

## Boycotting Brands Backing U.S. Political Elites

Every dollar we spend can cast a vote **for** or **against** the values of corporate backers of political elites. Below we detail companies with strong financial ties to the current U.S. administration or key Republicans, organized by industry. For each, we explain the political connection and suggest consumer-friendly alternatives that better align with civic values.

### Food & Beverage

- **Wendy's** – The fast-food chain's chairman, billionaire Nelson Peltz, is a top donor and personal friend of Donald Trump. Peltz hosted a \$580,600-per-couple fundraiser at his estate that raised about \$10 million for Trump's reelection. **Boycott Tip:** Skip the Frosty and choose **Burger King** or a local burger joint instead. These alternatives have no known ties to Trump's inner circle.
- **Chick-fil-A** – Long embroiled in controversy, Chick-fil-A's owners have funded anti-LGBTQ organizations and openly opposed same-sex marriage (Dan Cathy once said he was "*guilty as charged*" about supporting the "biblical definition" of family ([Chick-fil-A and LGBTQ people - Wikipedia](#))). While the company claims to have refocused its philanthropy, it remains a darling of social conservatives. **Boycott Tip:** Satisfy your chicken sandwich craving at **Popeyes** or **KFC**, or support an inclusive local eatery, rather than a chain aligned with hardline social agendas.
- **Goya Foods** – In 2020, Goya's CEO Robert Unanue heaped praise on Trump at a White House event, spurring a consumer boycott that Trump and his daughter publicly fought. (Ivanka Trump even posted a photo holding a Goya can, violating ethics rule.) Goya's leadership effectively tied the brand to Trump's presidency. **Boycott Tip:** Fill your pantry with Hispanic staples from **La Preferida**, **Badia**, or other Latinx-owned brands. They offer similar products without the political baggage.
- **Publix Supermarkets** – An heiress of Publix's founding family, Julie Jenkins Fancelli, was the **largest known donor** to the Jan. 6, 2021 rally in D.C. that preceded the Capitol attack ([Publix heiress faces criticism for helping finance Jan. 6 January rally](#)). She poured **\$650,000** into rally organizers, including \$150,000 to a group linked to the Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA), which promoted the protests ([Publix Heiress Gave \\$650,000 to Groups Behind Jan. 6 Rallies: Report - Business Insider](#)) ([Publix Heiress Gave \\$650,000 to Groups Behind Jan. 6 Rallies: Report - Business Insider](#)). While Publix has tried to distance itself, money from its fortune helped fuel "Stop the Steal." **Boycott Tip:** Shop at **Kroger**, **Trader Joe's**, or regional grocers. Supporting stores without insurrectionist ties sends a message that funding sedition is bad for business.

### Retail & Consumer Goods

- **Walmart** – The Walton family and Walmart Inc. heavily bankroll conservative causes. In the 2023–24 cycle, over **83%** of Walmart's explicit partisan donations

have gone to Republican7]. They've steered millions into GOP governors pushing abortion bans and even donated \$885,900 to election denie4]. **Boycott Tip:** Buy essentials at **Target, Costco**, or neighborhood stores. These retailers have not been as lopsided in partisan spending. Shopping elsewhere pressures Walmart to dial back support for extreme politics.

- **Home Depot** – Co-founder Bernie Marcus donated \$7 million to Trump's 2016 campaign and openly endorsed his 2020 r9]. Calls to boycott Home Depot have trended as Marcus continued backing Trump and conservative causes. (The company insists Marcus no longer speaks for th0], but his fortune stems from Home Depot's success.) **Boycott Tip:** Shop at **Lowe's**, whose founders have kept a lower political profile, or at local hardware stores. This rewards companies that aren't mouthpieces for partisan mega-donors.
- **Hobby Lobby** – The crafts retailer's owners famously took a **Trump-aligned stance** in fighting the ACA's contraception mandate on religious grounds, and they fund evangelical conservative groups. While not directly tied to one politician, Hobby Lobby embodies corporate promotion of the religious right's agenda. **Boycott Tip:** For art and craft supplies, visit **Michaels** or independent art stores. You'll support businesses that stay out of your personal health decisions.
- **Uline (Shipping Supplies)** – Few everyday consumers know Uline, but many use its products (shipping boxes, packing materials) via small businesses. Uline's billionaire founders, Richard and Elizabeth Uihlein, are prolific funders of far-right candidates and election conspiracy grou ([Stand with Labor: Boycott Koch Industries! – SEIU Local 521](#))5]. They bankroll ultra-conservative PACs and were major donors to groups involved in Jan. 6 organizing. **Boycott Tip:** Ask your office manager or Etsy seller to source packaging from **Staples, Office Depot**, or eco-friendly suppliers. Cutting off Uline funnels less cash to radical political warfare.
- **Koch Industries Brands** – Koch Industries, owned by the Koch brothers, produces many familiar household goods. Buying these products *indirectly* funds a vast right-wing political network. Koch money has fueled anti-worker, anti-climate policies for decad ([Stand with Labor: Boycott Koch Industries! – SEIU Local 521](#))5]. **Avoid:** Brawny paper towels, Dixie cups/plates, Angel Soft toilet tissue, Quilted Northern tissue, and Vanity Fair napkins – all Koch-owned bran ([Stand with Labor: Boycott Koch Industries! – SEIU Local 521](#))5]. Charles Koch's fortune from these sales bankrolled the Tea Party and efforts to block climate action. **Boycott Tip:** Swap in **Seventh Generation** or **Who Gives a Crap** for paper goods, or choose store brands not tied to Koch. Even better, use reusable dishware instead of Dixie disposables. By denying Koch your dollars, you chip away at the "dark money" powering far-right causes.

