



‘Self-Funded’ Trump Now Propped Up by Super PAC Megadonors

Megadonors Fuel \$54 Million to Support Trump Agenda, Reelection, GOP Candidates

By Alan Zibel, Research Director, Public Citizen’s Corporate Presidency Project

December 20, 2018 – Dozens of megadonors have contributed \$54.4 million to six groups backing President Donald Trump’s agenda, his reelection and Republican candidates for office, an analysis by Public Citizen has found.

Public Citizen analyzed contributions by large donors to six groups supporting Trump and Vice President Mike Pence. The analysis reveals a large political operation backing Trump as well as Republican [candidates](#). These six groups are fueled with contributions from corporate CEOs and other large donors as well as from dark money groups that do not disclose their donors.

The gusher of contributions to pro-Trump groups is a sharp contrast with the early days of Trump’s political career three years ago. Trump, who famously ran his primary campaign with a tiny staff, initially [claimed](#) to be self-funding his candidacy and avoiding big-money donors. This assertion, [while not entirely accurate](#), was part of his appeal to voters.

Public Citizen’s analysis of Federal Election Commission data found that since the start of 2017 through mid-October 2018, the six pro-Trump groups have:

- Raised \$54.4 million from contributors who donated at least \$100,000, with an average contribution of nearly \$400,000;
- Received contributions of at least \$100,000 from 136 people and organizations; and
- Relied upon donations from the gambling, finance, real estate and energy sectors, largely from CEOs, senior executives, retired CEOs and spouses of CEOs.

Under federal law, political groups may participate in U.S. elections as long as they don’t coordinate their efforts with a candidate’s campaign. These groups have proliferated in recent years after the Supreme Court allowed unlimited contributions from corporations and wealthy individuals. Separately, another Supreme Court decision has led to the expansion of “joint fundraising committees” that allow donors to write six-figure checks, which then can be parceled out to other campaigns. Trump and his allies have made use of all of these strategies.

For the report, Public Citizen analyzed contributions by the six largest groups used by big-money donors to support Trump and Vice President Mike Pence. The analysis excludes Trump’s official campaign committee, which is subject to the federal \$2,700 cap on individual donations.

The six groups studied by Public Citizen have raised more than \$153 million to date, according to data from the Center for Responsive Politics. Most of that money has already been spent, with roughly \$145 million in expenditures so far.

Pro-Trump groups are on track to far exceed what major donors spent to reelect President Barack Obama in 2012. That year, Priorities USA Action, the super PAC [endorsed](#) by Obama, raised [\\$79.1 million](#). Of that money, \$73 million came from 125 donors contributing at least \$100,000. Since then, super PACs and other forms of big-money politics have mushroomed.

The Public Citizen analysis illustrates how giant fundraising committees, many of which have been able to accept unlimited contributions since the 2010 *Citizens United* decision, are become an essential piece of Trump's round-the-clock political fundraising operation. Several Trump organizations have parallel "dark money" operations, which are structured as nonprofit "social welfare" organizations under the tax code and are not required to disclose their donors. These dark money groups often turn around and make contributions to super PACs.

Table 1: Six Big-Money Groups Backing Donald Trump Jan 2017- Oct 17, 2018

Group	Total contribution s over \$100K	Total Contribution s	Spent	Description
AMERICA FIRST ACTION INC.	\$31,537,911	\$38,801,172	\$35,994,963	Pro-Trump super PAC. Can take unlimited donations. Hired former White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer as well as former Fox News co-host and Donald Trump Jr.'s girlfriend, Kimberly Guilfoyle .
TRUMP VICTORY	\$14,512,652	\$30,450,763	\$27,274,789	Joint fundraising committee between Trump campaign, RNC, several state parties.
FUTURE45	\$5,242,555	\$6,269,614	\$6,233,204	Republican super PAC supported by Charles Schwab, Joe Ricketts and Paul Singer. Associated with the 45Committee , a dark money group that is reportedly funded by mega-donor Sheldon Adelson and the Ricketts family.
GREAT AMERICA COMMITTEE	\$2,142,278	\$4,052,421	\$3,795,185	A leadership PAC set up by Vice President Mike Pence. Allowed to take \$5,000 in donations, as well as transfers from other groups.
GREAT AMERICA PAC	\$650,000	\$8,082,744	\$8,582,778	Pro-Trump hybrid PAC/super PAC led by GOP Strategist Ed Rollins . Played an active role in fight over Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh's nomination. Affiliated with a dark money group called Great America Alliance .
TRUMP MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN COMMITTEE	\$310,553	\$65,466,544	\$63,162,636	Joint fundraising committee with Trump campaign and RNC. Focused primarily on small-dollar donors .

Total	\$54,395,949	\$153,123,258	\$145,043,555	
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Source: Federal Election Commission, Center for Responsive Politics

The main super PAC backing Trump, America First Action, has been the leading vehicle for contributions from ultra-wealthy donors, raising a total of nearly \$39 million to date, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. America First Action can take unlimited contributions, and has raised about \$31.5 million from donors contributing at least \$100,000, Public Citizen’s analysis found.

