

## Tracking Money and Influence

# Donald Trump's inauguration fueled by tobacco, oil and drug company money

**Donald Trump's inauguration fueled by tobacco, oil and drug company money**

Other big-spending sponsors include insurers, auto makers, tech giants

By Carrie Levine 5:57 pm, January 31, 2017 Updated: 2:48 pm, February 2, 2017

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Big corporations with money riding on President Donald Trump's policies helped pick up the tab for Trump's inaugural festivities earlier this month, new disclosures show.

The companies' five-to-seven-figure contributions earned company representatives **prime perches**, including access to events featuring the newly inaugurated president, Vice President Mike Pence, the Trump and Pence families and prospective Cabinet members and administration officials.

**Pfizer Inc. and Dow Chemical Co.** both disclosed making \$1 million contributions to Trump's inaugural committee in December 2016.

**Microsoft Corp., Exxon Mobil Corp., Amgen Inc. and Altria Client Services LLC** reported giving \$500,000 each, a contribution that would have earned tickets to a similar list of events.

According to Microsoft's report, half its contribution was in cash and half in "in-kind contribution, products and services."

Exxon Mobil Corp. reported making its contribution on Dec. 19, the week after Trump announced he would nominate Rex Tillerson, the company's chairman and CEO, as secretary of state. Tillerson's nomination is still pending.

**General Motors Co.** reported giving \$200,000. Six companies reported

President Donald Trump delivers his inaugural address after being sworn in as the 45th president of the United States during the 58th Presidential Inauguration at the U.S. Capitol in Washington on Jan. 20, 2017. Patrick Semansky/AP

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4:05 PM 10/3/2017

- Trump's inaugural committee didn't have to file reports disclosing contributors until April.
- Using [lobbying contribution reports](#), we were able to get an early peek at some large corporate contributors nearly three months earlier. (Here's an [example](#) of what the reports look like).
- It's important to know what contributors have to disclose, when they have to disclose it, and who they have to disclose it to.

# Comeback for 'legalized money laundering' in party politics?

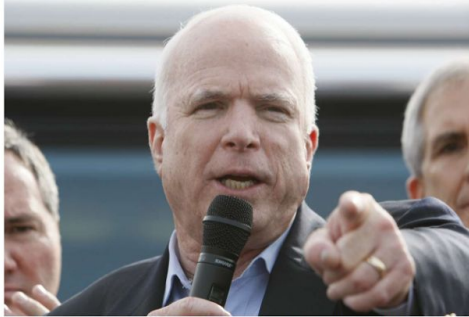
Secure | https://www.publicintegrity.org/2017/08/04/21048/comeback-legalized-money-laundering-party-politics

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Federal Politics

## Comeback for 'legalized money laundering' in party politics?

National committees are reaping riches from latter-day 'soft money' system  
By Charlie Lissner 5:05 pm August 4, 2017 Updated 5:01 pm August 4, 2017



Sen. John McCain, speaking at a rally during his presidential campaign, was the driving force behind a law that banned political "soft money" contributions to national political parties. But such money has recently made a comeback of sorts. Charles Lissner/AP

In 2002, Sen. John McCain (center) led the federal government's ban on "soft money" — the unlimited cash donors shored up national political parties — a "winning for the people of America and democracy."

McCain was ecstatic. Legislation he championed to reduce the influence of money in politics had just withstood a Supreme Court challenge. And the Arizona Republican prevailed after having enlisted members of both parties in his senate.

But a new *Center for Public Integrity* analysis of campaign finance data indicates Democrats and Republicans alike are now aggressively trafficking in a new — and perfectly legal — kind of soft money enabled by a 2014 Supreme Court decision, the latest in a series gutting major parts of McCain's 2002 law.

The new tactic is also changing political fundamentals.

