



The Koch Brothers: Spending Millions To Buy A Government That Works For Them

With less than a year until the election, Charles and David Koch, and their network of affiliated organizations, are gearing up to spend nearly \$1 billion during the 2016 election to elect candidates who back their self-enriching agenda that stacks the deck in favor of billionaires like the Koch brothers but hurts middle class families and working people.

Whoever the eventual GOP nominee is, the Kochs will have a puppet candidate committed to advancing their self-enriching agenda.

Recent Bridge Project focus groups revealed that to know the Kochs is to dislike them and that voters are turned off by the Kochs harmful, self-enriching agenda. It's clear to voters that when the Kochs spend millions propping up their puppet candidates, the Kochs "expect something in return."

Spotlight On The Koch Network: "Constituency" Groups That Hurt People They Claim To Help

Charles and David Koch have used their massive wealth to build a network of so-called constituency groups with unlimited resources that exist to advance their political agenda at the expense of the groups they claim to help. Their front groups even try to win over voters with food giveaways, free classes, and more.

Americans for Prosperity:

- With chapters across the country, AFP brands itself as a "grassroots" organization but in reality serves as the biggest arm of the Koch political machine.
- Due to their vast size, AFP has been compared to a shadow RNC complete with megadonors, a network of state anchored organizers to turn out voters, a large database of voter information, and the capability to make multi-million dollar TV buys.
- The Kochs spend hundreds of millions through AFP to attack Democrats and prop up Koch approved GOP candidates.

The LIBRE Initiative:

- The Kochs' Hispanic outreach group brands itself as a "grassroots organization founded to "empower Hispanics" but LIBRE is run by GOP operatives and financed almost entirely by the Koch network.
- Though it acts like a local service-oriented organization, LIBRE pushes an agenda that's good for the Kochs but hurts Latinos: they provide political cover for the GOP's anti-immigrant agenda, oppose raising the minimum wage, attack health care reform, and even attacked Pope Francis on climate change.
- LIBRE admits they send the personal data they collect to the Koch brothers' for-profit data company, i360, from political events and community events like English classes, drivers ed classes, school supply drives, and more.

The Kochs In The News: Recent Discoveries About The Koch Brothers

In November, the tax filing that reveals where Freedom Partners spent \$129 million in the 2014 election was finally released and exposed how Freedom Partners is more than just a coordinator for the secretive mega-donor conferences that candidates of all levels audition at and a pass-through for the usual Koch network groups: the Koch network uses Freedom Partners to funnel millions to national, state, and local groups across the far-right that back their agenda and help elect their candidates.

A blockbuster report revealed the Koch brothers gave their "blessing" to a political consulting firm, Aegis Strategic, to create a new, secretive nonprofit that spent hundreds of thousands in dark money on strategically timed ads to attack a rival of one of the Kochs' chosen candidates in a Republican primary. Clearly, the Koch political machine is bigger than anyone ever knew -- and undoubtedly surpassing the Republican Party apparatus. This new report reinforced Charles and David Koch's status as "political kingmakers" -- they even see themselves as "transforming American politics."

Even national Republicans agree that Donald Trump continues to be popular because "he can't be bought" by billionaire special interest donors like the Koch brothers. While NRSC operatives have encouraged their Senate candidates to advance Trump's traits, each and every GOP Senate incumbents and candidate is bought by the billionaire Koch brothers. Recent Frank Luntz focus groups also echoed that supporters are driven to Trump because he's not a puppet of the Koch brothers.

The Kochs claim to run a "secretive operation that conducts surveillance and intelligence gathering on its liberal opponents." The Koch network claims to use their "secretive" "intelligence" group as an operation that's "cloak and dagger -- like the CIA" to fight back against groups on the left.

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