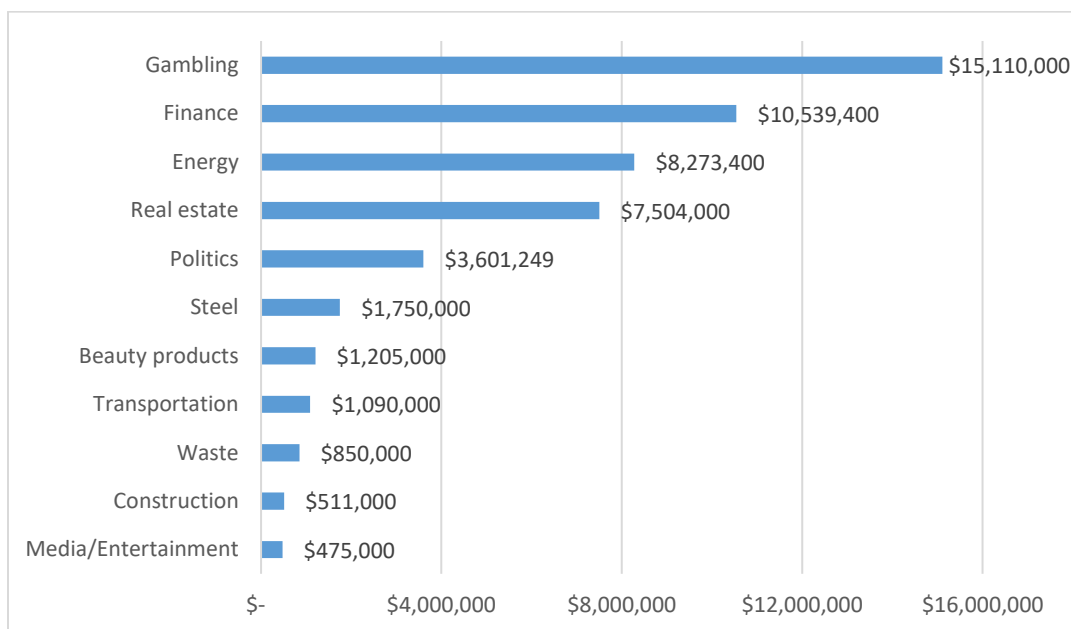
America First Action is affiliated with America First Policies, a dark money group [founded](#) shortly after Trump’s election. The group was started by aides, including Trump digital director Brad Parscale, who is now managing Trump’s 2020 reelection campaign; Pence chief of staff Nick Ayers, who turned down the job of White House chief of staff; and former top Trump campaign official [Rick Gates](#), who is now cooperating with Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation.

America First Policies has spent more than \$9 million on television advertising, according to an [analysis](#) by the Brennan Center for Justice. The money has gone toward ads promoting Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Supreme Court, Gina Haspel’s confirmation as CIA director, for the GOP tax bill that passed in late 2017 and to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

In an IRS filing, America First Policies recently [revealed](#) that it had raised \$22 million in 2017, exceeding the \$4 million raised that year by its sibling super PAC, America First Action. Taken together, the groups have said they aim to raise a [combined \\$100 million](#) between both organizations in 2018. However, several corporate donors to America First Policies, including CVS Health, Southern Company and Dow Chemical, have said they will [no longer give](#) to America First Policies after MapLight [reported](#) their contributions and several outlets exposed [racist](#) and [anti-Semitic](#) remarks by America First staffers.

In its structure as a 501(c)(4) organization, America First Policies, is similar to the structure of Organizing for Action, a group started by former Obama administration officials to promote President Barack Obama’s agenda while he was in office. However, Unlike America First, the Obama group voluntarily [disclosed](#) its donors.

Industry Sectors Making Big Trump Contributions



Source: Public Citizen analysis of \$100,000+ donations to six pro-Trump groups, Jan 2017- Oct 17, 2018.

Trump allies also have [set up](#) two fundraising committees in conjunction with the Republican Party and state parties. These joint fundraising committees, Trump Victory and the Trump Make America Great Again Committee, allow donors to write six-figure checks, which then can be parceled out to state political parties, other campaigns and national political parties. These kinds of fundraising vehicles were amplified by the Supreme Court's 2014 *McCutcheon v. FEC* [decision](#), which eliminated [aggregate caps](#) on donations to federal campaigns, parties and political action committees. Meanwhile, according to *Politico*, the Republican National Committee and the official Trump campaign are planning to [merge](#) their 2020 fundraising operations and field mobilization efforts into the Trump victory organization, in an effort to avoid the kind of infighting that plagued the 2016 campaign.

The Trump political operation's reliance on big-money donors is a sharp contrast from the early days of Trump's candidacy, when he [pledged](#) to be independent of moneyed interests. Trump even [said](#) at a 2016 presidential debate that "special interests, lobbyists, donors, they make large contributions to politicians and they have total control over those politicians. I don't want anybody to control me but the people right out there. And I'm going to do the right thing."

On [several occasions](#) during his presidential campaign, Trump spoke about the influence of big money in politics. During a Republican debate in Miami, he [blasted](#) "special interests, lobbyists, donors" saying that they "make large contributions to politicians and they have total control over those politicians." He called super PACs "a disaster," claiming he could institute reforms because of his history of making donations to political candidates. With characteristic bluster, Trump claimed that "I know the system better than anybody else and I'm the only one up here that's going to be able to fix that system because that system is wrong."

