

# Corporations That Have Touted Commitments To Racial Equity Have Given \$800,500 To State Lawmakers Who've Led Voter Suppression Efforts in Texas, Arizona, and Florida.

**SUMMARY:** In “an [aggressive dialing up](#) of corporate America’s stand against controversial voting measures nationwide,” more than 100 executives [discussed](#) how they would respond to the wide range of voter suppression efforts being considered by state legislatures across the country, from halting political contributions to stalling investments in states that passed new restrictions.

Major firms such as Coca-Cola, Delta Airlines, Citigroup, UPS, and Major League Baseball drew praise for publicly opposing Georgia’s “[Jim Crow 2.0](#)” laws. But many other firms that have claimed commitments to racial equity and diversity—including top corporate donors in other states where voting restrictions are advancing—have been largely silent on these efforts to disenfranchise predominantly Black and Brown voters after spending heavily on the lawmakers who have led these efforts.

*These include:*

**Texas’ Biggest Donors That Have Made Public Commitments To Racial Equity Have Given \$493,000 To State Lawmakers Responsible For Voter Suppression. *Controversial Recipients Include:***

- **State Sen. Bob Hall (R-02)**—Who Sponsored SB 7 And Defended A Self-Proclaimed “[White Nationalist](#)” Who Called For A “[Rope And A Tree](#)” For A Black Lawmaker—Has [Taken](#) \$7,500 From Ryan LLC.
- **State Sen. Charles Creighton (R-04)**—Who Sponsored SB 7 And Pushed What A Black Lawmaker Called A “[Disgraceful](#)” Bill To Protect Confederate Icons In Public Places—Has [Taken](#) \$93,500 From Exelon And Ryan LLC.

**Arizona’s Top 5 Corporate Donors—All Of Which Tout Commitments To Diversity—Have Given Nearly \$77,000 To Three Lawmakers With Troubling Histories On Race Who Authored Three Of The State’s Worst Suppression Bills. *Controversial Recipients Include:***

- **State Sen. Michelle Ugenti-Rita (R-23)**—Who Was Previously Responsible For Another Voter Suppression Law That A Federal Court Ruled Was [Racially Motivated](#) And Who Made A “[Repulsive](#)” Demand To Allow Business Owners To Kill Looters During 2020’s Unrest—Has [Taken](#) \$25,076 From Arizona’s Top 5 Corporate Donors.
- **State Sen. David Gowan (R-14)**—Who Sponsored A Bill To Shorten Mail-In Voting Deadlines That Would Disproportionately [Harm Native American Voters](#) And Authorized A House Floor Conference For A Group That Claimed [Black People “Hijacked”](#) The Civil Rights Movement—Has [Taken](#) \$6,418 From Arizona’s Top 5 Corporate Donors.

**Florida State Legislators’ Top Donors With Alleged Commitments To Racial Equity Have Given \$230,500 To Florida State Legislators Responsible For Advancing Voter Suppression Bills. *Controversial Recipients Include:***

- **State Sen. Dennis Baxley (R-12)**—Who [Sponsored](#) SB 90 And [Voted For SB 90](#) In Committee—Has Taken \$13,000 From Walt Disney And HCA Management Services And [Was The Only Member Of The Senate Education Committee](#) To Vote Against Renaming A Law School Building Named After A Segregationist.

- **State Sen. George Gainer (R-2)**—Who [Voted For SB 90](#) In Committee—Has Taken \$11,000 From HCA And Walt Disney, And [Introduced Legislation](#) To Release Motorists From Liability If They Strike And Kill A Protester The Same Year A Motorist Killed A Protester In Charlottesville, An Incident Labeled A Hate Crime.

## Table of Contents

<i>Texas</i> .....	2
<i>Arizona</i> .....	23
<i>Florida</i> .....	41

# Texas' Biggest Corporate Donors That Claim They're Committed To Racial Equality But Have Been Silent On Voter Suppression Have Given \$493,000 To State Lawmakers Responsible For Election Restrictions

**SUMMARY:** Texas state legislators are moving to enact a slew of voter suppression restrictions in their sweeping [Senate Bill 7 \(SB7\)](#), leading voting rights activists to [call](#) on Texas-based companies like AT&T to speak up against these efforts, as other companies have done in response to similar legislation in [Georgia](#).

