

# WHO CONTROLS WHICH MEDIA:

## DNC ELITES CONTROL:

Reddit  
Google  
Netflix  
Amazon  
Microsoft  
Ebay  
Disney  
Facebook  
CNN  
MSNBC  
CBS  
San Francisco Chronicle  
All Hearst Publications

- ▶ George Soros, a major donor to Wikipedia who funds many new digital media outlets through his Open Society Foundation (see our [nonprofit U.S. Media Index](#)), gave \$3,679,800.
- ▶ Laurene Powell Jobs donated over \$2 million. She owns The Atlantic, could still be the largest shareholder of Disney/ABC and funds many digital news nonprofits through the American Journalism Project, which her Emerson Collective helped to create.
- ▶ Robert Iger, executive chairman of the Walt Disney Co. and who once ran ABC, gave over \$1 million.
- ▶ David Zaslav, who led the merger with CNN and Discovery, donated over \$240,000.
- ▶ James Murdoch, who left the family Fox News business, donated over \$2.25 million.
- ▶ Afsaneh Beschloss, NPR Board of Directors, gave \$614,300.
- ▶ Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook, gave \$500,000 mostly to Democrats.
- ▶ Pamela Wasserstein, owner of Vox and New York magazine, gave \$8,100.
- ▶ Mashable's Vivek Shah gave \$30,800.
- ▶ Barry Diller, owner of The Daily Beast and Investopedia, gave \$120,000.
- ▶ Anna Wintour, editor of Vogue, gave \$6,000.
- ▶ Eric Zinterhofer, board member of Univision, gave \$102,000.

## **Donors to Republicans**

- ▶ Billionaire [Paul Singer](#), who claimed, post the CNN-Discovery merger, that his activism brought the deal about, balanced things out with his \$1.7 million.
- ▶ No surprise, Rupert Murdoch and his son Lachlan collectively gave over \$2.5 million, mostly to Republicans.
- ▶ Newsmax owner Chris Ruddy gave \$365,000 to Donald Trump and his super PACs.
- ▶ The Daily Caller's Omeed Malik donated \$150,000.
- ▶ Henry Kravis and George Roberts, owners of Business Insider and the German news empire Axel Springer and who recently purchased Politico and co-founded KKR Private Equity, collectively gave over \$1.2 million.
- ▶ Marc Rowan at Apollo Management, the private equity firm that recently acquired Yahoo News for \$5 billion, gave \$1.75 million.
- ▶ Edward Atsinger, a leading evangelical and co-founder of conservative Townhall Media, gave about \$30,000.
- ▶ Hilton Howell of Gray Television gave \$17,600.
- ▶ Philip Anschutz, owner of the Washington Examiner, gave \$168,500.
- ▶ Farris Wilks, investor in the Daily Wire, gave \$416,800 to Trump Victory and Club for Growth Action.



It raises the question: Does super PAC funding, often with a hefty and opaque line-item labeled “media spend,” fund some of these outlets? What does “media” constitute?

According to OpenSecrets, an independent nonprofit that tracks money in U.S. politics, as of last week, [2,276 groups organized as super PACs have reported](#) their numbers. The names of the super PACs (Win Red, Dirt Road, Fair Fight, Follow the North Star, Security is Strength) are almost comical, even if the totals are gobsmacking. They received collectively more than \$3 billion (\$3,427,543,995) in the 2019-20 presidential election cycle and showed independent expenditures of more than \$2.1 billion. That leaves \$1 billion unaccounted for.