Corey Lewandowski, Trump's first campaign manager, disavowed super PACs, [telling](#) the *Washington Post* in fall 2015 that that, "Unlike other campaigns, we don't have a quote-unquote designated super PAC that we

tell people to give money to.” One early super PAC tied to Trump even [shut down](#) to avoid the campaign’s wrath. But by May 2016, Trump had softened his stance, [telling](#) MSNBC he was considering soliciting donations, because he did not necessarily want to dispose of valuable real estate assets. “I mean, do I want to sell a couple of buildings and self-fund?” Trump said. I don’t know that I want to do that necessarily, but I really won’t be asking for money for myself, I’ll be asking money for the party.”

By the time of Trump’s nomination, his campaign had [retreated](#) from its anti-super PAC stance. A close ally, billionaire private equity real estate investor [Tom Barrack](#), launched the [Rebuilding America Now](#) super PAC in June 2016 to court big money [donors](#). The *New York Times* has reported that this super PAC is now [under investigation](#) for possible illegal foreign contributions. In the weeks before the election, Trump sons Don Jr. and Eric Trump were [attending](#) super PAC events. As president, Trump has come full circle, [morphing](#) from a candidate who was critical of the corrosive influence of money in politics to a willing participant in the big-money politics that have defined the post-*Citizens United* era.

The Trump presidency has [laid bare](#) the need for sweeping ethics reforms in the executive branch and to the nation’s campaign finance laws. Public Citizen has long championed a constitutional amendment to overturn *Citizens United* and supports [public financing](#) of campaigns to end the massive influx of corporate and special interest money into our elections.

Next month, U.S. House lawmakers are expected to advance a set of important democracy reforms that include public financing of elections. They also include requirements for outside political groups to [disclose](#) their donors and for social media platforms to disclose who is paying for political ads. As a piece of the disclosure puzzle, Public Citizen has pushed for the Securities and Exchange Commission to require corporate disclosure of political spending, which Republicans in Congress have blocked for several years.

Below are profiles of major Trump donors in key sectors. Many of these donors were also big contributors to [Trump’s inaugural committee](#), as well as other [Republican causes](#). And some have even helped to pay Trump’s mounting [legal bills](#).

Gambling

Sheldon & Miriam Adelson

\$10 million to America First Action

Sheldon Adelson, CEO of Las Vegas Sands Corp., and his wife, Miriam, are the largest donors to pro-Trump groups to date. The Adelsons have also been major donors to Republicans and to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Adelson pushed hard to relocate the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem and also for the U.S. to quit the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. The Trump administration granted Adelson's wishes on [both issues](#). Adelson has also pushed to build a casino in Japan – an issue that Trump himself [brought up](#) with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, according to a report by ProPublica. Preposterously, Trump [awarded](#) the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Miriam Adelson. The couple's main achievement: They have [given nearly \\$300 million](#) to Republican causes since 2012, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

Cherna Moskowitz

\$2 million to America First Action

The president of the Hawaiian Gardens Casino in Long Beach, Calif., Moskowitz was married to Irving Moskowitz, a [controversial](#) physician, hospital owner, bingo parlor owner and philanthropist who [died](#) in 2016. The couple have been major supporters of the right-wing Israeli settler movement, funding some of the most [controversial](#) Jewish settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Lorenzo and Frank Fertitta

\$2 million to America First Action

The Fertittas are billionaire Las Vegas brothers, whose father was a casino [developer](#). They profited [massively](#) from the 2016 sale of their stake in Ultimate Fighting Championship, which promotes mixed martial arts fights. They are the top executives at Red Rock Resorts, a [publicly traded](#) company and the parent company of Station Casinos LLC, which owns 20 Las Vegas area casinos and manages a tribal casino in Northern California. Along with several casino magnates, the Fertittas, who [know Trump](#) from his Atlantic City casino days, when Trump [hosted](#) mixed martial arts fights at his casinos. The Fertittas have been [enthusiastic supporters](#) of President Trump and other Republicans.

R. Craig Estey and Patricia Estey

\$600,000 to Trump Victory

R. Craig Estey and his wife Patricia are major conservative donors. Craig Estey is founder of Nevada Restaurant Services, which [owns](#) more than 200 tavern-casinos that operate in several Western states. The company's Dotty's slot parlors feature delis and salad bars in addition to slot machines.

Steve Wynn

\$500,000 to America First Action

Wynn, the casino magnate, is a former Trump business rival who [evolved](#) into a Trump [friend](#) and donor. Wynn resigned as the Republican National Committee's finance chair amid sexual assault allegations. Trump, however, did not sever ties with the casino mogul and former CEO of Wynn Resorts. The Trump super PAC America First Action said it [would not return](#) a \$500,000 donation from Wynn after the sexual abuse scandal broke. Wynn [stepped down](#) from his company, but denied the allegations.

Finance

Joe Ricketts, \$2.1 million, mostly to Future45

Ricketts, founder of investment firm TD Ameritrade, and his wife Marlene, spent [millions](#) to oppose Trump in the primary, backing a PAC running ads [attacking](#) his candidacy. Two months before the 2016 election, the Ricketts family, which controls the Chicago Cubs, [decided](#) to back Trump. Ricketts' son, Todd Ricketts, was initially nominated to serve as the second-ranking official in the U.S. Commerce Department, but [withdrew](#) his name. Todd Ricketts was [named](#) finance chairman of the Republican National Committee, replacing Steve Wynn.