Three of the Texas legislature's [top 5](#) corporate donors that have yet to comment on voter suppression—including Exelon Corp., Oncor, and Ryan LLC—have professed a commitment to equality and diversity, with Exelon even [having](#) a page dedicated to the Black Lives Matter movement. However, these same three companies have given **\$493,000** to Texas state Senators who sponsored SB 7, many of whom had troubling prior histories of racism, discrimination, or voter suppression:

- **State Sen. Bob Hall (R-02)**—Who Sponsored SB 7 And Defended A Self-Proclaimed “White Nationalist” Who Called For A “Rope And A Tree” For A Black Lawmaker—Has Taken \$7,500 From Ryan LLC.
- **State Sen. Charles Creighton (R-04)**—Who Sponsored SB 7 And Pushed What Black Lawmakers Called A “Disgraceful” Bill To Protect Confederate Icons In Public Places—Has Taken \$93,500 From Exelon And Ryan LLC.
- **State Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-01)**—Who Sponsored SB 7 And Previously Introduced “One Of The Harshesht Voter Suppression Bills In The Country”—Has Taken \$31,000 From Oncor And Ryan LLC.
- **State Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-07)**—Who Sponsored SB 7, Has Led The Push For Seven So-Called “Voter Integrity” Bills In 2021, And Was Accused Of Voter Suppression As Early As 2008 While A County Official—Has Taken \$35,000 From Ryan LLC And Exelon.
- **State Sen. Donna Campbell (R-25)**—Who Sponsored SB 7 And Told One Of Texas’ Black State Senators To Speed Up Questioning During A Hearing For The Bill, Saying “You’re A Man Of Fewer Words And I Think You Can Do That”—Has Taken \$20,000 From Ryan LLC.
- **State Sen. Charles Perry (R-28)**—Who Sponsored SB 7 And Previously Wrote A Bill That Would Allow Businesses To Refuse Service Based On Their Faith And “Could Be Used As A Defense For Discrimination”—Has Taken \$13,250 From Oncor.

- **State Sen. Drew Springer (R-30)**—Who Was “Proud” To Back SB 7 Because “The Right To Free And Fair Elections Has Been Under Attack”—Has Taken \$40,000 From Oncor, Exelon, And Ryan LLC.
- **State Sen. Dawn Buckingham (R-24)**— Who Sponsored And Voted For SB 7—Has Taken \$20,500 From Oncor.
- **State Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (R-18)**—Who Sponsored And Voted For SB 7—Has Taken \$45,750 From Ryan LLC, Oncor, And Exelon.
- **State Sen. Brian Birdwell (R-22)**—Who Sponsored And Voted For SB7—Has Taken \$50,500 From Exelon And Oncor.
- **State Sen. Jane Nelson (R-12)**—Who Sponsored And Voted For SB 7—Has Taken \$113,000 From Ryan LLC And Oncor.
- **State Sen. Angela Paxton (R-8)**—Who Sponsored And Voted For SB 7—Has Taken \$10,000 From Ryan LLC.
- **State Sen. Charles Schwertner (R-05)**—Who Sponsored And Voted For SB 7—Has Taken \$13,000 From Oncor.

## **Texas State Legislators Are Moving To Enact A Slew Of Voting Restrictions, Including Sweeping Voter Suppression And Voter Intimidation Bill SB7, Leading Voting Rights Activists To Call On Texas-Based Companies Like AT&T To Speak Up And Take Action.**

In 2021, Texas Legislators Introduced Senate Bill 7, A Bill “Best Known For Curbing Early Voting Hours And Banning 24-Hour Voting And Drive Through Voting.” “Amid the heated presidential race last fall, Texas polling places experienced “a surge in voter intimidation,” according to the Texas Civil Rights Project. The group received 267 complaints from around the state. Many involved demonstrators shouting at voters outside of polling places, an escalation of harassment that local election officials in 2018 described as the worst they had seen in decades. What are Texas lawmakers doing about it? Nothing to protect voters. Nothing to empower election workers. Instead, Republican senators passed a bill this week that invites intimidation and disruption even closer to the voting booth. [Austin-American Statesman, [04/07/21](#)]