## Technology & Media

- **AT&T** – America's telecom giant has directly boosted far-right media. AT&T was the **primary funder** behind One America News (OAN), a conspiracy-driven TV network. Court records show **90% of OAN's revenue** came from an AT&T

subsidiary's contr58]. OAN relentlessly pushed Trump's election lies. At the same time, AT&T's PAC has donated generously to Republican election objectors in Congr62]. **Boycott Tip:** If possible, switch your mobile or internet service to **Verizon, T-Mobile**, or smaller providers. And if you have DirecTV (formerly owned by AT&T), know that your subscription long helped bankroll OAN. Consider streaming services or cable alternatives that don't platform extremist propaganda.

- **Amazon** – The e-commerce titan initially halted political giving after Jan. 6, but quietly **resumed donations** to Republican groups soon after. Amazon is among companies that cut off the Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA) for its role in the Jan. 6 events – only to return later with hefty che41]. Along with Walmart and others, Amazon's PAC is "**back in the fold**", contributing to RAGA and GOP campaigns once outrage died d ([Amazon, Walmart Giving to Republican AGs Group Again — ProPublica](#))L4]. (This includes support for officials pushing extreme abortion b17].) **Boycott Tip:** Try to "**shop local**" or buy directly from brand websites. Reducing Amazon purchases supports local economies and sends a warning to Amazon that backing extremist politics risks its customer goodwill. If you need online retail, **eBay** or smaller retailers can often fill the gap.
- **Comcast (Xfinity)** – Comcast condemned the Jan. 6 insurrection and RAGA's role, saying it was "appall27], but within weeks quietly **restarted contributions**. To date Comcast has given RAGA nearly **\$500,000** despite the group's promotion of Trump's "Stop the Steal" eff41]. In other words, Comcast's public stance and private actions diverged once media attention waned. **Boycott Tip:** If you have options, use a different cable or internet provider (e.g., **municipal broadband, RCN, Spectrum**). At minimum, let Comcast know you object to your bill payments being flipped into funding for anti-democratic politicking.
- **Google/Alphabet** – Google's ex-CEO **Eric Schmidt** wields outsized influence in the Biden White House. He even paid the salaries of over two dozen science and tech officials via an outside foundat41]. And Alphabet (Google's parent) was the **#1 donor** to Biden's 2020 Victory Fund at nearly \$2 mill18]. Such closeness raises concerns that Big Tech may get favorable treatment. **Boycott Tip:** This one's tough – we rely on Google. But you can use **DuckDuckGo** for search, **Firefox** or **Brave** for browsing, and open-source apps instead of Google's. Diversifying your tech diet reduces any single company's sway and supports a more open internet. (If you own an Android phone, consider installing privacy-focused alternatives – a partial "tech boycott.")

## **Pharmaceuticals & Health**

- **Big Pharma (e.g. Pfizer, Merck, AbbVie)** – These pharmaceutical giants have showered key Republicans with cash. In one quarter of 2019, as a drug-price bill loomed, the CEOs of **AbbVie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Merck, Pfizer, Roche, and Sanofi each gave \$15,600** to GOP Senate leader Mitch McConL94]. Days later, McConnell blocked the bipartisan bill to lower prescription cL68]. Patients paid the price, while McConnell raked in pharma money. **Boycott Tip:** Whenever

possible, ask your doctor or pharmacist for **generic medications** instead of brand-names. Generics come from companies less involved in high-dollar lobbying (and they're cheaper). You can also support pharmacies like **Cost Plus Drugs** (an online generic provider) or local independent pharmacies. They're often aligned with lowering drug prices for consumers, not keeping them high through lobbying.

- **CVS Health** – The pharmacy chain's PAC donated to RAGA as well, to the tune of six figL17]. Notably, RAGA in turn helped fund state AGs like Indiana's Todd Rokita who led a crusade against abortion rights (e.g. investigating a doctor who helped a 10-year-old rape vicL17]. Essentially, some of your CVS spending may have trickled into campaigns against reproductive healthcare. **Boycott Tip:** Transfer your prescriptions to **Walgreens, Rite Aid**, or (better yet) a community pharmacy. If you keep using CVS, consider voicing your disapproval to corporate – customer feedback can make them reconsider partisan donations.
- **HCA Healthcare (Hospital Corp of America)** – HCA's executives have been notable GOP donors (one founder was a Republican senator, and the company PAC leans conservative). Profits from its hospitals fund political activity that often opposes health reforms. **Boycott Tip:** While you can't exactly "boycott" a hospital in an emergency, you can choose non-HCA hospitals for elective procedures if options exist. Also support healthcare reforms and nonprofits that challenge the hospital lobby. This pressures chains like HCA to prioritize patients over politics.

