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Ballroom Billions: Trump Ballroom Donors Devour Taxpayer Dollars

Corporate ballroom donors have received new and increased government contracts over the last 6 months totaling \$50 billion

By Jon Golinger, Eileen O’Grady, and Rick Claypool

Six months after Americans reacted with shock and outrage to the [video](#) showing President Trump’s demolition of the White House East Wing, [opposition](#) to Trump’s plan to put a \$400 million golden ballroom in its place has united Americans [against it](#).

Despite Trump and his administration claiming repeatedly that the ballroom [wouldn’t cost taxpayers a dime](#), they recently attempted a surprise last-minute maneuver to force Congress to allocate a billion dollars for the “East Wing Modernization Project,” aka Trump’s ballroom. That [backfired](#) spectacularly in the face of a massive public backlash.

Now, in public remarks and a recent [court filing](#), the Trump administration is claiming the \$400 million in corporate and billionaire donations reportedly raised for the ballroom project are “an invaluable gift from President Trump and many patriotic private donors who have given Hundreds of Millions of Dollars to build this Project . . .”

But the contributions from these donors in fact constitute massive, inescapable, and irremediable conflicts of interest that are no gift – instead they’re a grift.

Public Citizen analyzed the government contracts and federal enforcement interests of the identified corporate ballroom donors, including the 21 corporate donors [disclosed](#) by the White House and 6 more [identified](#) by [news outlets](#), for a total of 27. This is likely not the complete list, since the secret ballroom funding [agreement](#) Public Citizen obtained via a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit permits ballroom donors to remain anonymous.

This analysis builds on our original [report](#) in November 2025 soon after the East Wing’s demolition and Trump’s [gluttonous](#) White House [“thank you” banquet](#) for his ballroom patrons.

This analysis finds that:

- Over half of corporate ballroom donors – 14 out of 27 – have received new or increased government contracts over the last 6 months totaling over **\$50 billion**.

- Altogether, over two-thirds of corporate ballroom donors – 19 out of 27 – received government contracts over the last 5 ½ years totaling **\$338 billion**.
- Most of the corporate donors – 16 out of 27 – are facing federal enforcement actions and/or have had federal enforcement actions suspended by the Trump administration. These include major antitrust actions or merger reviews involving Amazon, Apple, Meta, Microsoft, NextEra Energy, Nvidia, T-Mobile, and Union Pacific; labor rights cases involving Amazon, Apple, Caterpillar, Google, Lockheed and Meta; and SEC matters involving Coinbase and Ripple.

The following are analyses of the federal contracts and federal enforcement actions related to the known corporate donors to Trump’s White House ballroom project.

Table 1: Corporate Ballroom Donors With New/Increased Gov. Contracts Over Last 6 Months

Corporate Ballroom Donor	Corporate Sector	New & Increased Government Contracts Over Last 6 Months
Lockheed Martin	Aerospace/Defense	\$43,800,000,000
Booz Allen Hamilton	Management Consulting	\$4,200,000,000
Palantir	Consulting/Tech	\$1,032,100,000
Parsons	Engineering/Defense	\$446,900,000
Microsoft	Big Tech	\$318,700,000
Amazon	Big Tech	\$255,700,000
HP	Big Tech	\$197,289,650
Caterpillar	Construction	\$142,600,000
T-Mobile	Telecommunications	\$22,374,089
Google	Big Tech	\$16,400,000
NextEra Energy	Energy	\$13,490,896
Comcast	Telecommunications	\$13,438,137
Vantive	Health Care	\$468,192
Union Pacific Railroad	Transportation	\$55,820
Total		\$50,459,516,784

Source: Public Citizen [analysis](#) of USA Spending data as of May 26, 2026. Note: HP, Comcast, Google, Parsons, and NextEra have multiple entities listed as contractors, which are summed up in our tally.

Table 2: All Corporate Ballroom Donors

Corporate Ballroom Donor	Corporate Sector	FY 21-FY26 Total Contracts
Altria Group	Tobacco	N/A
Amazon	Big Tech	\$887,100,000
Apple	Big Tech	\$1,850,300
Black Rock	Finance	\$9,596,392
Booz Allen Hamilton	Management Consulting	\$83,800,000,000
Caterpillar	Construction	\$994,800,000
Coinbase	Crypto	\$7,983,100
Comcast	Telecommunications	\$437,899,443
ExtremityCare	Medical Products	N/A
Google	Big Tech	\$83,030,940
Hard Rock International	Restaurants/Casinos	N/A
HP	Big Tech	\$1,628,300,000
Lockheed Martin	Aerospace/Defense	\$235,000,000,000
Meta Platforms	Big Tech	\$49,599
Micron Technology	Big Tech	N/A
Microsoft	Big Tech	\$2,620,000,000
NextEra Energy	Energy	\$56,655,906
Nvidia	Big Tech	\$10,209,651
Palantir	Consulting/Tech	\$3,362,900,000
Parsons	Engineering/Defense	\$9,116,600,000
Reynolds American	Tobacco	N/A
Ripple	Crypto	N/A
Susquehanna International Group	Finance	N/A
Tether America	Crypto	N/A
T-Mobile	Telecommunications	\$74,400,000

Corporate Ballroom Donor	Corporate Sector	FY 21-FY26 Total Contracts
Union Pacific Railroad	Transportation	\$65,152
Vantive	Health Care	\$5,003,358
Total		\$338,096,443,841

Source: Public Citizen [analysis](#) of USA Spending data as of May 26, 2026. Note: HP, Comcast, Google, Parsons, and NextEra have multiple entities listed as contractors, which are summed up in our tally.