**Early Voting, 24-Hour Voting, And Drive Through Voting Were “Innovations That Were Especially Effective Last Year In Reaching Voters Of Color.”** “Senate Bill 7 is best known for curbing early voting hours and banning 24-hour voting and drive-through voting — innovations that were especially effective last year in reaching voters of color. [Austin-American Statesman, [04/07/21](#)]

**Despite The “Surge In Voter Intimidation” During The 2020 Election, SB 7 “Grants Alarming New Powers To Partisan Poll Watchers.”** “Amid the heated presidential race last fall, Texas polling places experienced ‘a surge in voter intimidation,’ according to the Texas Civil Rights Project. The group received 267 complaints from around the state. Many involved demonstrators shouting at voters outside of polling places, an escalation of harassment that local election officials in 2018 described as the worst they had seen in decades. What are Texas lawmakers doing about it? Nothing to protect voters. Nothing to empower election workers. Instead, Republican senators passed a bill this week that invites intimidation and disruption even closer to the voting booth [...] Just as worrisome, though, SB 7 grants alarming new powers to partisan poll watchers, while creating new opportunities for voters and elections workers to be harassed.” [Austin-American Statesman, [04/07/21](#)]

- **SB 7 Includes A Provision Allowing Partisan Poll Watchers To Video Tape Voters Receiving Assistance, Including Voters With Language Barriers Or Disabilities.** “Most chilling is the SB 7 provision allowing partisan poll watchers to make video recordings of a voter receiving assistance, a dramatic reversal of current law that prohibits anyone from recording sound or images within 100 feet of a polling place. Allowing such recordings is an unconscionable violation of voters’ privacy. It treats voters with suspicion because they vote with the help of a trusted companion, often to assist with a language barrier or a disability.” [Austin-American Statesman, [04/07/21](#)]
- **SB 7 Allows Election Officials To Be Prosecuted For Obstructing The View Of A Partisan Poll Watcher, “Leaving Election Workers With Little Recourse To Deal With Campaign Workers Who Are Overstepping Their Bounds.”** “SB 7 also dangles the threat of prosecution over election workers. The measure says an election official can be charged with a Class A misdemeanor — punishable by up to \$4,000 in fines and a year in jail — for obstructing the view of a partisan poll watcher. At the same time, SB 7 grants poll watchers ‘free movement’ around the polling place, leaving election workers with little recourse to deal with campaign workers who are overstepping their bounds.” [Austin-American Statesman, [04/07/21](#)]

**2021: Beto O’Rourke Called Texas’ Proposed Voting Legislation “The Single Greatest Attack On Democracy And The Ability To Voter In Texas In More Than A Decade.”** “Former El Paso Congressman Beto O’Rourke, former HUD Secretary Julian Castro, along with civil rights groups, and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick held competing news conferences Tuesday as the debate over proposed Texas election law bills intensifies. [...] O’Rourke, the former U.S. Senate and presidential candidate, said, ‘This is the single greatest attack on democracy and the ability to vote in Texas in more than a decade.’” [CBS DFW, [04/06/21](#)]

**Former HUD Secretary Julian Castro Stated That Texas’ Voting Legislation Is “Not Only About Voter Suppression” But Also “Voter Intimidation.”** “Castro said, ‘This legislation is not only about voter suppression. It’s about voter intimidation with provisions such as allowing for the videotaping of voters who are suspected of some sort of fraud. Voter fraud almost never happens in this state or across the country.’” [CBS DFW, [04/06/21](#)]

**The Texas AFL-CIO Condemned SB 7 And HB 6, With The Union’s President Stating “Voter Fraud In Texas Is Practically Non-Existent, Except As A Smokescreen Hiding Harm To Eligible Voters.”** “Other groups such as the Texas AFL-CIO have also spoken out against the bills. President Rick Levy and Secretary-Treasurer Leonard Aguilar released a statement saying in part: ‘On a false pretext, bills like SB 7 and HB 6 aim a cannon at a flea, with all the accompanying damage to the surroundings. Voter fraud in Texas is practically non-existent, except as a smokescreen hiding harm to eligible voters, threats of prosecution of pro-democracy voter turnout programs and a license for the attorney general to intimidate voters by threatening criminal charges.’” [KVUE, [03/25/21](#)]

