

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 13, 2026

Keith Krach
CEO, Freedom 250
National Park Foundation
1500 K Street NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Krach,

We write to request that you disclose to Congress donations made to Freedom 250, the entity established by President Trump to plan and fund the widely panned semi quincentennial celebration in our nation's capital. As the nation continues to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country's founding, new reports indicate that Freedom 250 has raised over \$50 million¹ from more than 20 corporate sponsors, many of whom have ongoing business before the federal government.² However, despite previous inquiries from Congress seeking clarity regarding the funding, governance, and role of Freedom 250, the exact details about the timing, amount, and source for the vast majority of these donations remain unknown.³

The lack of transparency in these donations makes it difficult for the public to determine whether donors may have received any favors or special treatment in exchange for their donations, concealing potential pay-to-play politics or even outright bribery. Indeed, troubling new reports allege that the President is personally involved in fundraising for his vanity projects, including those organized in conjunction with Freedom 250, and may be engaged in quid pro quo dealings.⁴ According to the Wall Street Journal, "Trump has been demanding large checks from companies for a range of political and legacy projects—telling executives and lobbyists that their companies should give \$25 million or \$50 million. He has sometimes offered donors special access."⁵ Reportedly, "[i]f a company encounters an issue with the federal government that comes to Trump's attention, he will want to know how much money the company gave."⁶

¹ Wall Street Journal, "'The Boss Wants This Money': Inside Trump's Unprecedented Fundraising Operation," Josh Sawsey, Dana Mattiolo, Annie Linskey, and Emily Glazer, July 30, 2026, <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-donations-company-fundraising-1e34a78f>.

² Politico, "New disclosures reveal \$9M in corporate donations to Trump's Freedom 250," Daniel Barnes, July 31, 2026, <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/07/31/disclosures-corporate-donations-trump-freedom250-01020551>; ABC News "Who is paying for America's 250th celebrations? It's complicated," Peter Charalambous, Laura Romero, Will Lennon, and Nicholas Kerr, July 3, 2026, <https://abcnews.com/Politics/paying-americas-250th-celebrations-complicated/story?id=134452800>.

³ Letter from Senator Schiff and Colleagues on Freedom 250, February 11, 2026, <https://www.schiff.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Letter-from-Sen.-Schiff-Colleagues-to-WH-on-Freedom-250.pdf>; NOTUS, "Freedom 250 Sponsors Failed to Disclose Donations — A Potential Lobbying Law Violation," Taylor Giorno, August 5, 2026, <https://www.notus.org/money/freedom-250-corporate-contributions-donald-trump>.

⁴ Wall Street Journal, "'The Boss Wants This Money': Inside Trump's Unprecedented Fundraising Operation," Josh Sawsey, Dana Mattiolo, Annie Linskey, and Emily Glazer, July 30, 2026, <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-donations-company-fundraising-1e34a78f>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

If true, these reports raise serious questions about whether Freedom 250—like the fundraising entities for the President’s ballroom, library, and other vanity projects—is serving as a vehicle through which wealthy corporations and other private interests can make contributions while seeking preferential access to, and favorable treatment from, the Trump Administration. The American people deserve to know who has or will finance Freedom 250, how those funds are being or will be used, and whether the organization’s fundraising activities are creating financial conflicts of interest for President Trump or other administration officials.

The Governance, Finances, and Operations of Freedom 250

Freedom 250 was established as a limited liability corporation⁷ on October 28, 2025, in what now appears to be a successful attempt by the Trump Administration to seize control over the national celebration of America’s 250th anniversary and sideline the bipartisan, congressionally authorized America250 Commission.⁸ Notably, unlike America250, Freedom 250 allows its donors to remain anonymous and does not disclose key financial information.⁹

