

BRIBERY IN PLAIN SIGHT? SPECIAL INTERESTS' MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR DONATIONS TO TRUMP'S PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

Every president since the 1930s has established a presidential library after their term ends, to honor their legacy and allow scholars and the public to learn about their time in office. But President Donald Trump may be using his future presidential library as a possible tool for corruption and bribery while still in office.

Giant corporations, at least one foreign government, and other entities have promised donations collectively worth hundreds of millions of dollars to President Trump's future library while he holds the key to factors that impact those same entities' futures, from mega-merger approvals, to the preservation of the U.S. military base in Qatar, to Big Tech regulation, and more. Other companies have partnered with President Trump to sell Trump-themed merchandise, with the proceeds benefiting his presidential library.

A new analysis from the office of U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren reveals that companies seeking favorable outcomes from the Trump administration have pledged to funnel at least \$63 million into Trump's future presidential library. Other gifts and in-kind donations from special interests bring the total value of gifts flowing into Trump's library to at least *half a billion* dollars.

Trump's allies [have also reportedly](#) confirmed that leftover funds donated to Trump's inauguration fund will be primarily funneled to his library, meaning up to an **additional \$30 million** could be dumped into Trump's library fund.

The timing of these donations — coming while Trump sits in office and makes critical decisions that may impact the same donors — raises serious ethical concerns about potential bribery and influence-peddling. Many of the gifts came in the form of settlements to Trump-filed lawsuits. Past presidents have also accepted suspicious donations while in office — such as the Clinton Foundation [accepting](#) a \$450,000 donation from a woman pushing for a presidential pardon for her ex-husband, which President Clinton later granted, or a Bush Administration advisor soliciting presidential library donations in exchange for arranging [meetings](#) with top administration officials. But Trump is doing so at a magnitude that makes glaringly clear the need for common-sense guardrails around donations.

Unlike donations to presidential campaigns or inaugural committees, there are virtually no restrictions on donations to presidential libraries. Even while in office, presidents can solicit unlimited, undisclosed donations from anyone — including foreign nationals, lobbyists, federal contractors, individuals seeking presidential pardons, and corporations with business before federal agencies.

Donald Trump has pushed the boundaries of these gifts by accepting — while he sits in the Oval Office — at least \$63 million in monetary donations, along with in-kind donations worth over \$400 million, from key companies and entities that may be seeking special favors:

Corporate settlements:

- **[Paramount](#) donated \$16 million.** Last year, President Trump sued Paramount Global over the editing of an interview on CBS's *60 Minutes*, a suit that [experts called "baseless."](#) Just weeks ago, Paramount settled for \$16 million, with the money funneling straight into Trump's future library. Paramount is currently vying for approval by the Trump administration of its proposed megamerger with Skydance.
- **[Meta](#) donated \$22 million.** Following the January 6, 2021 Capitol riot, Meta shut down President Trump's Facebook and Instagram accounts for nearly two years. Since Trump's reelection, Meta has cozied up to his administration — and earlier this year settled a lawsuit brought by President Trump for \$25 million, with \$22 million going toward a fund for his presidential library.
- **[X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) donated \$10 million.** Similar to Meta, Elon Musk's X banned Donald Trump from the platform after the January 6 attack on the Capitol. In February, Trump settled a lawsuit against X for \$10 million, with a portion of the money set to go toward Trump's presidential library.
- **[ABC News](#) donated \$15 million.** In December 2024, ABC News settled a defamation lawsuit with Donald Trump by agreeing to pay \$15 million toward his presidential library.

Proceeds from Trump-themed merchandise:

- **[Instant Pot](#)** has said that all proceeds from its Trump-themed "45/47 Collaboration," created in collaboration with Trump administration representatives, will go directly to Trump's future library.
- **[Lenox Corporation](#)**, which sells tableware and collectible items, has said that all proceeds from its Trump-themed products would go to Trump's future library. Plans include a line of fine porcelain dinnerware featuring Trump's face, MAGA glasses, ornaments, and snow globes.
- **[Soho Apparel Group](#)**, an apparel supplier for major retailers like Nordstrom and TJ Maxx, has announced plans to launch a line of Trump-inspired merchandise, with all proceeds going toward Trump's future presidential library.

Other contributions:

- **[Qatar](#) donated a \$400 million jet — which will later be transferred to Trump's library.** Donald Trump accepted an unprecedented gift: a \$400 million luxury jet from Qatar. After using it as Air Force One and retrofitting it at taxpayers' expense, he reportedly plans to transfer the jet to his presidential library foundation.

- **Up to \$30 million more from giant corporations like Amazon and Microsoft could be funneled into Trump's presidential library.** Trump's allies have [reportedly](#) confirmed that leftover funds donated to Trump's inauguration fund will be primarily funneled to his library. The following companies each donated at least \$1 million to Trump's inauguration: Amazon, Apple (Tim Cook), AT&T, Adobe, Citadel (Ken Griffin), Circle, Coinbase, Charter Communications, Ford, GM, Google, Hims, Intuit, Kraken, Microsoft, Moon Pay, NVIDIA, Ondo Finance, Open AI (Sam Altman), Perplexity, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, Pratt Industries, Ripple, Robinhood, Stanley Black & Decker, Toyota, Uber (Dara Khosrowshahi).
- **Tens of millions of dollars from candlelight dinners with Donald Trump at Mar-a-Lago are reportedly flowing to his future library.** Business leaders are paying millions of dollars to dine and meet with Trump at Mar-a-Lago. A [source](#) with direct knowledge confirmed all proceeds will be going to Trump's future presidential library.

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