**Texas A&M Professor Jeffery Dixon Claimed That SB 7 Was “An Extremely Severe Set Of Voting Restrictions When Compared To Other States.”** “Texas A&M Central Texas Professor Jeffery Dixon tells 6 News the legislation is unusually restrictive when compared to some other states. ‘It’s an extremely severe set of voting restrictions when compared to other states. In North Dakota, for example, you can register to vote4 and vote on the same day,’ Dixon said.” [KCEN, [04/05/21](#)]

**Common Cause Texas, A Non-Partisan Organization Focusing On Voting Rights, Claimed That SB 7 Was “Anti-Democratic, Anti-Voter, And Once Again, Demonstrates How Far Current Leadership Is Willing To Go To Protect Their Own Partisan Interests.”** “Common Cause Texas, a nonpartisan organization focusing on voting rights and other issues, said the lieutenant’s statement was ‘quite dangerous’ but didn’t specifically say what it was about the bill they disagreed with. ‘Dan Patrick has decided to loudly dismiss the legitimate concerns brought up by legal and policy experts, grassroots leaders and community members, many who themselves are Black, Latinx, Asian, or Texans with disabilities, to gaslight the people of Texas about voter suppression. We do not simply “dislike” Senate Bill 7 – this bill is anti-democratic, anti-voter,

and once again, demonstrates how far current leadership is willing to go to protect their own partisan interests.” [NCBDFW, [04/06/21](#)]

**Cliff Albright, The Founder of Black Voters Matter in Georgia, Claimed That His Group Was Applying The Lessons Of Georgia’s Corporate Push Against Voter Suppression To Texas And Called On Texas-Based Companies Such As AT&T To Speak Out.** “Cliff Albright, the co-founder of Black Voters Matters in Georgia, said his group is applying lessons learned in his state to what is happening in Texas. He said "strong words" from companies like American Airlines and Dell need to be meet with "strong actions," which include no longer giving political contributions to Republicans who vote for these voting bills. Albright said Texas-based companies like AT&T also need to start speaking out. So far, the company has not issued a statement on Texas' bills.” [Houston Public Media, [04/06/21](#)]

- **Cliff Albright: “If AT&T Can Convince Folks To Upgrade A Phone Every Few Months [...] Certainly They Can Convince Them That Voter Suppression Is Bad.”** “‘If AT&T can convince folks to upgrade a phone every few months,’ Albright said, ‘certainly they can convince them that voter suppression is bad.’” [Houston Public Media, [04/06/21](#)]

**3 Of The Texas Legislature’s Top 5 Corporate Donors That Have Yet To Oppose The Voting Restrictions—including Exelon Corp., Oncor, And Ryan LLC—Have Professed A Commitment To Equality And Diversity, With Exelon Even Having A Page Dedicated To The Black Lives Matter Movement.**

**The Texas Legislature’s Top Five Corporate Donors Include AT&T, Exelon Corp., Oncor, And Ryan LLC.**

<b>Texas</b>	<b>1 – Blackridge (\$173,189)</b>
<b>16 Bills</b>	<b>2 – AT&amp;T (\$149,500)</b>
<b>19 Supporters</b>	<b>3 – Exelon Corp. (\$140,000)</b>
<b>\$4.8 million in corporate contributions</b>	<b>4 – Oncor (\$86,750)</b>
	<b>5 – Ryan LLC (\$85,000)</b>

[Public Citizen, [April 2021](#)]

**Unlike Texas’ Other Top Donors, AT&T Issued A Statement On The “‘Responsibility To Engage’” In Response To Texas’ Voting Restrictions.**

**AT&T Indirectly Criticized Texas’ Voting Restrictions, Issuing “A Broader Look At The Complexity Of Elections, The Responsibility Of Lawmakers, And A Broader ‘Responsibility To Engage.’”** “Dell and American Airlines specifically called out Texas Senate Bill 7 and its version in the House, House Bill 6, while AT&T took a broader look at the complexity of elections, the responsibility of lawmakers, and a broader ‘responsibility to engage.’” [ABC News, [04/03/21](#)]