Freedom 250 is awash with ties to partisan campaign operatives and businesses.¹⁰ President Trump has stacked the board of Freedom 250’s parent organization, the congressionally-chartered National Park Foundation, with campaign loyalists, including Jim McCray, Richard Walters, and Meredith O’Rourke, who has also served as a fundraiser for Trump’s presidential campaign, the White House Ballroom, and other Trump pet projects.¹¹ According to the Wall Street Journal, O’Rourke is regularly in close contact with President Trump regarding fundraising efforts. The President calls her “[a]lmost every night in the White House” to ask “which companies and donors have cut checks and which haven’t, and for how much.” O’Rourke is “often at Trump’s side in the White House and elsewhere.”¹²

Beyond the National Park Foundation’s board, Freedom 250 contractors and vendors are also closely connected to Trump’s presidential campaign. Registration for Freedom 250 events is run by Campaign Nucleus, a company founded by Mr. Trump’s campaign digital director Brad

⁷ Certificate Of Formation Of Freedom 250 LLC, October 28, 2025, <https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/75fed935b281ea3b/ab15c888-full.pdf>.

⁸ Public Citizen, “MAGA 250! \$103M in Federal Contracts Flow to Trumpified “Freedom 250” Events,” Toni Aguilar Rosenthal and Alan Zibel, June 11, 2026, <https://www.citizen.org/article/maga-250-103m-in-federal-contracts-flow-to-trumpified-freedom-250-events/>.

⁹ CBS News, “Republicans spent years targeting progressive dark money. That could now boomerang on Trump,” Gabe Kaminsky, July 27, 2026, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/republicans-trump-freedom-250-progressive-dark-money/>; NPR, “The Trump administration wants \$10 million more to cover its July Fourth celebrations,” Rachel Treisman, July 30, 2026, <https://www.npr.org/2026/07/30/nx-s1-5913172/freedom-250-july-fourth-10-million>; American Oversight, “What’s the Difference Between Freedom 250 and America250?,” June 17, 2026, <https://americanoversight.org/america250-freedom-250-corruption/>.

¹⁰ House Natural Resources Democratic Staff, “From Vanity To Insanity How The White House Cheated The American People Out Of Their 250th Birthday,” July 2, 2026, https://democrats-naturalresources.house.gov/imo/media/doc/freedom250_oversight_report2.pdf.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² Wall Street Journal, “‘The Boss Wants This Money’: Inside Trump’s Unprecedented Fundraising Operation,” Josh Dawsey, Dana Mattioli, Annie Linskey, and Emily Glazer, July 30, 2026, <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-donations-company-fundraising-1e34a78f>.

Parscale.¹³ Ace Specialties, the Trump campaign merchandise vendor, operates the official Freedom 250 online merchandise store.¹⁴ Event Strategies Inc., the company that organized President Trump's January 6 rally that incited the violent attack on the U.S. Capitol, is planning the program and logistics for Freedom 250 events.¹⁵ The list goes on, and paints a picture of an organization that looks less and less like what Congress intended in the bipartisan America250 and more like a campaign designed to promote the President and reward his political allies.

With President Trump's advisors and friends at the helm, Freedom 250 has opened another avenue for private interests to curry favor with the Trump Administration. In the months leading up to July 4, 2026, Freedom 250 offered sponsorship packages that included VIP access, a "historic photo opportunity," and an invitation to a "private Freedom 250 reception" granting companies exclusive access to the President's ear for the price of \$1 million or more.¹⁶ Additionally, the President reportedly held a "wine reception" with Freedom 250 donors at the White House earlier this year.¹⁷

Freedom 250 Donations

Freedom 250 lists 21 corporate sponsors on its website, most of which have business pending before the federal government and significant financial stakes in the outcome of contracting decisions, regulatory actions, or other activities by President Trump or his administration.¹⁸ The list includes technology and AI companies and three major defense contractors: Lockheed Martin, GE Aerospace, and Northrop Grumman.

Of the corporate donors listed on the Freedom 250 website, only three—United Airlines, RTX, and Chevron—disclosed their financial contributions in accordance with the Lobbying Disclosure Act.¹⁹ All three have business pending before the federal government and also may have already benefited from their contributions.²⁰ According to its report, United Airlines

¹³ The Guardian, "Trump hijacked US's 250 anniversary to serve 'political ideology and pet projects', congressional report says," David Smith, July 2, 2026, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jul/02/trump-hijacked-250-anniversary>.

