



Donkey In The Room

Liberals Who Claim To Loathe Money In Politics Meet In Chicago To Discuss How To Spend Their Money In 2014, 2016

THIS WEEK, MAJOR DEMOCRAT DONORS WILL CONVENE A SECRETIVE CONFERENCE TO PLOT THEIR AGENDA

“Some Of The Deepest Pockets In The Democratic Donor World Are Huddling, Starting Sunday, In Chicago For A Conference Designed To Help Them Decide Where To Channel Millions Of Political Dollars.” (Lynn Sweet, “As Democratic Donors Gather In Chicago, GOP Takes Aim,” [Chicago Sun-Times](#), 4/26/14)

Donors Are Gathering “Behind Closed Doors” At The Annual Meeting Of The Democracy Alliance, A “Secretive Club Of Wealthy Liberals.” “Some of the country’s biggest Democratic donors — including Tom Steyer and Jonathan Soros — are huddling behind closed doors next week in Chicago with union bigwigs and progressive superstars like Bill de Blasio to plan how to pull their party — and the country — to the left. The setting is the annual spring meeting of the Democracy Alliance, a secretive club of wealthy liberals that’s the closest thing the left has to the vaunted Koch brothers’ political network.” (Ken P. Vogel, “The Left’s Secret Club Plans For 2014, 2016,” [Politico](#), 4/24/14)

- **The DA Is “Increasing Its Ranks Of Rich Donors” Ahead Of 2014 And 2016.** “The DA, as the liberal group is known to insiders, is increasing its ranks of rich donors for the first time in years and is gearing up to spend huge sums on political data, voter registration, ground organizing and advertising to influence the 2014 midterms and 2016 presidential elections. Potentially more significant, the groups’ donors also could play an important role in determining whether the post-Barack Obama Democratic Party embraces the rising tide of progressive populism or hews to a more cautious, centrist course — in other words, whether the Hillary Clinton wing or Elizabeth Warren wing will seize the reins.” (Ken P. Vogel, “The Left’s Secret Club Plans For 2014, 2016,” [Politico](#), 4/24/14)
- **“DA Conferences Are Typically Kept Hush-Hush, With Locations Tightly Held, Press Barred From The Sessions And Participants Prohibited From Discussing The Proceedings.”** (Ken P. Vogel, “The Left’s Secret Club Plans For 2014, 2016,” [Politico](#), 4/24/14)

The Gathering Will Include Appearances From DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Top Obama White House Aides, And Obama’s Political Group, Organizing For Action. “Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., speaks Tuesday; Cecile Richards, Planned Parenthood Federation of America president delivers remarks Wednesday. Other speakers

include White House senior adviser Valerie Jarrett and White House political director David Simas. The Chicago-based Organizing for Action, the spinoff of the Obama 2012 campaign, is using the meeting to showcase its operations, inviting the donors to a Wednesday cocktail party at its West Loop headquarters hosted by Obama 2012 campaign manager Jim Messina, OFA Chief Jon Carson and Julianna Smoot, who co-chairs the 2012 campaign.” (Lynn Sweet, “As Democratic Donors Gather In Chicago, GOP Takes Aim,” [Chicago Sun-Times](#), 4/26/14)

- **Kentucky Senate Candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes Will Also Attend The Event.** “The Spring Investment Conference will feature a number of Clinton allies and others associated with the centrist wing — including Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Kentucky Senate candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes and Obama senior adviser Valerie Jarrett.” (Ken P. Vogel, “The Left’s Secret Club Plans For 2014, 2016,” [Politico](#), 4/24/14)

“Democracy Alliance Partners, As The Group Calls Its Members, Pay Annual Dues Of \$30,000 And Are Required To Contribute A Total Of At Least \$200,000 A Year To Recommended Groups.” (Ken P. Vogel, “The Left’s Secret Club Plans For 2014, 2016,” [Politico](#), 4/24/14)

- **“Since Its Inception In 2005, The DA Has Steered Upward Of \$500 Million To A Range Of Groups.”** “Since its inception in 2005, the DA has steered upward of \$500 million to a range of groups, including pillars of the political left such as the conservative media watchdog Media Matters, the policy advocacy outfit Center for American Progress and the data firm Catalist — all of which are run by Clinton allies.” (Ken P. Vogel, “The Left’s Secret Club Plans For 2014, 2016,” [Politico](#), 4/24/14)

“The Courting Of Rich Democrats In Chicago Comes As Some Of The Party’s Top Names Continue A Discordant Character Assault On Major Conservative Donors As Eroding The Very Fabric Of American Democracy.” (Ken P. Vogel, “The Left’s Secret Club Plans For 2014, 2016,” [Politico](#), 4/24/14)

