

IRE Donation Policy

As passed by IRE's Board [in February 2024](#) and [amended in April 2024](#)

Investigative Reporters and Editors is a nonprofit organization committed to fostering excellence in investigative journalism and takes seriously its responsibility to be independent. In order to support [its mission](#), the organization welcomes gifts that comply with the following guidelines:

- All financial contributors to IRE agree to the operational independence of the organization and the editorial independence of its members.
- IRE will accept unrestricted donations of cash or publicly-traded stocks or bonds, from individual philanthropists, family foundations, institutional funders, news organizations and corporate partners, provided the donor is willing to abide by this policy. This includes sponsorships of conferences and events where the sponsor has no control over the programming or participants, as well as scholarship programs where the contributor has no control over choice of recipients.
- IRE can, with approval of the Executive Director, President and Treasurer, accept gifts that may need to be converted into cash, such as real estate or vehicles.
- IRE will consider restricted donations from individuals or media organizations or from foundations or other entities that typically support or supply the media, if restrictions are framed broadly and align with IRE's mission and priorities.
- IRE may accept gifts for unrestricted support from sources whose identity is unknown to the organization, provided staff informs the Board and the Finance Committee 15 days prior to acceptance.
- By policy, IRE does not accept donations from the below sources. In each case, the Executive Director will decide whether a potential donor fits in a below category and must be disqualified. (In addition, the IRE Board of Directors retains the right, without limitation, to reject any donation for any reason pursuant to a vote by the majority of the Board.)
 - IRE does not accept donations from political parties, elected officials, candidates actively seeking public office, or from organizations that are closely aligned with any of the aforementioned entities.
 - IRE does not accept donations from any entities that actively promote or support acts against journalism or freedom of expression, or any entity that engages in disinformation or propaganda campaigns against the media.
- IRE will only accept financial support from government entities upon a vote of a majority of the Board of Directors.
- In order to remain independent, IRE seeks to avoid receiving too much of its funding from any single source. If a potential donor wants to give money for operations that would total more than 10% of IRE's budgeted expenses in a fiscal year, the Executive Director must first obtain permission from the Board. Similarly, if a potential donor wants to give money toward the IRE endowment that would total more than 10% of the overall endowment, the Executive Director must first obtain permission from the Board.

- IRE's Board of Directors, in consultation with the staff executive leadership team, may reject or return donations from sources that, in their opinion, do not align with IRE's values, might create an appearance of bias or conflict of interest, or whose acceptance would meaningfully damage the reputation of the organization.
- If an existing donor engages in disqualifying behavior or IRE learns about disqualifying behavior in the past, the Board, in consultation with the executive leadership team, may notify the donor that further donations are not welcome and may return the donation.
- IRE will publish a list of all of the individuals and organizations that it knows have donated \$10,000 or more in cash or any other item of value. It will allow for anonymity only in cases approved by the Finance Committee.

This policy will be prominently displayed on IRE's website.