¹⁴ The Atlantic, "Inside America's Ugly Birthday Battle," Michael Scherer, June 11, 2026, <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/2026/06/trump-250-great-american-state-fair/687456/>.

¹⁵ Letter from U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren, Adam B. Schiff, Richard Blumenthal, et al. to White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles, June 17, 2026, <https://www.schiff.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/26.06.17-Letter-from-Sen.-Schiff-and-Colleagues-to-White-House-on-Event-Strategies-Contracts.pdf>; House Natural Resources Democratic Staff, "From Vanity To Insanity How The White House Cheated The American People Out Of Their 250th Birthday," July 2, 2026, https://democrats-naturalresources.house.gov/imo/media/doc/freedom250_oversight_report2.pdf.

¹⁶ Freedom 250 sponsorship packages, <https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/f6e549fa141d220f/01cfe3d5-full.pdf>.

¹⁷ Wall Street Journal, "'The Boss Wants This Money': Inside Trump's Unprecedented Fundraising Operation," Josh Sawsey, Danan Mattioli, Annie Linskey, and Emily Glazer, July 30, 2026, <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-donations-company-fundraising-1e34a78f>.

¹⁸ Freedom 250, <https://www.freedom250.org/>.

¹⁹ NOTUS, "Freedom 250 Sponsors Failed to Disclose Donations — A Potential Lobbying Law Violation," Taylor Giorno, August 5, 2026, <https://www.notus.org/money/freedom-250-corporate-contributions-donald-trump>.

²⁰ Politico, "New disclosures reveal \$9M in corporate donations to Trump's Freedom 250," Daniel Barnes, July 31, 2026, <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/07/31/disclosures-corporate-donations-trump-freedom250-01020551>;

donated \$2.5 million to Freedom 250 in March 2026.²¹ The company has substantial interests before the federal government, including millions of dollars in contracts with the Department of Defense.²² On July 29, 2026, the President announced a \$22 billion plan to renovate Washington Dulles airport, which one reporter called “a huge boon” to United Airlines, which has a 68.5% passenger market share at Dulles.²³

Aerospace and defense contractor RTX donated \$1.5 million in May 2026, according to the company’s own lobbying disclosure report.²⁴ The donation came after President Trump singled out RTX in a January 2026 Truth Social post, in which he threatened to cut defense contracts with RTX subsidiary Raytheon.²⁵ In June and July 2026, RTX was awarded \$1.1 and \$1.8 billion contracts with the U.S. Navy.²⁶ The company’s stock recently hit an all-time high amid Trump’s Iran War.²⁷

Chevron donated \$5 million to Freedom 250 on May 28, 2026, according to the company’s own disclosure report.²⁸ Although Chevron’s donation is the largest known contribution to the organization, it is significantly less than the \$50 million requested of the company by Trump fundraisers this year.²⁹ Chevron’s donation—and its failure to meet the demands of the President—come amidst scrutiny from the administration regarding gas prices.³⁰ In addition, Chevron has

ABC News “Who is paying for America’s 250th celebrations? It’s complicated,” Peter Charalambous, Laura Romero, Will Lennon, and Nicholas Kerr, July 3, 2026, <https://abcnews.com/Politics/paying-americas-250th-celebrations-complicated/story?id=134452800>.

²¹ Politico, “New disclosures reveal \$9M in corporate donations to Trump’s Freedom 250,” Daniel Barnes, July 31, 2026, <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/07/31/disclosures-corporate-donations-trump-freedom250-01020551>.

²² USA Spending Data, <https://www.usaspending.gov/search?hash=f3ae283430997e833e0aaecb97848a7>.