Charles Schwab \$2 million to Future45

Schwab, the founder of the stock brokerage firm that bears his name, and his wife Helen have been big supporters of Trump, donating \$1 million to Trump's [inaugural](#) committee and [his legal defense fund](#). Their 21-year-old granddaughter, Samantha, was [hired](#) to work in the White House. Meanwhile, lobbyists for the Charles Schwab brokerage firm have been [pushing](#) the Securities and Exchange Commission to weaken a proposal for investor-protection standards.

Paul Singer \$1 million to Future45

Singer is the billionaire founder and CEO of hedge fund Elliott Management Group, is a longtime Republican donor who [opposed](#) Trump during the primary season. The conservative *Washington Free Beacon*, a news organization funded by Singer, [paid for](#) the opposition research firm Fusion GPS to dig up damaging information on Trump, a project that was [taken over](#) by a law firm tied to the Democratic Party and Clinton campaign, leading to the production of a dossier that first [outlined](#) allegations of Trump's connections to Russia. Former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon vowed to [declare war](#) on Singer after news broke that the *Free Beacon* had paid for anti-Trump research.

Matthew T. Mellon II \$1 million to America First Action

Mellon was an heir to Mellon banking fortune and [cryptocurrency investor](#) who [died](#) in April 2018 after struggling with an addiction to [opioid](#) pills.

Warren A. Stephens \$500,000 to America First Action

Stephens, president of Little Rock, Ark.-based investment bank Stephens Inc., was an ardent [opponent](#) of Trump, spending millions to oppose his nomination. Since Trump's election, Stephens has been somewhat critical of Trump but has been [supportive](#) of cutting taxes on investment gains and dialing back the Affordable Care Act.

John W. Childs \$355,000, primarily to America First Action and Trump Victory

The chairman of Massachusetts-based private equity firm [J.W. Childs Associates](#), has long [supported](#) Republican candidates and super PACs. Childs is considered one of the [pioneers](#) in leveraged buyouts – corporate takeovers fueled by high levels of debt.

Stephen A. Schwarzman**\$344,400 to Trump Victory**

Schwarzman, the CEO of private equity firm Blackstone Group LP, is a [frequent informal adviser](#) to the president who has [used](#) his connections to the president to [bridge](#) tensions with China that could roil financial markets. In a 2015 interview with CNN, Schwarzman [said](#) “I’ve known Donald for 40 years, and he is the P.T. Barnum of America.” Schwarzman’s firm received a [\\$20 billion investment](#) from Saudi Arabia at the time Trump made his first presidential trip abroad, to Saudi Arabia. Schwarzman ran a White House CEO advisory group that was shut down after Trump equated white supremacists in Charlottesville with peaceful protesters. Schwarzman has continued to [stand by](#) Trump despite numerous controversies engulfing the administration.

Robert Gillam**\$300,000 to Trump Victory**

One of the richest men in Alaska, Gillam [died of a stroke](#) in September 2018. The founder of McKinley Capital Management, Gillam was a college classmate of Trump. Gillam was a fierce [opponent](#) of a copper and gold mine proposed for Alaska’s Bristol Bay, where Gillam owned a fishing lodge. Gilliam, who unsuccessfully tried to become Trump’s Interior Secretary, met [with Trump](#) in March 2017. He made a \$250,000 [contribution](#) to the Trump Victory Fund after Trump’s EPA reversed course and [blocked](#) the Pebble mine from moving forward.

Bruce Berkowitz**\$100,000 to Trump Victory**

A mutual fund [manager](#) known for his contrarian stock market bets, Berkowitz has made a huge wager that the Trump administration will release Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the government-controlled mortgage finance giants, from government control. The two companies, which buy up mortgages and package them as securities, were placed under close government supervision during the financial crisis a decade ago. Berkowitz’s fund has [reduced](#) its holdings but still calls them an “excellent investment.”

REAL ESTATE

Geoff Palmer**\$4.1 million, primarily to America First Action**

A Los Angeles real estate developer, Palmer has been one of Trump’s most enthusiastic supporters. Palmer is known in Los Angeles for [building](#) “garish” luxury buildings with skywalks that allow residents to avoid encountering homeless people on the city’s streets. Palmer has [fought](#) affordable housing requirements and has been criticized for [building](#) a “series of fortress-like faux-Italian apartment blocks.

Sherry Xue Li and Li Lianbo Wang**\$600,000 to Trump Victory**

Li and Wang are New York developers who [proposed](#) in 2013 to build a “China City” in rural New York State, which is now being billed as a [Chinese education center](#). Little is [known](#) about the pair, who have become [major Republican donors](#) since [Trump’s election](#). They are now working on a new project at the same location in the Catskill mountains. Known as the [Thompson Education Center](#), the project is designed to attract Chinese investors under the controversial federal EB-5 program, through which overseas investors can receive [green cards](#).

Stanley Chera**\$439,000 to Trump Victory**

Chera is a New York [real estate mogul](#), founder of [Crown Acquisitions](#), a family real estate company. Like many in the New York [real estate world](#), he and his wife Frieda, are Trump supporters.