## **Exelon Corporation Has An Entire Page Dedicated To Black Lives Matter Which Professes A “Fierce Commitment To Diversity, Inclusion And Equity” And Includes A Statement From The CEO Arguing That A Focus On Diversity “Cannot Waver.”**

Exelon Has A Webpage Dedicated To Black Lives Matter:

 [www.exeloncorp.com/grid/black-lives-matter](http://www.exeloncorp.com/grid/black-lives-matter)

[Exelon, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

**Exelon’s Black Lives Matter Page Professes A “Fierce Commitment To Diversity, Inclusion And Equity.”** “At Exelon, we live our values, including a fierce commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity.” [Exelon, [06/03/20](#)]

**Following The Death Of George Floyd, Exelon CEO Chris Crane Said, “Our Focus On Our Values Of Respect, Diversity And Inclusion Cannot Waver”...** “Following the tragic death of George Floyd and other cases of racial discrimination, our CEO Chris Crane sent the following message to all employees: [...] Recent racial discrimination incidents in Minnesota, New York, Kentucky and Georgia have drawn widespread national attention and, while not within our company, remind us, once again, that our focus on our values of respect, diversity and inclusion cannot waver.

**...And That Supporting Diversity “Are Actions We Must Take Every Day”...** “Supporting, encouraging and engaging everyone in our company – no matter their gender, color of their skin, sexual orientation, disability, religion, point of view or other unique qualities – are actions we must take every day.” [Exelon, [06/03/20](#)]

**...And “There Is No Room In Our Company For Hate, Intolerance, Discrimination Or Harassment Of Any Kind”...** “There is no room in our company for hate, intolerance, discrimination or harassment of any kind – either obvious or covert – toward our colleagues or customers. We cannot tolerate it and none of us can stand by quietly if we observe it.” [Exelon, [06/03/20](#)]

**...Crane Concluded That “We Are Called To Action” And Exhorted The Company To Ask, “Am I Ready And Willing To Speak Up If I See Behavior That Isn’t Consistent With This Critical Value,” Referring To Increased Tolerance.** ““These events impact us, our customers and the communities we serve, and we are called to action. Ask yourself these three questions: What can I do to change my department, company, neighborhood or town for the better? What are the behaviors I’m modeling? Am I ready and willing to speak up if I see behavior that isn’t consistent with this critical value?” [Exelon, [06/03/20](#)]

## **Dallas-Based Tax Firm Ryan LLC Has Repeatedly Been On Fortune Magazine’s “Best Workplaces Diversity List,” And One Of Its Executives Has Said The Recognition “Reinforces Our Efforts To Have A Diverse Workplace That Lives Our Values.”**

**In 2019, Dallas-Based Tax Firm Ryan LLC Was On Fortune Magazine’s “Best Workplaces For Diversity” List For The “Fourth Time In The Past Five Years.”** “Ryan, a leading global tax services and software provider, has been named by *FORTUNE* magazine as one of the nation’s Best Workplaces for Diversity in 2019. This is the third consecutive year for the Firm to make *FORTUNE*’s annual list and the fourth time in the past five years.” [Ryan LLC, [12/23/19](#)]

- **Dallas-Based Ryan LLC Is “The Largest Firm In The World Dedicated Exclusively To Business Taxes.”** “Ryan, an award-winning global tax services and software provider, is the largest Firm in the world dedicated exclusively to business taxes. With global headquarters in Dallas, Texas, the Firm provides an integrated suite of federal, state, local, and international tax services on a multijurisdictional

basis, including tax recovery, consulting, advocacy, compliance, and technology services.” [Ryan LLC, [12/20/17](#)]

**Ryan LLC Global President And COO’s Said, “‘This Recognition From Our Employees Reinforces Our Efforts To Have A Diverse Workplace That Lives Our Values.’”** “‘We have worked to create an inclusive culture that encourages our employees to find ways to connect with one another, listen, and build on their unique perspectives to make valuable contributions to their teams and the Firm,’ said Ryan Global President and Chief Operating Officer Ginny B. Kissling. ‘This recognition from our employees reinforces our efforts to have a diverse workplace that lives our values and continues to deliver meaningful results to our clients.’” [Ryan LLC, [12/23/19](#)]

