

Donald Trump And His Family's Political Spending In Florida Spiked Around The Time He Made A Controversial Donation To Attorney General Pam Bondi In 2013 And Has Since Declined And 75% Of The Family's Political Donations In The State Occurred In 2013-14 When Bondi Was Up For Reelection

SUMMARY: Donald Trump and his nominee for U.S. Attorney General, Pam Bondi, have a long-time suspect relationship that has led to allegations of bribery, corruption and cronyism. Trump's 2016 presidential campaign came under fire for [a \\$25,000 payment](#) his foundation made to then-Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi in 2013, days after it was reported that Bondi's office was contemplating joining a lawsuit against his Trump University real estate course which had been accused of defrauding customers. However, a new analysis from Accountable.US makes the incident look worse than originally thought.

A closer examination of Bondi's campaign finances and the Trump family's political spending finds *even more* payments beyond the contribution to Bondi's PAC. And it reveals a pattern in which the Trump family's contributions in Florida spiked significantly around the time of the Trump University investigations and have plummeted in the years since.

For example:

- In addition to the \$25,000 payment to Bondi's And Justice For All PAC, Donald Trump also gave \$100,000 to the Florida Republican Party - by far Bondi's largest donor - in 2013. Trump also made a \$500 donation to Bondi's campaign committee in 2013.
- Ivanka Trump also made a \$500 donation to Bondi's campaign in 2013 and gave \$25,000 to the Florida Republican Party in 2014. According to Florida campaign finance records, these are the only donations Ivanka has ever made to state committees or candidates in Florida. No member of the Trump family donated to Bondi's first 2010 campaign.
- Trump also held [a fundraiser at Mar-a-Lago](#) for Bondi soon after she decided not to pursue the case.
- Trump also made significant contributions - \$75,000 - to the [Let's Get To Work](#) committee, a PAC supporting now-U.S. Senator Rick Scott's 2014 run for Florida governor.
- In total, the vast majority - more than 75% - of the Trump family's donations in Florida came during the brief 2013-2014 window when Trump University was under investigation in other states and Pam Bondi and Rick Scott were up for election.

Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi Decided Not To Join A Lawsuit Against Trump University After A Suspicious And Illegal \$25,000 Contribution From The Trump Foundation In 2013

Donald Trump's 2016 Candidacy For President Came Under Fire For Allegations Of Bribery After Media Outlets Reported That He Made A \$25,000 Donation To Pam Bondi's PAC And Soon Afterwards She Chose Not To Join A Multi-State Lawsuit Against Trump University

Donald Trump Owned 93% Of Trump University, A Real Estate School He Billed As A Tool Of Financial Empowerment And "Better Than The Best Business School", That Enrolled Thousands Of Students. "Mr. Trump, who owned 93 percent of the now-defunct university, founded it in 2004 and acted as its chief promoter rather than as a day-to-day manager. He helped sell the school as a tool of financial empowerment that would improve life for thousands of ordinary Americans. It would, he said, 'teach you better than the best business school,' according to the transcript of a web video. By 2010, after enrolling more than 4,000 students, Trump University largely ceased operations, but the complaints were only then starting to accumulate." [New York Times, [11/22/24](#)]

- **Despite Paying As Much As \$35,000 In Tuition, Students Felt They Had Learned Nothing And Had Been Defrauded And Former Managers Admitted The Staff Was Unqualified And That They Used High Pressure Sales Techniques And Deceptive Claims To Exploit Customers.** "Former students who paid up to \$35,000 in tuition claimed they had been cheated through high-pressure sales techniques and false claims about what they would learn. Mr. Trump defended the offerings. 'The people that took the course all signed — most — many — many signed report cards saying it was fantastic, it was wonderful, it was beautiful,' Mr. Trump said in 2016, during a presidential debate. But former managers of Trump University conceded in later testimony that they had employed unqualified instructors, made deceptive claims and exploited vulnerable students willing to pay tens of thousands of dollars for Mr. Trump's insights." [New York Times, [11/22/24](#)]

Reports Of Trump U. Fraud Spread Across The U.S., Including Claims In Florida And New York's Attorney General Filed A Lawsuit In 2013 For Engaging In 'Persistent Fraudulent, Illegal And Deceptive Conduct.'" "Reports of deceptive practices and fraud by Donald J. Trump and his Trump University business unit had been piling up for several years in states across the nation, including in Florida. The state attorney general in New York moved in, filing a lawsuit in 2013 that accused Mr. Trump and his for-profit trade school of 'engaging in persistent fraudulent, illegal and deceptive conduct,' even though by that point Trump University was already out of business. The Florida attorney general's office, which Pam Bondi had taken over

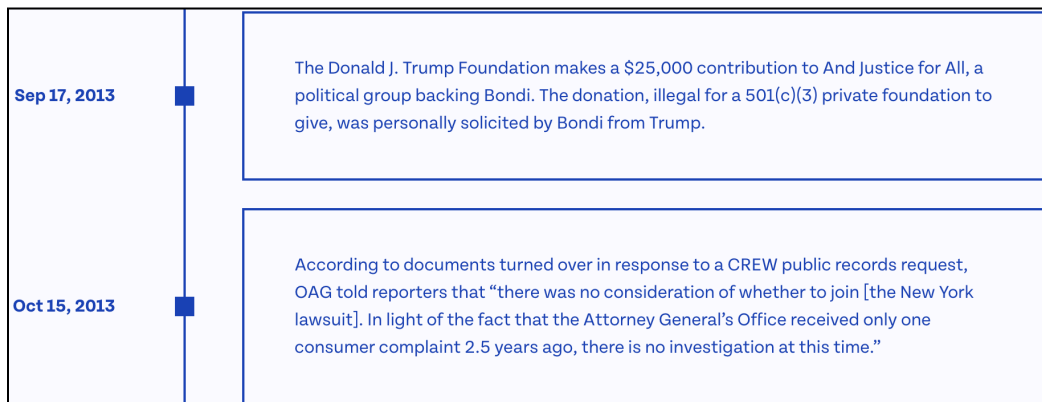
in 2011, handled it differently. She publicly acknowledged that her office was examining complaints about Trump University, but it decided against a formal investigation.” [New York Times, [11/22/24](#)]

Florida’s Office Of The Attorney General (OAG) Received At Least 22 Complaints From Florida Citizens About Trump University And Spokespeople Confirmed That Attorney General Pam Bondi Was Considering Joining A Multi-State Lawsuit Against The Company For Fraud And Deceptive Conduct.



[Citizens For Responsibility & Ethics In Washington, [04/14/21](#)]

Four Days After The *Orlando Sentinel* Reported That The OAG Was Considering Joining The Lawsuit, The Donald J. Trump Foundation Made A \$25,000 Contribution To A PAC Called “ And Justice For All” And It Was “Personally Solicited By Bondi.”



[Citizens For Responsibility & Ethics In Washington, [04/14/21](#)]

According To Internal Emails, Just A Month After The Reports And \$25,000 Donation, OAG Staffers Found Ways To Eliminate All But One Complaint Against Trump U. And Related Entities.

Oct 18, 2013

Despite previously acknowledging the 22 complaints (sometimes 23 due to a duplicate record) to reporters, internal emails show that between October 17-18, 2013, OAG employees weeded out any complaint about Trump Institute and related entities to claim there was only one complaint against Trump University.

[Citizens For Responsibility & Ethics In Washington, [04/14/21](#)]

Trump University Later Settled The Case And Trump Was Required To Reimburse 6,000 Defrauded Students \$25 Million Payments

A Federal Judge Approved A Settlement In The Consolidated Trump University Cases Of \$25 Million To 6,000 Former Students Who “Paid Thousands Of Dollars For Thousands Of Dollars For Courses They Describe As Worthless.” “A federal judge has approved a \$25 million settlement deal between President Trump and students who paid for Trump University real estate seminars, bringing lengthy litigation to a close. The deal, which calls for Trump to reimburse the students who say they were defrauded, was struck in November but needed approval from U.S. District Judge Gonzalo Curiel. He signed off on the settlement Friday in San Diego. The settlement applies to three separate lawsuits — two class-actions and a fraud case. The \$25 million deal includes payouts to more than 6,000 Trump U students who paid thousands of dollars for courses they describe as worthless.” [National Public Radio, [03/31/17](#)]

- **The Deal Was Actually Held Up By A Woman - A Resident Of Florida - Who Did Not Want To Take The Deal Because She Wanted To Be Able To Sue Trump On Her Own.** “One student had pushed against the deal, as The Associated Press reports: ‘The only holdup appeared to be a Florida woman’s claim that she should be allowed to opt out of the settlement and sue the president on her own — a move that would likely scuttle the entire agreement.’” [National Public Radio, [03/31/17](#)]

The Payment To Bondi’s PAC Was Also Found To Come From The Trump Foundation, A 501(c)(3) Group, Which Is A Violation Of IRS Rules Governing Charitable Organizations And The Foundation Paid A Fine And Later Shut Down.

Despite The Payment, The Trump Foundation Claimed It Did Not Make Any Donations To Political Entities In 2013 And Claimed That The Group It Paid Was A Different One Than Bondi’s But Later Blamed It On “Clerical Errors.”

Jan 01, 2014	<p>In its 2013 taxes, the Trump Foundation claims it made no donations to political entities and replaces And Justice for All with a different, similarly named group in Kansas to which they would legally be allowed to donate.</p>
Mar 21, 2016	<p><u>CREW files complaint against Trump Foundation</u></p>
Mar 22, 2016	<p>Trump representatives admit to the illegal donation, blaming an increasing series of clerical errors.</p>

[Citizens For Responsibility & Ethics In Washington, [04/14/21](#)]

The IRS Fined Trump \$2,500 For Breaking Tax Laws By Making A Political Contribution To Bondi From His Foundation... “Trump reportedly paid the IRS a \$2,500 penalty this year because his foundation broke tax laws by making a political contribution to Bondi in 2013 when she was in the midst of deciding whether to pursue an investigation against Trump University. The Trump Organization told the Washington Post that the donation had been made by mistake and “wasn’t done intentionally.” [Citizens For Responsibility & Ethics In Washington, [04/14/21](#)]

- **...And In 2016 He Announced He Would Shut It Down.**

Oct 19, 2016	<p>The NY AG office responds to CREW’s FOIL request, and CREW discovers that not only did the Foundation’s attempts to address its tax issues stemming from the Bondi donation contain serious errors, they also presented materials to the Attorney General that raise significant questions about how they operate and the veracity of their previous claims.</p>
Dec 24, 2016	<p>Trump announced he will shut down the Trump Foundation in the light of the growing scandal. CREW released a statement in response to the announcement.</p>

- **The New York Attorney General At The Time Said The Foundation Engaged In “Persistently Illegal Conduct.”** “Trump ultimately dissolved the Donald J. Trump Foundation due to the ongoing allegations and investigations. The then-New York Attorney General Barbara Underwood described the group's work as riddled with "persistently illegal conduct." [Newsweek, [11/23/24](#)]

Despite The Stark Appearance Of Bribery Worthy Of Inquiry, State Law Enforcement Authorities Decided Not To Launch A Criminal Investigation Into The Matter

In April 2017, State Officials Told Gov. Rick Scott That There Was Not Enough Evidence To Pursue A Bribery Investigation. “A bribery complaint against President Donald Trump and Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi lacks enough evidence to move forward, a state prosecutor told the governor Thursday. The complaint filed by a Massachusetts attorney stemmed from scrutiny last year over a \$25,000 campaign contribution Bondi received from Trump in 2013. Bondi asked for the donation near the same time that her office was being asked about a New York investigation of alleged fraud at Trump University. Florida Gov. Rick Scott handed the case to a southwest Florida prosecutor after another prosecutor said he could not investigate the case because Bondi used to work him.” [Associated Press, [04/06/17](#)]

An Examination Of The Trump Family’s Political Spending In The State Of Florida Reveals That The Trumps Were Not Prolific Political Donors And Their Contributions Spiked Around The Time Of The Investigation And Have Plummeted Since

Despite Having A Presence In Florida For Decades, Trump And His Family Rarely Make Large Contributions To Political Causes In The State

According To Florida’s Division Of Elections, Since 1999, Donald Trump And Donald Trump, Jr. Only Made 23 State-Level Contributions In Florida And The Vast Majority Of Those Donations - \$185,500 - Nearly 73% Occurred In The 2014 Cycle When Trump University Was Under Investigation And Bondi Was Up For Reelection.

Candidate/Committee	Date	Amount	Typ	Contributor Name
King Jr, James E. "Jim" (REP)(STS)	02/12/1999	500.00	CHE	TRUMP, DONALD J
King, Jim (REP)(STS)	06/28/2000	500.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD J.
Merchant, Sharon J. (REP)(STS)	08/25/2000	500.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD J.
Merchant, Sharon J (REP)(STS)	06/03/2002	500.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD J.
Bush, Jeb (REP)(GOV)	06/07/2002	500.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD
Atwater, Jeffrey (REP)(STS)	07/09/2002	500.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD
Crist, Charlie (REP)(GOV)	06/29/2005	500.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD J.
Campbell, Walter "Skip" (DEM)(ATG)	10/03/2006	500.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD J.
McCollum, Bill (REP)(ATG)	10/28/2006	500.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD J.
Citizens Speaking Out Committee, Inc. (ECO)	11/01/2006	1,000.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD, J.
Diaz, Jose Felix (REP)(STR)	03/20/2009	500.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD J.
Republican Party of Florida (PTY)	09/17/2009	1,000.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD
Republican Party of Florida (PTY)	11/10/2010	10,000.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD
Let's Get To Work (ECO)	04/04/2012	50,000.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD J.
Families for Responsible Government (PAC)	04/17/2012	500.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD
Diaz, Jose Felix (REP)(STR)	07/09/2012	500.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD
Let's Get To Work (ECO)	04/23/2013	50,000.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD J.
Bondi, Pam (REP)(ATG)	07/15/2013	500.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD J.
Let's Get To Work (ECO)	12/31/2013	25,000.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD J.
Republican Party of Florida (PTY)	07/31/2014	75,000.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD
Republican Party of Florida (PTY)	08/04/2014	25,000.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD
Innovate Florida (PAC)	09/23/2014	10,000.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD J.
Aguirre, Anthony (REP)(STR)	03/25/2024	1,000.00	CHE	TRUMP JR DONALD
Total:		254,500.00		
23 Contribution(s) Selected				

[Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, Accessed [11/22/24](#)]

- **...This Includes Trump Giving A \$500 Donation To AG Bondi's PAC In 2013.**

Bondi, Pam (REP)(ATG)	07/15/2013	500.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD J.
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[Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, Accessed [11/22/24](#)]

Ivanka Trump Also Gave \$500 To Bondi In 2013:

Candidate/Committee	Date	Amount	Typ	Contributor Name
Bondi, Pam (REP)(ATG)	09/10/2013	500.00	CHE	TRUMP IVANKA

[Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, Accessed [11/22/24](#)]

In 2014, Donald Trump Made His Biggest-Ever Contributions In Florida, A Combined \$125,000 To The Republican Party Of Florida With Donald's \$100,000 Dwarfing His Previous High Of \$11,000 In The 2010 Cycle.

Republican Party of Florida (PTY)	08/04/2014	25,000.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD
Republican Party of Florida (PTY)	07/31/2014	75,000.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD
Republican Party of Florida (PTY)	11/10/2010	10,000.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD
Republican Party of Florida (PTY)	09/17/2009	1,000.00	CHE	TRUMP DONALD

[Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, Accessed [11/22/24](#)]

While The Republican Party Of Florida Donates To GOP Candidates Throughout The State, The Group Was Also The Top Donor To Bondi In Her 2014 Race And Seven Of The Largest Ten Contributions Came From The Party.

Search Criteria:
 Detail of Candidates
 Election Year: 2014 General Election
 Office: All
 Party: All
 With Candidate Last Name Starts With: Bondi
 And Candidate First Name Starts With: Pam
 Sort Contributions By: Amount-Descending
 And Then Sort By: Candidate/Committee Name
 Limit Number Of Records Returned To: 500

Candidate/Committee	Date	Amount	Typ	Contributor Name	Address
Bondi, Pam (REP) (ATG)	07/25/2014	265,440.00	CHE	STATE OF FLORIDA	DEPT. OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
Bondi, Pam (REP) (ATG)	11/21/2013	30,000.00	CHE	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF FLORIDA	P. O. BOX 311
Bondi, Pam (REP) (ATG)	09/25/2013	25,735.50	INK	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF FLORIDA	420 E. JEFFERSON STREET
Bondi, Pam (REP) (ATG)	07/08/2014	21,822.50	INK	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF FLORIDA	P. O. BOX 311
Bondi, Pam (REP) (ATG)	09/30/2014	21,672.00	INK	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF FLORIDA	P. O. BOX 311
Bondi, Pam (REP) (ATG)	12/17/2013	20,000.00	CHE	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF FLORIDA	P. O. BOX 311
Bondi, Pam (REP) (ATG)	10/24/2014	15,840.00	CHE	STATE OF FLORIDA	DEPT. OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
Bondi, Pam (REP) (ATG)	12/30/2013	15,000.00	INK	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF FLORIDA	P. O. BOX 311
Bondi, Pam (REP) (ATG)	08/01/2014	14,625.00	CHE	STATE OF FLORIDA	DEPT. OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
Bondi, Pam (REP) (ATG)	09/05/2013	13,800.00	INK	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF FLORIDA	420 E. JEFFERSON STREET
Bondi, Pam (REP) (ATG)	06/19/2014	13,800.00	INK	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF FLORIDA	P. O. BOX 311
Bondi, Pam (REP) (ATG)	09/30/2014	12,000.00	INK	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF FLORIDA	P. O. BOX 311
Bondi, Pam (REP) (ATG)	09/30/2014	10,500.00	INK	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF FLORIDA	P. O. BOX 311
Bondi, Pam (REP) (ATG)	10/30/2014	10,400.00	INK	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF FLORIDA	P. O. BOX 311
Bondi, Pam (REP) (ATG)	10/29/2014	10,000.00	INK	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF FLORIDA	P. O. BOX 311
Bondi, Pam (REP) (ATG)	10/25/2014	10,000.00	INK	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF FLORIDA	P. O. BOX 311

[Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, Accessed [11/22/24](#)]

According To The Florida Division Of Elections, These Are The Only Campaign Contributions Ivanka Trump Has Ever Made To State-Level Candidates In Florida.

Search Criteria:
 Detail of Candidates/Committees
 Election Year: All
 With Payee Last Name Starts With: Trump

Candidate/Committee	Date	Amount	Typ	Contributor Name
Bondi, Pam (REP) (ATG)	09/10/2013	500.00	CHE	TRUMP IVANKA
Republican Party of Florida (PTY)	07/23/2014	25,000.00	CHE	TRUMP IVANKA
Total:		25,500.00		

2 Contribution(s) Selected

[Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, Accessed [11/22/24](#)]

- **No Member Of The Trump Family Donated To Bondi's Initial Campaign For Attorney General In 2010.** [Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, Accessed [11/22/24](#)]

When Combined With Her Father's And Brother's Contributions, Ivanka's Donations Bring The Trump Family's 2013-14 Total To \$211,000 - More Than 75% - Of All Their \$280,000 In Political Giving In Florida Since 1999. [Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, Accessed [11/22/24](#)]

And After The 2014 Cycle, Donald Trump, Sr. Never Made Another Political Donation To A Florida Candidate Or Committee Ever Again.

Republican Party of Florida (PTY)	07/31/2014	75,000.00	CHE TRUMP DONALD
Republican Party of Florida (PTY)	08/04/2014	25,000.00	CHE TRUMP DONALD
Innovate Florida (PAC)	09/23/2014	10,000.00	CHE TRUMP DONALD J.
Aguirre, Anthony (REP)(STR)	03/25/2024	1,000.00	CHE TRUMP JR DONALD

[Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, Accessed [11/22/24](#)]

Trump Also Held A \$3,000-Minimum Donation Fundraiser For AG Bondi At Mar-A-Lago, Which Helped Her Raise At Least \$150,000 For Her 2014 Campaign. “Not long after Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi decided not to investigate Trump University, Donald Trump hosted a fundraiser for her, reported The Huffington Post. The report showed the invitation to the fundraiser at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, with its minimum donation request of \$3,000 per person, and a Bondi staffer told The Huffington Post that about 50 people attended, meaning Bondi picked up at least \$150,000 from the March 2014 event.” Trump reportedly paid the IRS a \$2,500 penalty this year because his foundation broke tax laws by making a political contribution to Bondi in 2013 when she was in the midst of deciding whether to pursue an investigation against Trump University. The Trump Organization told the Washington Post that the donation had been made by mistake and “wasn’t done intentionally.” [CBS News, [09/17/16](#)]

Trump’s Other Major Donations During The 2014 Cycle Went To ‘Let’s Get To Work’- The PAC Supporting Republican Candidate For Governor And Now-U.S. Senator Rick Scott.

Additionally, During The 2014 Cycle Trump Paid \$75,000 To ‘Let’s Get To Work’- The PAC Of Republican Gubernatorial Candidate And Now-U.S. Senator Rick Scott. “The Tallahassee-based “Let’s Get to Work” committee, which is backing Gov. Rick Scott’s re-election effort, has posted \$311,035 in contributions for October, bringing the year-to-date total to \$13.56 million.” [Jacksonville Daily Record, [11/05/13](#)]

Let's Get To Work (ECO)	04/23/2013	50,000.00	CHE TRUMP DONALD J.
Let's Get To Work (ECO)	12/31/2013	25,000.00	CHE TRUMP DONALD J.

[Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, Accessed [11/22/24](#)]