

Las Vegas Sands chairman and billionaire cleared Adelson of all foreign money charges from the Federal Election Commission (FEC) after their investigation revealed that he had 'no reason to believe' that he donated tainted foreign money to Republicans for the U.S. campaign.

Adelson, 82, has close ties to a number of politicians within the Republican Party and is one of the biggest financial donors to the party. During the 2012 election Republican election campaign, Sheldon Adelson donated more than \$150 million, and FEC records show that she gave more than \$98 million to a total of 34 political committees and candidates. Adelson continued to support the 2016 election campaign, and reportedly donated more than \$100 million to the presidential campaign of Republican candidate Donald Trump.

The FEC legal adviser published an employee report in June based on the allegations against Adelson, after which the commissioners decided to vote based on the report and voted 5-0 in favor of Adelson. The FEC posted several documents on its website on July 19 to resolve the issue. The FEC says there is nothing to suggest Adelson used illicit funds to finance political campaigns in the United States based on the reports submitted.

Campaign for Accountability, a nonprofit watchdog, filed a complaint with the FEC in 2015 after Chinese national Ng Lap Seng was indicted in federal court in New York. Ng is set to stand trial in New York for bribing a U.N. official, but has no charges related to his connection to Sheldon Adelson. Campaign for Accountability alleges Adelson was involved in prostitution and committed systematic crimes in China, which used its Macau casino operations to funnel funds into the United States

The accountability campaign decided shortly afterwards to withdraw its complaint against the FEC and apologized for allegations that it had deeply hurt Adelson. However, the FEC informed the nonprofit that even if the FEC withdraws its complaints, it should launch an investigation based on federal campaign laws.

Benjamin Ginsburg of the Jones Day law firm represents Adelson in the case and says the charges were dropped because there was no legal basis. "All of Adelson's contributions to the U.S. election come from personal income from his holdings in U.S. companies (which are clearly permitted under the Federal Election Act and numerous FEC advisory opinions)," Ginsburg said in a statement

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