Ronald Weiser**\$200,000 to America First Action**

Weiser is [founder](#) of Michigan real estate investment firm McKinley Associates. He was ambassador to Slovakia under President George W. Bush and is currently [chairman](#) of the Michigan Republican Party. Weiser was a [reluctant](#) Trump supporter

ENERGY

Andrew Beal**Nearly \$2.7 million, mostly to America First Action and Trump Victory**

A billionaire [banker](#) and distressed asset investor, Beal is a longtime Trump friend and business partner who [loaned nearly \\$500 million](#) to Trump's failed casino business. Beal [purchased](#) a [failing](#) natural gas power plant out of [bankruptcy](#) and sought to alter electricity market rules to keep the plant running profitably. However, federal electricity regulators [unanimously](#) rejected this proposal. Beal has also taken control of a major natural gas power plant in [Arizona](#) that is subject to federal regulation.

Murray Energy Corp.**\$1 million to America First Action**

Murray Energy, the largest U.S. private coal company, is run by a close Trump ally, CEO Robert Murray. A climate change [denier](#), Murray developed [six deregulatory executive orders](#) and submitted them to the Trump administration offering ways to prop up the coal industry. The company [cited](#) its flagging finances in pushing for coal and nuclear subsidies, including the potential impact on union worker retirement plans. Days after Murray made a written request for bailout assistance, the company [donated](#) \$1 million to America First Action.

Harold Hamm and Continental Resources Inc.**More than \$1 million, largely to America First Action**

The Oklahoma oil billionaire Harold Hamm, CEO of the shale oil drilling company Continental Resources Inc. is a key Trump ally on energy, who got a [top seat](#) at Trump's inauguration. He was an energy adviser to 2012 Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney and developed a [relationship](#) with Trump starting in late 2012. [A board member](#) of America First Policies, Hamm has aggressively [promoted](#) fossil fuel exploration on [federal lands](#) and was a [supporter](#) of former Trump EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, a fellow Oklahoman.

Karen Buchwald Wright and Thomas Rastin**\$865,000, largely to America First Action and Trump Victory**

Wright and Rastin, an Ohio couple, are major Republican [donors](#). Wright is CEO of Ariel Corp., which makes natural gas compressors, while Rastin is an executive at the company. The company supports [legislation](#) requiring the government giving natural gas vehicles the same regulatory [treatment](#) as electric vehicles.

Hushang Ansary and Shala Ansary
About \$700,000, primarily to Trump Victory

A Houston billionaire and former diplomat, Hushang Ansary was formerly Iran's ambassador to the U.S. A Republican donor and [backer](#) of Jeb Bush's presidential campaign, Hushang Ansary was formerly chairman of oil and gas equipment firm Stewart & Stevenson LLC, which he [sold for \\$710 million](#) in 2017. He is also chairman of Parman Capital Group LLC.

Global Energy Producers LLC
\$325,000 to America First Action

A firm [tied](#) to Igor Fruman, Russian-speaking Ukrainian businessman and Lev Parnas, a Russian-born businessman. Subject of a complaint from the Campaign Legal Center alleging that Global Energy Producers may be a [shell donor](#) created to funnel undisclosed donations to the super PAC. The firm told the Daily Beast that the donation "was a 100% legal contribution made by American citizens who immigrated to this country to flee Eastern European oppression and chase their American dream." The company says it is working on a plan to export liquefied natural gas from the U.S.

Ira Greenstein
\$100,000 to America First Action

An executive and a lawyer in New Jersey, Greenstein quit his job as chairman of telecommunications company IDT Corp. to [work](#) as a White House official from February 2017 to March 2018. Greenstein was described by *Politico* as a longtime family [friend](#) of Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law. Greenstein formerly was president of Genie Energy, an energy firm with operations in the U.S. and [Israel](#). The firm's Israeli operation is headed by a far-right Israeli politician who has [met with](#) former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

Douglas Kimmelman
\$100,000 to Trump Victory

Kimmelman, a former Goldman Sachs partner, is [founder](#) of Energy Capital Partners, a private equity firm that has become one of the largest owners of fossil fuel power plants and also owns [a nuclear waste management](#) company. In 2014, Public Citizen [alleged](#) that Energy Capital Partners manipulated electricity prices by purchasing a major coal-fired power plant in Massachusetts and announcing its closure shortly before an electricity market auction, pushing up the market rate charged by its other plants in the region. Kimmelman personally [donated](#) \$50,000 to Florida Gov. Rick Scott, after the state made pension investments in Energy Capital Partners, according to a report by Maplight and Capital & Main.

MISCELLANEOUS

Randal Perkins
\$500,000 to America First Action

Perkins is CEO of AshBritt Inc., a Florida debris-hauling company that has often been hired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to respond to hurricanes, floods and wildfires. Perkins is a former Democratic candidate for Congress, whose company has faced a [long string](#) of price-gouging [allegations](#) in Florida and California. Officials in California have been concerned about the [high costs](#) of a \$1.3 billion fire cleanup involving AshBritt, in which one worker was killed. Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, a Trump ally, in 2017 [issued](#) a [subpoena](#) to AshBritt over "delays and potential price increases" involving hurricane cleanup. The Campaign Legal Center filed a [complaint](#) against AshBritt, alleging that it violated a ban on active federal contractors making political contributions.

The contribution was later updated to list Perkins as the donor. Perkins [told](#) Roll Call that the donation was mistakenly reported as a corporate donation rather than a personal one.