²³ Posted on X by Jake Sherman, July 29, 2026, <https://x.com/JakeSherman/status/2082452529263047086?s=20>; Aviation Week, “Trump Unveils \$22.5B Washington Dulles Airport Rebuild,” Aaron Karp, July 30, 2026, <https://aviationweek.com/air-transport/airports-networks/trump-unveils-225b-washington-dulles-airport-rebuild>.

²⁴ RTX Corporation and Affiliates, Lobbying Contribution Report, July 30, 2026, <https://lda.gov/filings/public/contribution/4a8309bf-68c8-41f8-aaef-e37797fec728/print/>.

²⁵ Wall Street Journal, “See How Trump’s Truth Social Posts Move Stocks,” Shradha Dinesh and James Benedict, July 18, 2026, <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/see-how-trumps-truth-social-posts-move-stocks-5ee3611b>.

²⁶ RTX, “RTX’s Raytheon awarded \$1.1 billion U.S. Navy contract to produce AIM-9X Block II missiles,” June 26, 2026, <https://www.rtx.com/news/news-center/2026/06/26/rtxs-raytheon-awarded-1-1-billion-u-s-navy-contract-to-produce-aim-9x-block-ii-3#gdpr>; RTX, “RTX’s Raytheon awarded \$1.8 billion hardware production and sustainment contract for SPY-6 family of radars,” July 21, 2026, <https://www.rtx.com/news/news-center/2026/07/21/rtxs-raytheon-awarded-1-8-billion-hardware-production-and-sustainment-contract>.

²⁷ Yahoo Finance, “RTX Stock Just Hit New All-Time Highs Amid Iran War. How Much Higher Can It Go?,” Jim Van Meerten, March 9, 2026, <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/rtx-stock-just-hit-time-163003974.html>.

²⁸ Chevron U.S.A. Inc., Lobbying Contribution Report, July 30, 2026, <https://lda.gov/filings/public/contribution/2cdd54b5-ab49-4fb4-9e0c-3b3b11a80799/print/>.

²⁹ Wall Street Journal, “‘The Boss Wants This Money’: Inside Trump’s Unprecedented Fundraising Operation,” Josh Sawsey, Dana Mattiolo, Annie Linskey, and Emily Glazer, July 30, 2026, <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-donations-company-fundraising-1e34a78f>.

³⁰ EconoTimes, “Trump Orders DOJ Investigation Into Exxon, Chevron Over High Gas Prices,” June 24, 2026 <https://www.econotimes.com/Trump-Orders-DOJ-Investigation-Into-Exxon-Chevron-Over-High-Gas-Prices-1745080>; Yahoo Finance, “Trump Chastises Chevron CEO for Failing to Praise Administration,” Kevin Crowley, August 3, 2026, <https://finance.yahoo.com/energy/articles/trump-chastises-chevron-ceo>.

significant business before the administration in the aftermath of the U.S. intervention in Venezuela—where Chevron is the only major American oil company currently operating—and as the war in Iran continues to affect oil prices.³¹

Without details from lobbying disclosure transports and full transparency from Freedom 250, we are left to guess about any connections between a company's donation and any benefit potentially derived from that gift. Chemical fertilizer company Mosaic, for example, was listed as a sponsor of Freedom 250 in mid-June 2026, the day after Trump stated that he was “looking at doing a form of help because of fertilizer,” because of high costs related to the war with Iran.³² The sponsorship announcement also came as Mosaic was reportedly monitoring trade talks between the U.S. and Canada, where the company has multiple mines.³³ Meanwhile, Palantir, the software giant who has helped carry out the federal government's surveillance and tracking of U.S. immigrants, was listed as a Freedom 250 sponsor and has been awarded billions of dollars in federal contracts by the Trump Administration.³⁴ And most recently, the Defense Intelligence Agency reversed course on a contract solicitation in response to a bid protest by Palantir, and the announcement of the request withdrawal alone led Palantir stock to jump 1%.³⁵

There are likely even more companies and donors that are not listed on the Freedom 250 website who may now be in a position to cash in on presidential favors. TikTok, for example, is not a listed sponsor on the Freedom 250 website, but reportedly donated \$2 million to Freedom 250.³⁶

[failing-151654454.html](https://www.failing-151654454.html).

