



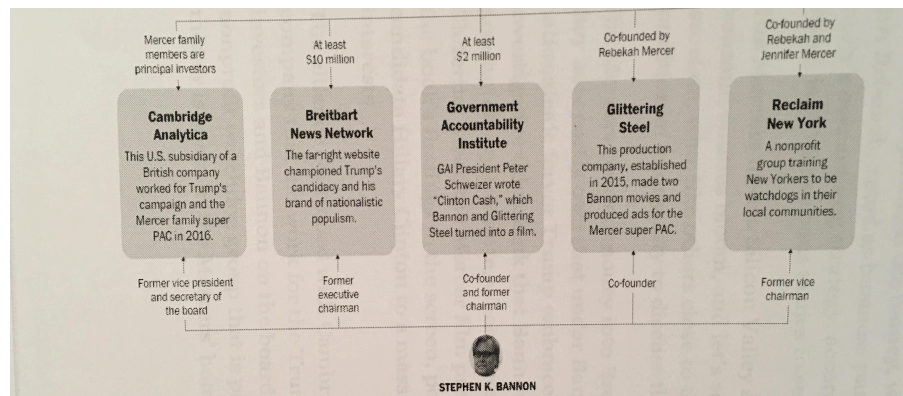
Reclaim NY

Reclaim NY is part of a network of extreme conservative non-profit groups funded primarily by Robert Mercer, a reclusive billionaire hedge fund manager who pumped millions into Donald Trump's presidential campaign.

They are an astroturf group pretending to be nonpartisan and to care about the tax burdens of low and middle income people. [The Reporter, \(Letters, 3/15/2017\)](#)

Who Are the Mercers?

- Robert Mercer is the co-C.E.O. of **Renaissance Technologies**, which is among the most profitable hedge funds in the country. He is a computer scientists who helped transform the financial industry through the innovative use of trading algorithms. [The New Yorker, March 27, 2017](#)
- The Mercer bankrolled Breitbart Media which propagandized for Trump under the leadership of Stephen Bannon (who is close to Mercer's daughter Rebekah)
- Mercer also owns the big data firm **Cambridge Analytica**, which consulted for the Ted Cruz and Trump campaigns and which now is implicated in the election hacking scandal in the 2016 election.



How The Mercers Operate

- Unlike other billionaires like the Kochs, which focus their donations on mobilizing voters, Mercers "exert pressure on the political system by helping erect an alternative media ecosystem" via Breitbart and Cambridge Analytica ([FAKE MEDIA](#))

- For Example: In 2016 campaign they spread the narratives of the “Dangerous Immigrants”, “Washington power brokers ruining the country” and “media elites”
 - Sowing distrust of government
 - Eroding dominance of the major news media
- They test various tactics to see what is most effective

What Are The Mercer’s Goals for Reclaim NY?

- Reclaim New York appears to have no function other than to act as a non-profit front to advance the Mercer family’s political agenda in New York State
- **Mercer Family Foundation’s [\\$1.25 million grant](#) accounted for 100% of the revenue [reported by Reclaim New York](#) last year.**
- Mercer family and their hangers-on have total control over the Reclaim New York board of directors.
 - Rebekah Mercer and Jennifer Mercer are half of Reclaim New York’s board of directors.
 - Stephen Bannon, sat on the board until he became White House Chief Strategist. Bannon was replaced by Reclaim New York executive director Brandon Muir.
 - The fourth board member is Leonard Leo, [described by the New York Times](#) as the driving force behind Trump’s Supreme Court appointee Neil Gorsuch.
 - The Mercer’s financial influence for NY Senate Republicans was blamed for the failure of the NY Health Act despite overwhelming support in both the Assembly and the Senate in the 2017 [session](#). The NY Health Care Act would not be financially beneficial for Mercer’s hedge fund which invests heavily in pharma and Insurance company stocks.

What Have They Done So Far?

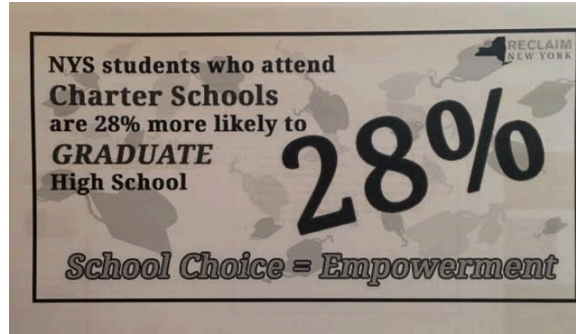
- “Reclaim NY has weaponized the state’s Freedom of Information Law to ‘request,’ and sue for, financial documents from two 2500, towns, and cities in LI, Orange, Westchester, Putnam, and other counties in New York. Reclaim also holds local

“workshops” to build “citizen armies” that flood communities with public-information requests. Its ultimate goal is to overwhelm governments and achieve the deconstruction of the administrative state.” ([Joyce St. George The New Yorker Letter 4/10/2017](#))

- Municipalities, especially in small towns have been forced to spend money to hire extra clerks and waste resources to fulfill these excessive and unnecessary FOIA requests.
- Reclaim NY has sued entities such as the [Peekskill School District](#) , the [Chester Union Free School District and the Village of Spring Valley](#) when they deemed their disclosures to be not sufficiently complete
- Towns and school districts deemed “non compliant” have had to incur costs on legal fees and have faced negative press in local media; being accused by Reclaim NY of “lack of transparency”
- **The supposed purpose of this data collection is to create [reports](#) “to help New Yorkers better understand why taxes are so high and living is so costly in NY.**
- However, they are not transparent about the “how” or “When” these reports will be issued or for what purpose

What’s their Endgame???

- Some experts believe that the ultimate goal is to convince people to open the NYS constitution in Nov and to change it; ravaging the rights of government workers and the pensions of teachers, police and other municipal employees. In addition, they want to ensconce in the constitution tax breaks for billionaires such as the carried interest loophole ([Hedge Clippers Paper, No. 46](#))
- In Fact they are active proponents of a [National Constitutional Convention](#). Seven States (six now that West Virginia has a Republican Governor) are needed to make up the 3/4th needed to open 1787 the US constitution are currently under Republican leadership.
- **They just started at 503 c4, which will allow them lobbying privileges**
- Their literature supports the destruction of the public school system and openly supports charter and religious schools. They support the Betsy DeVos’s education Agenda



What Can We Do to Stop Them?

- In NY 19 Greene County people in the resistance have shown up to their meeting and called them out publicly; asking them who their donors are (which they refuse to disclose), what their endgame is (which they refuse to disclose), and what the utility is of asking multiple people to file FOIA requests for the same entity. They eventually withdrew from Greene County.
- Disrupting their meetings have also caused them to change their tactic of asking people to file multiple FOIA requests at the “citizen army meetings”
- Secrecy has been their most powerful weapon so far. They want to spring this information on the public rights before the election and catch stakeholders unawares. SO....attending their meeting recording them and writing letters/opeds to local newspapers is a way to out them.
- You can tell they don't like this because they have been writing [counter letters](#) to the letters published against them in local newspapers.
- The more people know about their secret agenda, motives and affiliations, the less their impact will be when they try to launch their attacks
- A group has formed across the state to inform school boards and Districts of what they're doing. They are creating a document that will be shared with school boards and school administrators across NYS
- Members of this group are also trying to engage the national media about Reclaim NY, especially Jane Mayer of the New Yorker who has covered [Robert Mercer extensively](#) in the past.

Sample Letters

[Andes, NY](#)

[April 10 The New Yorker](#)

[Change.org Petition against Reclaim NY](#)

[Port Washington Letter Feb 2017](#)