**In 2017, Ryan LLC Chairman And CEO G. Brint Ryan Said, “‘This Diverse Set Of Employee Experiences Ensures That We Continue To Develop Innovative And Meaningful Ways To Deliver Superior Value And Results For Our Clients.’”** “‘Earning this recognition as a premier workplace for diversity supports our ongoing efforts to attract and retain top talent that provides a myriad of individual perspectives and ideas,’ said G. Brint Ryan, Chairman and CEO of Ryan. ‘This diverse set of employee experiences ensures that we continue to develop innovative and meaningful ways to deliver superior value and results for our clients.’” [Ryan LLC, [12/20/17](#)]

**Oncor, Which Claims A Commitment To Support Minority-Owned Businesses And “Champions” Supplier Diversity, Has Quoted Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr.’s “It Is Not Possible To Be In Favor Of Justice For Some People And Not Be In Favor Of Justice For All People.”**

**Oncor Website Claims That Oncor “Champions” Its Supplier Diversity Program And Has A “Dedication” To Support Customer Communities.**

## SUPPLIER DIVERSITY

Oncor champions a progressive supplier diversity initiative that strengthens our dedication to the economic development of our customer communities. The initiative has the endorsement and support of the highest levels of the Oncor management team.

## POLICY AND COMMITMENT

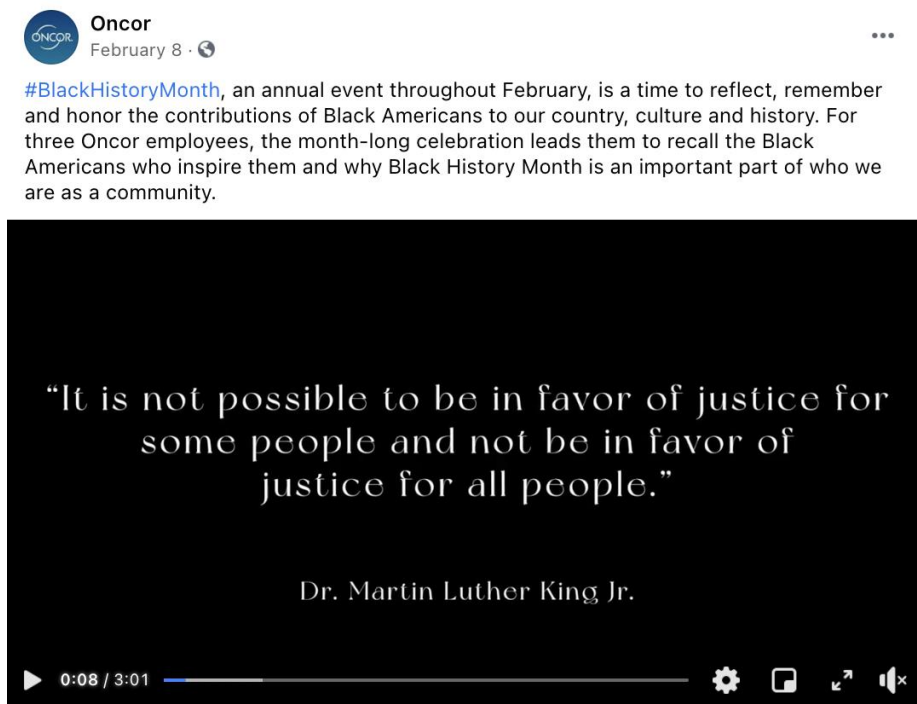
Oncor participates in activities, organizations and programs that support small, minority and woman-owned businesses. We provide opportunities to companies with the following federal designation:

- Small business
- Small disadvantaged business
- Small woman-owned businesses
- Small businesses located in HUB Zones
- Small businesses owned by service-disabled veterans

Working with Oncor Strategic Sourcing and Procurement, all company business units are responsible for administering and implementing supplier diversity.