Dan Snyder**\$100,000 to Trump Victory**

Snyder, the [controversial owner](#) of the Washington Redskins, is one of several NFL team owners who have [donated](#) to Trump. In addition to his donation to Trump Victory, Snyder also donated [\\$1 million](#) to Trump's inaugural festivities. The Redskins, who want to build a new football stadium, recently advocated to [extend](#) the District of Columbia's [lease](#) on the federally owned site of the Redskins' former home, RFK Stadium, opening up land to residential and commercial development, including a new stadium. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan has also pitched a [land](#) swap with the Interior Department in an effort to keep the team in Maryland.

Michael Lindell**\$100,000 to Trump Victory**

Lindell, the TV pitchman and inventor famous for [selling foam pillows](#) on television, is also a big Trump [supporter](#). Lindell has [called](#) Trump the "best president this country has ever had." He faced a [boycott](#) after declining to pull advertising from Fox News' Laura Ingraham's show when she mocked a survivor of the Parkland High school shooting.

Table 2: Top Donors to Six Pro-Trump Groups, Jan 2017-Oct 17, 2018

Donor	Bio	Donations Total	Industry
ADELSON, SHELDON G.	CEO of Las Vegas Sands/GOP Donor	\$5,005,000	Gambling
ADELSON, MIRIAM DR.	Wife of Sheldon Adelson	\$5,000,000	Gambling
PALMER, GEOFFREY H.	Los Angeles real estate developer	\$4,105,000	Real estate
BEAL, ANDREW	Banker/investor and friend of Trump seeking to reopen Calif power plant	\$2,688,400	Energy
MOSKOWITZ, CHERNA	Casino executive	\$2,000,000	Gambling
WHEATLAND TUBE, LLC	Pennsylvania-based steel and aluminum company	\$1,750,000	Steel
PROTECT THE HOUSE	Joint Committee formed to elect House Republicans	\$1,397,578	Politics
RICKETTS, MARLENE M.	Wife of TD Ameritrade Founder	\$1,240,000	Finance
SCHWAB, CHARLES R.	Founder of investment firm Charles Schwab	\$1,010,000	Finance
KANTE, BENNIE	Chief Strategy Officer of multilevel marketing company that sells LipSense lipstick	\$1,005,000	Beauty products
FERTITTA, FRANK J III	Casino/Ultimate Fighting Championship billionaire	\$1,000,000	Gambling
FERTITTA, LORENZO J.	Casino/Ultimate Fighting Championship billionaire	\$1,000,000	Gambling
MELLON, MATTHEW T II	Heir to Mellon banking fortune, died in April 2018	\$1,000,000	Finance
MURRAY ENERGY CORPORATION	Coal company led by Trump ally Robert Murray	\$1,000,000	Energy
SCHWAB, HELEN	Wife of Charles Schwab	\$1,000,000	Finance
SINGER, PAUL E.	Founder of hedge fund Elliott Management	\$1,000,000	Finance
RICKETTS, J. JOE	TD Ameritrade founder	\$905,000	Finance
CALIFORNIA VICTORY 2018	Joint committee formed to elect Calif. Republicans to House	\$667,199	Politics
GREAT AMERICA ALLIANCE	Dark money group supporting Trump	\$550,000	Politics
AMERICA FIRST POLICIES, INC.	Dark money group supporting Trump	\$526,911	Politics
CONTINENTAL RESOURCES, INC.	Shale oil producer	\$500,000	Energy

DEJOY, LOUIS	Former CEO of XPO Supply Chain; President of LDJ Global Strategies	\$500,000	Transportation
HAMM, HAROLD	CEO of Continental Resources Inc., shale oil producer; board member of America First Policies	\$500,000	Energy
PERKINS, RANDAL R	Founder of debris hauling company	\$500,000	Waste
STEPHENS, WARREN A	Chairman of investment bank Stephens Inc.	\$500,000	Finance
WYNN, STEPHEN A	Casino executive/friend of Trump	\$500,000	Gambling
WRIGHT, KAREN BUCHWALD	CEO of Ariel Corp., a maker of natural gas compressors	\$485,000	Energy
RASTIN, THOMAS	Executive VP, Ariel Corp., husband of Karen Wright	\$430,000	Energy
DONALD J. TRUMP FOR PRESIDENT, INC.	Official Trump reelection committee	\$357,006	Politics
CHILDS, JOHN W	Chairman of private equity firm JW Childs Associates	\$355,000	Finance
ESTEY, CRAIG	Founder of slot machine chain	\$355,000	Gambling
ANSARY, SHAHLA MRS.	Wife of Hushang Ansary	\$352,500	Energy
SCHWARZMAN, STEPHEN A.	CEO of Blackstone Group LP	\$344,400	Finance
ANSARY, HUSHANG HON.	Former Iran ambassador to US; chairman of oil and gas equipment firm Stewart & Stevenson LLC; chairman of Parman Capital Group LLC	\$342,500	Energy
UIHLEIN, ELIZABETH A.	President of packing supply firm Uline	\$339,000	Packing
WANG, LIANBO	Developer of Catskills higher-education center in New York state	\$329,500	Real estate
GLOBAL ENERGY PRODUCERS, LLC	Liquefied natural gas export firm tied to Russian/Ukrainian interests	\$325,000	Energy
HARDY, JOSEPH	Founder of 84 Lumber	\$311,000	Construction
GILLAM, ROBERT	Founder of McKinley Capital Management; Wharton classmate of Trump	\$300,000	Finance
LI, SHERRY XUE	Developer of Catskills higher-education center	\$275,500	Real estate
DRT, LLC	LLC Registered to Andrew Lucht, chief financial officer of Lone Mountain Truck Leasing in Carter Lake, Iowa	\$250,000	Transportation
ESTEY, PATRICIA	Wife of Craig Estey	\$250,000	Gambling
PETERFFY, THOMAS P.	Founder of Interactive Brokers Group	\$250,000	Finance
RUSSELL, THOMAS H	Founder of natural gas equipment firm Thomas Russell Co., now owned by Honeywell	\$250,000	Energy
SIEGEL, JEANNE S.	Wife of media investor Herbert Siegel	\$250,000	Media/Entertainment