In a fundraising environment that had come to be dominated by super PACs — committees that may raise and spend unlimited amounts of money to advocate for or against specific candidates — it's helping national political parties regain some autonomy after years of declining power. It's also creating an era when politicians were able to directly solicit size and seven-figure checks from donors on behalf of the national treasury, rather than the state of

- Careful reading of campaign finance reports can make it possible to track money transferred from one committee to another.
- If you're reading filings regularly, you'll have an easier time understanding them and [spotting the interesting ones](#).

## MISCELLANEOUS TEXT (FEC Form 99)

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NAME OF COMMITTEE (In Full)  
Republican Party of Wisconsin

FEC IDENTIFICATION NUMBER  
C00074450

Mailing Address 148 East Johnson Street

City	State	ZIP Code
Madison	WI	53703

This Form 99 is being submitted along with an amendment to the Amended October Monthly Report.

1. The increase in receipts and disbursements both totaling \$157,724.07 were related to Trump Victory JFC receipts and disbursements. These were handled in a separate JFC account and inadvertently left off the original filing. The committee subsequently amended its October Monthly Report to reflect the payout from the Trump Victory JFC and the accompanying disbursement to the Republican National Committee.

2. The year-to-date total calculations have been corrected on schedule H4.

3. The two disbursements in schedule H4 that had been missing expense descriptions have been added. "Advantage Direct?" now has the corresponding purpose of "Auto Calls – Not FEA?". "Adesys Consulting?" now has the purpose of "Website Hosting?".

# Donald Trump's sons behind nonprofit selling access to president-elect

**Buying of the President**  
**Donald Trump's sons behind nonprofit selling access to president-elect**  
New Texas-based group not legally required to disclose its donors

By Carrie Levine 7:03 pm, December 19, 2016 Updated: 5:48 pm, December 20, 2016

A new Texas nonprofit led by Donald Trump's grown sons is offering access to the freshly-minted president during inauguration weekend — all in exchange for million-dollar donations to unnamed “conservation” charities, according to interviews and documents reviewed by the Center for Public Integrity.

And the donors' identities may never be known.

Prospective million-dollar donors to the “Opening Day 2017” event — slated for Jan. 21, the day after inauguration, at Washington, D.C.'s Walter E. Washington Convention Center — receive a “private reception and photo opportunity for 16 guests with President Donald J. Trump,” a “multi-day hunting and/or fishing excursion for 4 guests with Donald Trump, Jr. and/or Eric Trump, and team,” as well as tickets to other events and “autographed guitars by an Opening Day 2017 performer.”

Website TMZ.com first published a brochure hyping the happening. The brochure says that “all net proceeds from the Opening Day event will be

**'Opening Day Foundation' nonprofit registration**

DOCUMENT

Doc. No. 2016-11-1206 113-488-1706

11-12-16 11:12:06 AM

CERTIFICATE OF FORMATION

OPENING DAY FOUNDATION

SEC. 19.206 Corporations Section

I, the undersigned, several persons of the age of eighteen (18) years or more, acting as signatories of a nonprofit corporation under the Texas Nonprofit Organizations Act (the “NPOA”), do hereby adopt the following Certificate of Formation of Opening Day Foundation (the “Corporation”).

Article 1

Entity Name and Date

The filing entity being formed is a nonprofit corporation. The name of the entity is: OPENING DAY FOUNDATION

Article 2

Registered Agent and Registered Office

The initial registered agent is an individual resident of the state of Texas whose name is set forth below:

CERTIFYING OFFICER

The business address of the registered agent and the registered office address is Texas at:

4404 McKinney Avenue  
Dallas, Texas 75204

Article 3

Memorandum

Page 1 of 4

- Sometimes, it's easy to look for something deeply hidden and forget to look in the obvious places.
- Corporate filings can tell you a lot.
- Tips and sources are great. But documents always make a story stronger.

## #CitizenSleuth

- Sometimes, making data more accessible can help you spot patterns or details you would otherwise miss.
- The Center for Public Integrity's Citizen Sleuth project produced a [searchable, sortable database](#) of Trump administration personal financial disclosure forms, allowing us to crowdsource research in a new way.
- Thanks to that project, we were able to write [this story](#) and [this story](#). More to come!