes Some funding for opposition parties Policy Development Grants (maximum £2m per year, shared between eligible parties)	Yes Political parties, candidates, MPs and third parties all have separate disclosure requirements	For political parties: Donations over £7500 to the central party (including aggregation of multiple donations from same donor) Donations over £1500 to accounting units (constituent or local office) (including aggregation of multiple donations from same donor) For candidates: Details of all donations over £50 and all impermissible donations must be disclosed For MPs: Disclose all donations and loans and impermissible donations For third parties: Must register if intend to spend more than £10 000 in England or £5 000 in Scotland. Cannot spend more than this if not registered	No donation caps Expenditure caps apply to political parties, candidates and third parties	Yes Anonymous donations over £500 are banned and must be returned Donations over £500 can only be received from permissible donors as defined in the legislation

Source Prepared based on material from the Electoral Commission websites: Elections New Zealand <<http://www.elections.org.nz>>, Elections Canada <<http://www.elections.ca/home.aspx>>, Electoral Commission (United States) <<http://www.fec.gov>>, and Electoral Commission (United Kingdom <<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk>>