[Encore, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

**2021: Oncor Posted On Facebook To Honor Black History Month With A Video Featuring The Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. Quote “It Is Not Possible To Be In Favor Of Justice For Some People And Not Be In Favor Of Justice For All People.”**



[Oncor on Facebook, [02/08/21](#)]

**State Sen. Charles Creighton (R-04)—Who Sponsored SB 7 And Pushed What Black Lawmakers Called A “Disgraceful” Bill To Protect Confederate Icons In Public Places—Has Taken \$93,500 From Exelon And Ryan LLC.**

**Texas State Sen. Charles Creighton (R-04) Has Taken \$93,500 From Exelon And Ryan LLC.**

Sen. Charles Creighton (R), The Top Recipient Of Corporate Donations In The Texas Legislature, Counts Exelon, Ryan LLC, BVA United LLC, Allen Boone Humphries Robinson, And The Apollo Hospital System Among His Top Donors:

**1 – Sen. Charles Creighton (R) (\$954,565)**

- Exelon Corp (\$38,500)
- Ryan LLC (\$30,000)
- BVA United LLC (\$25,000)
- Allen Boone Humphries Robinson (\$23,000)
- Apollo Hospital System (\$20,000)

[Public Citizen, [April 2021](#)]



## **State Sen. Brandon Creighton Sponsored And Voted For SB 7, Texas' "Extremely Severe Set Of Voting Restrictions."**

**Sen. Brandon Creighton Is A Sponsor Of SB 7.** [LegiScan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

**Sen. Brandon Creighton Voted For SB 7.** [LegiScan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, voted [04/06/21](#)]

**Texas A&M Professor Jeffery Dixon Claimed That SB 7 Was "An Extremely Severe Set Of Voting Restrictions When Compared To Other States."** "Texas A&M Central Texas Professor Jeffery Dixon tells 6 News the legislation is unusually restrictive when compared to some other states. 'It's an extremely severe set of voting restrictions when compared to other states. In North Dakota, for example, you can register to vote4 and vote on the same day,' Dixon said." [KCEN, [04/05/21](#)]

## **After More Than 30 Confederate Monuments Were Taken Down In Texas, State Sen. Brandon Creighton Retaliated By Introducing A Bill To Make It More Difficult To Remove Confederate Iconography From Public Places – A Move Which Black Texas State Senator Boris Miles Deemed "Disgraceful."**

**Between 2015 And 2018, More Than 30 Confederate Monuments In Texas Were Taken Down.** "More than 30 Confederate monuments were taken down in Texas between 2015 and 2018, according to a Southern Poverty Law Center [report](#). This has sparked an intense backlash from Anglo conservatives who see the removal of these monuments as an erasure of their Antebellum heritage. Activist groups pumped out robocalls and radio ads calling on Texas Republicans to keep the monuments in place." [Texas Observer, [05/08/19](#)]

**Sen. Creighton "Responded" To Activists Calling For Preservation Of Confederate Monuments By Introducing SB 1663, Which Sought To "Strip Local Governments Of Their Authority To Take Down Historical Monuments."** "Activist groups pumped out robocalls and radio ads calling on Texas Republicans to keep the monuments in place. State lawmakers responded this session by proposing controversial legislation — Senate Bill 1663 and House Bill 3948 — to strip local governments of their authority to take down historical monuments, statues or portraits, or even rename schools, parks, streets and other public property. Brandon Creighton, a Republican senator from suburban Houston who authored the upper-chamber version, brought the bill to the Senate floor Tuesday, prompting a heated and emotional debate." [Texas Observer, [05/08/19](#)]

**Houston Senator Boris Miles, One Of The Texas State Senate's Two Black Members, Called The Bill "Disgraceful."** "Houston Senator Boris Miles, one of the Senate's two black members, called the legislation 'disgraceful.'" [Texas Observer, [05/08/19](#)]

**Creighton's Bill Attempting To "Make It More Difficult To Scrub Confederate Iconography From Public Places In The State Drew Emotional Testimony From Black Lawmakers."** "In 2019, legislation filed by Republican state Sen. Brandon Creighton to [make it more difficult to scrub Confederate iconography from public places](#) in the state drew emotional testimony from Black lawmakers. (The bill passed the Senate but died in the House.) During a floor debate, Democratic state Senator Royce West pointed to a 9-foot-tall painting of a Confederate general that hangs in the Senate chamber. 'Look over my shoulder,' he told the bill's supporters. 'Every day that I come into this chamber I'm reminded of the Confederacy.'" [San Antonio Current, [09/12/20](#)]