PROMINENT DEMOCRATS WHO OFTEN BEMOAN MONEY IN POLITICS WILL LIKELY BE SILENT ABOUT THE ROLE IT PLAYS WITHIN THEIR OWN PARTY THIS WEEK

President Barack Obama

Obama Bemoaned “The Prevalence Of Money” And “The Power Of Special Interest Lobbies In Politics.” OBAMA: “Just as there’s been a long tradition in this country of people chasing after the almighty dollar, just as there’s been a long tradition of communities looking out for each other— those dual impulses of community and individual ambition— the political system has gone back and forth. There have been times in this country where the political system was captive to wealthy interest and special interests, and money has been the overriding factor in what Washington does. What we have seen increasingly over the last decade or so is the prevalence of money in politics, the power of special interest lobbies in politics. Campaigns have gotten more expensive. TV has come to dominate who wins and who loses. There’s a reduced importance of mediating institutions, like unions and community organizations that used to be the building blocks of political power. In that context, you see policies that all too often reinforce this ‘winner-take-all’ economy, instead of trying to compensate for it.” (David Blume, *President Barack Obama: The Kindle Singles Interview*, 7/31/13)

- **Obama: Don’t “Let Special Interests Drown Out The Voices Of The American People.”** OBAMA: “So you can’t let it happen. Don’t let them hijack your agenda. The American people deserve to know who’s trying to sway their elections. And you can’t stand by and let special interests drown out the voices of the American people.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks At Campaign Event](#), Philadelphia, PA, 10/10/10)

Vice President Joe Biden

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During The 2012 Campaign Vice President Joe Biden Lamented The “Barrage Of Super PAC Money” In The Race. “Speaking to donors in Chicago, Biden said that Republicans would raise between \$400 million and \$800 million and would ‘carpet bomb’ the president. ‘I don’t think we’ll be beaten by those candidates,’ Biden said, of the GOP field — saying that only foreign affairs, economic collapse or ‘this barrage of super PAC money’ could bring down the Obama-Biden ticket. ‘We’re going to win this election,’ Biden said. ‘The reason we’re going to win is because of all of you. Thank God there’s rooms like this I’ve been able to go in to all around the country. You guys are putting us in the game.’” (Byron Tau, “Biden: GOP Super PACs Will Carpet-Bomb Obama,” [Politico](#), 3/29/12)

Former Secretary Of State Hillary Clinton

Hillary Clinton Criticized The Supreme Court’s Recent Campaign Finance Decision, Claiming It Would Leave “Three Or Four People In The Whole Country” Financing “Our Entire Political System.” “Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton criticized the Supreme Court’s view of campaign finance at a Tuesday event, telling an audience in Portland, Oregon, that the judicial body’s ruling will limit the number of people involved in the political process. ‘With the rate the Supreme Court is going, there will only be three or four people in the whole country that have to finance our entire political system by the time they are done,’ Clinton said during the question and answer portion of an appearance at The World Affairs Council of Oregon.” (Dan Merica, “Hillary Clinton Knocks Supreme Court’s Campaign Finance Decisions,” [CNN](#), 4/9/14)

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV)

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV): “But What Is Un-American Is When Shadowy Billionaires Pour Unlimited Money Into Our Democracy To Rig The System To Benefit Themselves And The Wealthiest One Percent.” (Senator Harry Reid, [Remarks On Billionaire Koch Brothers’ Attempt To Buy Our Democracy](#), Washington, D.C., 3/4/14)

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA): Americans Deserve A “Government Where The People’s Interests Are Served And Not The Special Interests.” PELOSI: “The American people expect and deserve to have elections where they can make a choice. They expect to have government where the people’s interest are served and not the special interests. You go down this path that we have now without a fight in a public arena about reform, and the skepticism the American people have in government will only increase, and that’s not a healthy thing for democracy.” (House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), [Press Conference](#), 4/3/14)

- **Pelosi: Money In Politics Is “Suffocating The Voices Of The Many.”** “The Court talks about voice in a democracy, but all of this money is suffocating the airways, suffocating the voices of the many. That’s why it’s really important for us to have this reform message be part of the campaign.” (House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), [Press Conference](#), 4/3/14)

DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

DNC Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) Said The DNC Has “Been The Example In How To Reduce The Influence Of Special Interests.” WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: “The DNC doesn’t accept PAC or federal lobbyist money. So we have been the example in how to reduce the influence of special interests.” (“Starting Point With Soledad O’Brien,” CNN, 2/9/12)

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)

Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA): “Let’s Just Be Real Clear – The Game Is Rigged And It’s Rigged In Favor Of Those Who Have Money And Who Have Power.” (Dana Davidsen, “Elizabeth Warren: The System’s ‘Rigged’ Against Middle Class,” [CNN’s Political Ticker Blog](#), 4/23/14)