## Energy & Automotive

- **ExxonMobil** – Big Oil is a big backer of GOP lawmakers. Exxon's PAC gives about **72%** of its contributions to RepubliL23], and industry-wide the oil/gas sector funnels the "vast majority" of donations to theL37]. The return on that investment: friendly policies and climate policy rollbacks. Public Citizen found 29 House Republicans in one caucus took **\$13.4 million** from oil and gas interests and then fought Biden's clean energy p189]. **Boycott Tip:** Whenever you can, **pump gas at independent stations** or those with better records on renewable energy (some smaller chains or co-ops). Better yet, if feasible, **go electric or hybrid** for your next car – cutting ties with gasoline hits Big Oil where it hurts. Even carpooling or biking helps reduce the dollars flowing to oil companies, thereby reducing their political clout.
- **Chevron & Marathon Petroleum** – These companies also poured money into election-denying Republicans and lobby heavily against climate ac262]. Marathon's PAC resumed donations to the objectors soon after Jan. 6. **Boycott Tip:** The advice is similar: try to avoid buying fuel from the **most notorious oil brands**. If you live in a region with **Shell or BP**, know that while they have checkered histories, they at least profess support for carbon reduction (under public pressure). The ultimate goal is to **use less gas overall**, depriving all oil majors of revenue that might be spent undermining democracy or science. You can also patronize companies investing in clean energy (some gas stations now invest in EV charging – support those).

- **Toyota** – Surprisingly, Toyota led donations to election-objecting Congress members in 2021, before public outrage forced a pause. The company has also lobbied against California’s EV goals. **Boycott Tip:** Opt for car brands strongly committed to electric vehicles and that stayed clear of election disputes. **Ford** and **General Motors** have made big EV investments and (unlike Toyota) scaled back donations to objectors after Jan. 6. Reward carmakers that invest in America’s clean future rather than those funding status-quo politics.
- **Koch Industries (Gas & Oil)** – Koch is so influential it merits two mentions. Beyond household products, Koch-owned companies (like Flint Hills Resources) refine and distribute gasoline and chemicals. The Koch network has spent untold millions to block climate legislation and bankroll climate de ([Stand with Labor: Boycott Koch Industries! – SEIU Local 521](#))<sup>135</sup>]. **Boycott Tip:** It’s tough to trace at the pump, but many Koch refineries supply **Exxon, Phillips 66, and Motiva (Shell)**. Reducing gasoline usage overall is the best boycott. Also be mindful of **politically active petrochemical products** – for instance, if considering propane suppliers or motor oil brands, research if they’re Koch-owned and choose alternatives.

## Finance & Other Services

- **Bank of America (former MBNA)** – President Biden has long-standing ties to MBNA, a Delaware bank now part of BoA. MBNA was his largest donor over his Senate c-L59], even hiring his son Hunter Biden in th-L63]. Biden in turn was a chief Democratic supporter of a 2005 bankruptcy law that favored creditors over cons-L81]. This cozy relationship helped credit card companies at the expense of borrowers. **Boycott Tip:** Move your money to a **credit union or local community bank**. Unlike “Too Big To Fail” banks, credit unions are member-owned and typically don’t pour money into lobbying against consumer protections. Plus, their customer service often outshines Wall Street banks.
- **JPMorgan Chase, Visa & MasterCard** – These financial giants briefly halted donations post-insurrection, then resumed giving to Republican groups like RAGA and GOP ([Amazon. Walmart Giving to Republican AGs Group Again — ProPublica](#))<sup>1-L4</sup>]. By returning to “business as usual,” they fund politicians opposed to banking regulation and voting rights. **Boycott Tip:** Use cash or debit when you can to reduce fees that feed the big card networks. Consider an **alternative credit card** from a community-development bank or a fintech like **Stripe** that hasn’t been implicated in political spending. And communicate to your card issuers that you expect neutrality – customer pressure can push banks to rethink PAC activities.
- **PayPal (Peter Thiel)** – PayPal’s co-founder Peter Thiel is a major funder of hard-right candidates (he backed JD Vance and Blake Masters, for example). While Thiel has left PayPal, his fortune from it fuels super PACs supporting Trump-aligned populists. **Boycott Tip:** If Thiel’s political spending troubles you, try **Patreon, Stripe**, or other payment services for online transactions. Though PayPal itself isn’t overtly partisan, being mindful of where tech billionaire money goes is part of conscious consumerism.

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By boycotting the companies above and choosing the suggested alternatives, consumers can **pull their dollars away from corporations that finance extremist or anti-consumer political agendas**. This list targets brands in everyday life – from where you eat and shop to how you get online or fill your tank – so we can all make impactful choices. Exercising economic pressure encourages corporations to stay out of corrupt politics and refocus on customers. Your wallet is your vote – spend it wisely! [L204](#)】