³¹ Grist, “How Chevron played the long game in Venezuela,” Lois Parshley, January 9, 2026, <https://grist.org/energy/how-chevron-played-the-long-game-in-venezuela/>; The Hill, “Chevron chief on Iran war impacting energy markets: ‘The situation remains somewhat fragile and uncertain’,” Ryan Mancini, August 2, 2026, <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/6004653-chevron-ceo-oil-market-risks/>; Forbes, “Chevron Turned \$3.1 Billion Loss Into A Gain In One Quarter Amid ‘Heightened Volatility’ During Iran War,” Antonio Pequeño IV, August 6, 2026, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/antoniopequenoiv/2026/08/06/chevron-turned-31-billion-loss-into-a-gain-in-one-quarter-amid-heightened-volatility-during-iran-war/>.

³² Posted on X by Nancy Levine, June 12, 2026, <https://x.com/nancylevine/status/2065412419493732603?s=20>.

³³ Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, “Donations to Trump's Freedom 250 fund raise ethics questions,” Meghan Faulkner and Walker Davis, May 27, 2026, <https://www.citizensforethics.org/reports-investigations/crew-investigations/donations-to-trumps-freedom-250-fund-raise-ethics-questions/>; Discover Moose Jaw, “Mosaic keeping close eye on trade talks with U.S.,” Shawn Slaght, June 5, 2026, <https://discovermoosejaw.com/articles/mosaic-keeping-close-eye-on-trade-talks-with-us>.

³⁴ CNBC, “Palantir lands \$10 billion Army software and data contract,” Samantha Subin, August 1, 2025, <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/08/01/palantir-lands-10-billion-army-software-and-data-contract.html>; Letter from U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren to DHS Inspector General Joseph V. Cuffari and DOD Acting Inspector General Steven A. Stebbins, December 8, 2025, https://www.warren.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/media/doc/immigration_contractor_corruption_letter.pdf.

³⁵ Yahoo Finance, “Palantir shares climb after U.S. agency withdraws military intelligence contract bid,” Fiona Craig, July 24, 2026, <https://finance.yahoo.com/markets/stocks/articles/palantir-shares-climb-u-agency-141243760.html>.

³⁶ Politico, “New disclosures reveal \$9M in corporate donations to Trump's Freedom 250,” Daniel Barnes, July 31, 2026, <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/07/31/disclosures-corporate-donations-trump-freedom250-01020551>.

The company—which hired three Trump-linked lobbyists in the spring³⁷—recently scored a win with the Justice Department, who announced that federal employees can now use the app.³⁸

Conclusion & Questions

The politicized fundraising and potential for pay-to-play influence-peddling involving Freedom 250 is one more example of this administration’s boundless corruption. From the President’s gold-encrusted ballroom to his presidential library, Freedom 250 appears to be yet another slush fund for wealthy corporations and insiders to buy influence with the White House.³⁹

The American people should not have to wonder whether the nation’s 250th anniversary is being leveraged as an opportunity for wealthy corporations and special interests to purchase access or influence by channeling money through Freedom 250. Commemoration of one of the most significant milestones in our nation’s history should not be overshadowed by questions about opaque fundraising, undisclosed donors, or potential conflicts of interest. Although the July 4, 2026, celebrations have concluded, Freedom 250 and the administration have a number of events and projects scheduled for the remainder of the year.⁴⁰ Therefore, the public is entitled to a full accounting of Freedom 250’s finances, fundraising activities, and relationships with its donors and sponsors.

To address our questions on this matter, I ask that you please answer the following by September 28, 2026:

1. How much money has Freedom 250 received in contributions, grants, sponsorships, or other donations since its creation?
2. Please provide a complete list of Freedom 250’s donors, sponsors, and contributors, the date of their contributions, and their contribution amounts.
3. How much cash and other assets does Freedom 250 have on hand?
4. Please provide a complete accounting of how Freedom 250 has spent all funds that it has received since its creation.
5. How have the remaining funds post-July 4, 2026, been used? How will the remaining funds continue to be used?