SINQUEFIELD, REX A	Index fund pioneer, billionaire Republican activist in Missouri politics	\$250,000	Finance
THIEL, PETER	Venture capitalist	\$250,000	Technology
CHERA, STANLEY	Founder, Crown Acquisitions	\$244,500	Real estate
GUAN, YU KEVIN	CEO Baslong Logistics	\$240,000	Transportation
ZUBERI, IMAAD	Democratic fundraiser, Vice Chairman, Avenue Ventures Group	\$225,000	Finance
BOLLINGER, DONALD	Former CEO of Bollinger Shipyards	\$200,000	Manufacturing
DAVIS, LARRY	Managing Partner, LNS Capital	\$200,000	Finance
FANJUL, JOSE	Billionaire sugar baron: Executive Vice President, Florida Crystals Corp.	\$200,000	Agriculture
HILL, AL G.JR.	Died in Dec 2017. Was grandson of Texas oilman H.L. Hunt.	\$200,000	Energy
KEMMERER, JOHN L.	Chairman of Jackson Hole Mountain Resort & Kemmerer Resources Corp.	\$200,000	Finance
TOPPER, LEWIS E.	Fast food franchise owner	\$200,000	Restaurants
WEISER, RONALD	McKinley Associates Inc., former ambassador to Slovakia, chairman of Michigan Republican Party	\$200,000	Real estate
HILDEBRAND, MELINDA	Wife of Houston oil billionaire Jeff Hildebrand	\$175,000	Energy
CAYRE, JOE	CEO, Midtown Equities; First made fortune in music, entertainment, video games	\$170,000	Real estate
CHERA, FRIEDA MRS.	Wife of Stanley Chera	\$169,500	Real estate
HODGES, MICHAEL LYNN	Chairman, Harpeth Financial/Advance Financial (high interest lender)	\$160,000	Finance
TANG, LILY KIN J.	Real estate agent, Upland, CA	\$160,000	Real estate
WANG, TIAN	Founder Chinese Americans for Trump	\$152,500	Unknown
CANIZARO, JOSEPH	New Orleans real estate developer and banker; CEO of Columbus Properties, LP, owner of First Bank & Trust	\$150,000	Real estate
MASTROIANNI, NICHOLAS A.II	Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of U.S. Immigration Fund LLC	\$150,000	Real estate
TANG, BEN	President of Lawrence Consulting Co.	\$140,000	Unknown
LEBOW, BENNETT	Chairman, BSL Capital, Chairman, Vector Group	\$135,000	Tobacco
LORBER, HOWARD M	CEO of tobacco and real estate holding company Vector Group	\$135,000	Tobacco
BLANCHARD, JOHN	Alabama real estate investor	\$125,000	Real estate
BLANCHARD, LYNDA MRS.	Nominee for Slovenian ambassador; Alabama real estate investor; Co-Founder 100X Development Foundation	\$125,000	Real estate

BUCKLEY, MARJORIE B. MRS.	Wife of Walter Buckley	\$125,000	Finance
BUCKLEY, WALTER W.	Investment advisor, Buckley Muething Capital Management Co., former CEO, Internet Capital Group	\$125,000	Finance
DOLAN, JAMES	CEO, Madison Square Garden Company	\$125,000	Media/Entertainment
HILDEBRAND, JEFFERY D.	Oil billionaire	\$125,000	Energy
HODGES, TINA	CEO of high interest lender Harpeth Financial/Advance Financial	\$125,000	Finance
LOMANGINO, ANTHONY	Co-founder and Chairman, Southern Waste Systems	\$125,000	Waste
LOMANGINO, LYNDIA	Wife of Anthony Lomangino	\$125,000	Waste
PERELMAN, RONALD O.	Billionaire Chairman of Revlon; CEO of MacAndrews & Forbes Inc.	\$125,000	Various
STITZER, MARK	CEO, Hamlin Capital Management	\$125,000	Finance
DENG, JON S.	Product manager, information technology at Telit	\$105,400	Technology
PRICE, KATHERINE MRS.	Retired, Santa Monica Calif	\$105,000	Retired
LIBERTY 2.0	Super PAC tied to former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt	\$102,555	Politics
ADAMS, DAN	CEO, The Capital Corp.	\$100,000	Finance
BERKOWITZ, BRUCE	Billionaire investor with Fairholme Capital Management	\$100,000	Finance
BISHOP, GEORGE	Billionaire founder of GeoSouthern Energy Corp., which sold shale assets for \$6B	\$100,000	Energy
BROTHERS, WILLIAM	President, Arizona Facilities Supply	\$100,000	Agriculture
CHU, CHINH	Founder CC Capital (former Blackstone)	\$100,000	Finance
CORRY, WILLIAM	Founder, Corry Capital Advisors	\$100,000	Finance
DEGUEYTER, KURT ANTHONY	Owner, Bottom Line Equipment LLC	\$100,000	Construction
DIEFENTHAL, EDWARD L	CEO of Chemical industry equipment co	\$100,000	Chemical
ESHELMAN, FREDRIC N	Chairman of Eyenovia/The Medicines Company	\$100,000	Medicine/Pharma
EZRATTI, ITZHAK	President, GL Homes of Florida Corp.	\$100,000	Real estate
FARRELL, RICHARD	Former energy trader, investor, New Orleans restaurant owner	\$100,000	Energy
GAO, CHENG	Dharma Joy Arts & Culture	\$100,000	Unknown
GONSOULIN, AL A	CEO of PHI Inc., which provides helicopters to offshore oil & gas industry	\$100,000	Energy

GREENSTEIN, IRA A	Kushner family friend, executive of IDT Corp., president Genie Energy; former White House Staffer	\$100,000	Energy
HABEEB, PAUL V.	Owner, The Delamore Companies/CEO CenterPointe Senior Living	\$100,000	Real estate
HERD, MICHAEL ANTHONY	VP, Herd Producing/Texas oil heir	\$100,000	Energy
HERZKA, RALPH	CEO of Meridian Capital, NY-based real estate finance firm	\$100,000	Real estate
HESS, JOHN B.	CEO of Hess Corp.	\$100,000	Energy
HORNSTEIN, STEVEN S.	Global Credit Advisers	\$100,000	Finance
HUSTON, DANNY R.	President, North American Midway Entertainment (traveling carnivals)	\$100,000	Media/Entertainment
JOHNSON, ANN L. MRS.	Palm Beach, Fla., wife of mutual fund billionaire Charles B. Johnson	\$100,000	Finance
JOHNSON, CHARLES B.	Mutual fund billionaire	\$100,000	Finance
KIMMELMAN, DOUGLAS	Senior Partner/Founder, Energy Capital Partners (private equity firm focused on energy)	\$100,000	Energy
KRAUSE, SHAWN M.	Quicken Loans Executive; member of Trump transition team	\$100,000	Finance
LAUDER, RONALD S. HON.	Heir to Estee Lauder companies	\$100,000	Beauty products
LEFRAK, HARRISON TUCKER	Son of Richard LeFrak	\$100,000	Real estate
LEFRAK, JAMES T.	Son of Richard LeFrak	\$100,000	Real estate
LEFRAK, RICHARD	New York real estate developer; Trump friend	\$100,000	Real estate
LINDELL, MICHAEL	Founder, My Pillow	\$100,000	Bedding
LORIA, JEFFREY H.	Art dealer; former owner of Miami Marlins	\$100,000	Art
MARCUS, BERNARD	Founder of Home Depot	\$100,000	Construction
MATSON, HENRY J.	Long Beach, Calif. Builder	\$100,000	Real estate
MATSON, HENRY J.	Long Beach, Calif. Builder	\$100,000	Real estate
MOLLESTON, MARGARET W	President of GeoSouthern Energy Partners	\$100,000	Energy
PRICE, WILLIAM FJR.	Retired, Malibu, Calif.	\$100,000	Retired
ROTH, STEVEN	CEO of Vornado Realty Trust	\$100,000	Real estate
ROUSE, THOMAS M	Retired former CEO of credit card processing firm	\$100,000	Finance
SCHWARTZ, DONNA	Wife of Marvin Schwartz	\$100,000	Finance
SCHWARTZ, MARVIN	Investment advisor, Neuberger Berman	\$100,000	Finance
SHAMI, FAROUK	Hair care entrepreneur; Trump friend; founder and chairman Farouk Systems	\$100,000	Beauty products

SIMMONS, ANNETTE C. MRS.	Ex-wife of the late billionaire Harold C. Simmons	\$100,000	Waste
SIMONYI, CHARLES	Billionaire former Microsoft executive	\$100,000	Software
SIMONYI, LISA	Wife of Charles Simonyi	\$100,000	Software
SNYDER, DAN	Owner, Washington Redskins	\$100,000	Sports
SOLOWAY, STEPHEN	New Jersey doctor, board member of Trump hotel named to WH sports, fitness, nutrition council	\$100,000	Medicine/Pharma
SUTTON, NICHOLAS J	Executive Chairman, Resolute Energy	\$100,000	Energy
TACITO, ANTHONY	CEO of Tacito & Associates	\$100,000	Marketing
TAWIL, ELIOT	Manhattan real estate executive with Wharton Properties	\$100,000	Real estate
UIHLEIN, RICHARD	Founder of Wisconsin packaging and supply company	\$100,000	Packaging
UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	PAC for major steel company	\$100,000	Manufacturing
WALLACE, BEATRICE CARR	Ex-wife of the late Trinity Industries CEO W. Ray Wallace; ex-wife of oilman T. Boone Pickens	\$100,000	Transportation
WITKOFF, ALEXANDER R.	Real estate executive; former Trump Org executive	\$100,000	Real estate
WITKOFF, ZACHARY D.	Real estate executive	\$100,000	Real estate
ZARNEGIN, ROBERT	President/CEO of Beverly Hills real estate firm	\$100,000	Real estate