Table 3: Ongoing or Recently Closed Federal Enforcement Actions Against Corporate Ballroom Donors

Donor	Corporate Sector	Federal Enforcement Faced
Altria Group	Tobacco	-
Amazon	Big Tech	<p>DOJ investigation into allegations Amazon fraudulently concealed worker injuries.</p> <p>CPSC litigation alleging Amazon is a legally a distributor of products responsible for ensuring recalled and defective products that violate federal safety standards are removed from its online marketplace. Amazon is contesting the allegations and the agency’s constitutionality.</p> <p>EEOC investigation into alleged discrimination against pregnant workers.</p> <p>FCC investigation into alleged sales of illegal wireless frequency jammers.</p> <p>FTC investigation into alleged deception in online advertising.</p> <p>FTC litigation alleging illegal monopolistic behavior in the e-commerce superstore and fulfillment provider market.</p> <p>NLRB cases alleging unfair labor practices; Amazon is contesting the agency's constitutionality.</p>

Donor	Corporate Sector	Federal Enforcement Faced
Apple	Big Tech	DOJ litigation alleging antitrust violations to monopolize the smartphone market. NLRB cases alleging unfair labor practices.
Black Rock	Finance	An SEC investigation into investment advisers' compliance with record retention requirements relating to certain types of electronic communications was dropped from a recent Black Rock SEC filing.
Booz Allen Hamilton	Management Consulting	–
Caterpillar	Construction	Caterpillar is contesting OSHA fines of more than \$30,000 imposed by the agency following the death of an employee in 2024.
Coinbase	Crypto	Trump's SEC dismissed charges the agency filed previously alleging sales of unregistered securities and other securities violations. A separate SEC investigation into alleged misstatements of its number of users on SEC filings is ongoing.
Comcast	Telecommunications	–
ExtremityCare	Medical Products	–
Google	Big Tech	DOJ investigation into whether its "acqui-hire" deal with founders of CharacterAI violated antitrust law. FTC investigation into alleged deception in online advertising. NLRB cases alleging unfair labor practices.
Hard Rock International	Restaurants/Casinos	–
HP	Big Tech	–

Donor	Corporate Sector	Federal Enforcement Faced
Lockheed Martin	Aerospace/Defense	NLRB cases alleging unfair labor practices.
Meta Platforms	Big Tech	CFPB investigation into alleged improper access of user financial data was closed. FTC litigation alleging antitrust violations monopolizing social media. NLRB cases alleging unfair labor practices.
Micron Technology	Big Tech	–
Microsoft	Big Tech	Two FTC antitrust cases , one about the structure of a deal with an AI startup, one into allegations of anticompetitive actions related to AI and cloud computing. The Trump administration dismissed a case against an anticompetitive Microsoft-Activision merger.
NextEra Energy	Energy	Faces oversight including from the DOJ's Antitrust Division and FERC over its proposed acquisition of Dominion Energy.
Nvidia	Big Tech	Facing a DOJ Antitrust investigation into allegations the company abused its market dominance
Palantir	Consulting/Tech	–
Parsons	Engineering/Defense	
Reynolds American	Tobacco	–
Ripple	Crypto	Trump's SEC withdrew its appeal seeking higher penalties against Ripple over alleged securities law violations

Donor	Corporate Sector	Federal Enforcement Faced
Susquehanna International Group (SIG)	Finance	SIG holds a \$15 billion stake in ByteDance, which, in addition to facing a ban in the US that Trump thwarted, also faces a civil suit brought by the DOJ and FTC over alleged COPPA violations and NLRB cases alleging unfair labor practices.
T-Mobile	Telecommunications	DOJ's Antitrust Division under Trump closed its investigation into the allegedly anticompetitive T-Mobile-UScellular merger, allowing it to proceed.
Tether America	Crypto	Allegedly faced a DOJ investigation into possible violations of sanctions and anti-money laundering rules.
Union Pacific Railroad	Transportation	Union Pacific's proposed \$85 billion merger with Norfolk Southern faces antitrust scrutiny by the Surface Transportation Board, a federal railway regulator. Trump fired board member Robert Primus, who opposed the merger, in August.
Vantive	Health Care	-

Source: Analysis of Public Citizen's [Corporate Enforcement Tracker](#)