³⁷ Bloomberg Government, “TikTok US Adds New Trio of Trump-Linked Lobbyists From Valcour,” Caitlin Oprysko, May 26, 2026, <https://news.bgov.com/bloomberg-government-news/tiktok-us-adds-new-trio-of-trump-linked-lobbyists-from-valcour>.

³⁸ Axios, “Scoop: Trump’s Cabinet members are joining TikTok,” Alex Isenstadt, July 21, 2026, <https://www.axios.com/2026/07/21/trump-tiktok-app-accounts-doj-cabinet>.

³⁹ Washington Post, “Democrats seek answers on donor access tied to Trump’s White House ballroom,” Dan Diamond and Jonathan Edwards, January 13, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2026/01/13/senate-democrats-question-ballroom-donors/>; Letter from U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren, Ron Wyden, Chris Van Hollen, et al. to Comptroller Acting Director Jessica Bowron and Trust for the National Mall President Catherine Townsend, October 23, 2025, https://www.warren.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/media/doc/ballroom_letter_to_the_trust_on_the_national_mall_and_the_national_parks_service.pdf.

⁴⁰ Freedom 250, “The 2026 Patriot Games,” <https://freedom250.org/celebration/the-2026-patriot-games>.

6. Does Freedom 250 intend to continue soliciting funds and accepting donations? If so, for what purpose?
7. What role or involvement did government employees or officials of the Trump Administration have in planning Freedom 250 events, soliciting donations, stewarding, or overseeing Freedom 250 funds?
8. How much funding, if any, has Freedom 250 received from the federal government?
9. Has Freedom 250 received government funds or appropriations that were initially obligated to America250? Please provide a complete accounting of all such funds.
10. Please provide a list of all attendees at all private Freedom 250 events or receptions and corresponding dates of each event or reception.
11. Has Freedom 250 received or solicited foreign donations? If so, please provide a complete list of each donor and their contribution amount.
12. Please describe the process in which Ace Specialties was selected to operate the official Freedom 250 merchandise store. Please describe the process through which Freedom 250 verified that all merchandise sold on the official Freedom 250 merchandise store was manufactured in the United States.
13. How much gross revenue has been generated through the sale of Freedom 250 merchandise since the store launched?
 - a. How have the proceeds been utilized? How will they continue to be utilized?
14. Were any federal resources, federal employees, government-owned intellectual property, or official government branding used in the design, production, marketing, or sale of Freedom 250 merchandise?
15. In a briefing to Congress, staff from the Department of Interior reportedly stated that the Department is seeking an additional \$10 million from Congress to pay for costs incurred by the National Park Service during Freedom 250 events, including the Rededicate 250 prayer event, the Great American State Fair, and the July 4th Salute to America.⁴¹ Please describe the costs and funding of these events.
 - a. How much money did Freedom 250 spend on each of these events?
 - b. How much of the total money spent on these events came from government funds and how much came from private contributions?
 - c. To your knowledge, what costs did the National Park Service incur from these events, if any?
16. Why are some corporate donors, including TikTok, not listed as sponsors on the Freedom 250 website, despite reports that they donated millions of dollars to the organization?⁴²

Sincerely,

⁴¹ Office of Senator Jeff Merkley, "Ranking Member Merkley Presses Secretary Burgum on Misusing National Park Service Funding for America 250," press release, July 29, 2026, <https://www.merkley.senate.gov/ranking-member-merkley-presses-secretary-burgum-on-misusing-national-park-service-funding-for-america-250/>.

⁴² Politico, "New disclosures reveal \$9M in corporate donations to Trump's Freedom 250," Daniel Barnes, July 31, 2026, <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/07/31/disclosures-corporate-donations-trump-freedom250-01020551>.



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator