

Corporate Donations To The Election Objectors Comparing Contributions From The 2020 And 2022 Election Cycles

Accountable.US Takeaways

In the wake of the insurrection at the Capitol on January 6, 2021, dozens of companies and trade groups announced that they were halting donations to the members of Congress who tried to finish the job for the mob and voted against certifying the 2020 election.

Almost half of the decrease in donations between the 2020 and 2022 cycles can be accounted for by companies and trade groups who refused to donate to election objectors altogether during the 2022 cycle. The 80% of corporate interests that merely temporarily paused donations only account for a \$2 million reduction in donations to objectors. This is just barely more than the \$1.7 million of contributions reduced by the 20% of companies and trade groups that took an actual stand against attempts to overturn the 2020 election and withheld donations from the election objectors during the 2022 election cycle.

Despite the overall decrease in donations from corporate interests to election objectors, at least 258 companies and trade associations increased the amount they contributed to those lawmakers from 2020 to 2022.

Toplines

Contributions from major companies and trade associations to election objectors decreased by 9.9% – or \$3,730,989 – from the 2020 cycle to the 2022 cycle.

- Adjusted¹ 2020 Totals: **\$37,866,969**
- Adjusted 2022 Totals: **\$34,135,980**

Among the corporations and trade groups that donated to election objectors in both the 2020 and 2022 cycles, donations decreased by \$2,035,114, or 5.7%.

- Adjusted 2020 Total: **\$35,816,644**
- Adjusted 2022 Total: **\$33,781,530**

Just 20% of the corporations and trade groups from this review accounted for 45.5% of the decrease in contributions from the 2020 cycle to the 2022 cycle - these are the companies and trade associations that completely withheld donations from the election objectors during the 2022 election cycle.

Despite Decrease, Many Doubled Down on Election Objectors

Of the **560 companies or major trade associations** that donated to the election objectors in both the 2020 and 2022 cycles, **258 actually increased their donations during the 2022 cycle** – despite those members' votes against certifying the 2020 presidential election – while 302 decreased donations during the 2022 cycle.

¹ See methodological notes at the end of this document for details on how the adjusted totals were calculated.

- **Associated Builders And Contractors, Inc. Political Action Committee (ABC PAC)** increased their spending the most, going from contributing \$322,500 in 2020 to \$565,000 in 2022. **An increase of \$242,500 during the 2022 cycle.**
- Six major corporations and trade associations **contributed at least \$100,000 more during the 2022 election cycle** than during the 2020 election cycle:
 - National Beer Wholesalers Association Political Action Committee
 - Williams Companies
 - National Multifamily Housing Council Political Action Committee
 - American Hospital Association PAC
 - National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc. Political Action Committee (NSSF PAC)
 - Mortgage Bankers Association Political Action Committee (MORPAC)
- 76 companies and trade associations **increased contributions to election objectors by 100% or more** during the 2022 cycle as compared to 2020.

Contribution Pauses Did Not Deter Top Donors

All of the top five corporate donors to the election objectors **temporarily paused donations** to the legislators and still made the top ranks among their contributors during the 2022 cycle, **cumulatively contributing \$2,236,900.**

- **AT&T**, which [“decided to suspend contributions”](#) to the election objectors, **gave \$604,900 to election objectors.**
- Home Depot said it was [“pausing to take time to carefully review and reevaluate,”](#) but still **gave \$450,000 to the election objectors.**
- **Lockheed Martin** noted after the riot that [“we are not making political contributions”](#) while they evaluated candidates and still **donated \$428,000.**
- **Boeing** decided it was [“not making political contributions”](#) after the insurrection, but **managed to give \$377,500** to election objectors.
- **UPS** [“said they have suspended all political action committee \(PAC\) contributions ‘for now’”](#) but ultimately **donated \$376,500** to the election objectors.

Home Depot was the only company among the top five whose giving increased from 2020 to 2022, contributing \$45,500 more in 2022 than in 2020.

Telecommunications Industry

Throughout the 2020 and 2022 election cycles, **seven major telecommunications companies and trade associations** contributed to election objectors. Contributions from major telecommunications companies and trade groups decreased by 14.1% to election objectors from the 2020 cycle to the 2022 cycle.

Two of the seven telecommunications companies and trade associations increased donations to election objectors from the 2020 election cycle to the 2022 cycle:

- **DISH Network** increased their spending to election objectors from \$21,100 in the 2020 election cycle to \$22,200 in the 2022 election cycle, **an increase of \$1,100 or 5.2%.**

- The **United States Telecom Association** increased their spending to election objectors from \$13,500 in the 2020 election cycle to \$15,000 in the 2022 election cycle, an **increase of \$1,500 or 11.1%**.

During the 2022 election cycle, the **top five donors among the telecommunications industry to election objectors cumulatively contributed \$1,110,000:**

- **AT&T** donated **\$604,900** during the 2022 cycle to the election objectors..
- **Charter Communications** contributed **\$254,500** to election objectors during the 2022 election cycle.
- **Verizon Communications** contributed **\$138,000** to election objectors during the 2022 election cycle.
- The **National Telecommunications Cooperative Association** contributed **\$90,400** to election objectors during the 2022 election cycle.
- **DISH Network** contributed **\$22,200** to election objectors during the 2022 election cycle.

Major telecommunications company **AT&T was the largest corporate donor to the election objectors during the 2022 cycle** across all sectors, contributing \$604,900 to election objectors during the 2022 election cycle.

Methodological Notes:

Accountable.US assessed contributions from the PACs of Fortune 500 corporations and over 700 trade associations to the campaign committees of members of Congress that voted against certifying the 2020 presidential election in order to compile this analysis. Accountable.US did not include contributions to candidates' leadership or super PACs.

Contribution totals in this analysis omit donations to former Reps. Mo Brooks, Ted Budd, Bob Gibbs, Louie Gohmert, Jim Hagedorn, Vicky Hartzler, Jody Hice, Chris Jacobs, Fred Keller, Billy Long, Markwayne Mullin, Devin Nunes, Jackie Walorski, Ron Wright, and Lee Zeldin. Accountable omitted contributions to these members of Congress in order to have comparative data as none of them ultimately ran for reelection to their seat in the House of Representatives, which they held when voting against certifying the 2020 election. Of note, some elected officials in this analysis were first time candidates in 2020 whereas, in 2022, all were running as incumbents. This difference in status may have impacted donation trends though none were specifically identified in this methodology.

2022 election cycle contributions are from filings processed by the FEC's database through 2/10/23 and accessed through Accountable.US's [Corporate Donations Tracker](#).

Access the underlying data for [2020](#) and [2022](#) here.