**Creighton's Bill Was Described As Part Of A "Multi-Front Attack ON Local Control" That "Falls Disproportionately On The Shoulders Of People Of Color."** "It's just another example of how Republicans are using their unprecedented control of state legislatures to dismantle political power in the country's increasingly liberal cities. Creighton is at the center of that fight this session [...] For state-level conservatives, preemption is about both consolidating economic power and preserving cultural power. But at its core, it boils

down to one thing: maintaining political power. This multi-front attack on local control falls disproportionately on the shoulders of people of color in the South.” [Texas Observer, [05/08/19](#)]

**Creighton’s Bill “Died In The House.”** “In 2019, legislation filed by Republican state Sen. Brandon Creighton to make it more difficult to scrub Confederate iconography from public places in the state drew emotional testimony from Black lawmakers. (The bill passed the Senate but died in the House.)” [San Antonio Current, [09/12/20](#)]

### **While In The State House, Brandon Creighton Called For The Final Vote On A States Rights Resolution That Echoed The “Racist Measures Passed By States During The Jim Crow Era.”**

**Creighton Called For The Final Vote On A States Rights Resolution That Critics Claimed “Reminded Them Of Racist Measures Passed By States During The Jim Crow Era.”** “The Texas House voted 99 to 36 in favor of a “states’ rights” resolution that critics said reminded them of racist measures passed by states during the Jim Crow era. If it passes the Senate, the resolution would be sent to Congress to declare sovereignty and states’ rights under the 10th amendment. Supporters said the measure would send Washington, D.C. a message that Texas opposes the expansion of the federal government and is tired of unfunded mandates. ‘Members this is not about politics. Its about the principles of self-government and I move passage,’ said Rep. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, calling for the final vote on his resolution.” [Fort Worth Star Telegram, “Veasey Says He Is ‘Embarrassed’ As House Passes States Rights Measure, 05/30/09]

**State Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-07)—Who Sponsored SB 7, Has Led The Push For Seven So-Called “Voter Integrity” Bills In 2021, And Was Accused Of Voter Suppression As Early As 2008 While A County Official—Has Taken \$35,000 From Ryan LLC And Exelon.**

### **Texas State Sen. Paul Bettencourt’s (R-07) Has Taken \$35,000 From Ryan LLC And Exelon Corp.**

Texas State Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-07) Counts Popp Hutchenson PLLC, Ryan LLC, Exelon, Cadence Bank, And Gulf State Toyota Among His Top Donors:

#### **5 – Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R) (\$425,901)**

- Popp Hutchenson PLLC (\$27,500)
- Ryan LLC (\$20,000)
- Exelon Corp (\$15,000)
- Cadence Bank (\$12,500)
- Gulf State Toyota (\$10,500)

[Public Citizen, [April 2021](#)]

### **State Sen. Paul Bettencourt, Who Has Led The Push For Seven So-Called “Voter Integrity” Bills In 2021, Sponsored And Voted For SB 7 After Claiming That The Pandemic And 2020 Election “Revealed Election Code Violations Across Texas.”**

**Sen. Paul Bettencourt Is A Sponsor Of SB7.** [LegiScan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

**Sen. Paul Bettencourt Voted For SB7.** [LegiScan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, voted [04/06/21](#)]

**2021: Bettencourt Announced What Is Known As The “Integrity Seven” Bills, Claiming That The Pandemic And 2020 Election “Revealed Election Code Violations Across Texas.”** “The COVID-19 pandemic on top of the November 2020 election have revealed election code violations across Texas including too many places with election officials that have been non-compliant with the one or more of the requirements of the Texas Election Code,’ Bettencourt said. ‘These ‘Integrity Seven’ bills will start a needed discussion to create uniformity to make sure the problems we faced in 2020 will not happen again.” [Texas Scorecard, [03/08/21](#)]

**Bettencourt Claimed The “Integrity Seven” Bills Were “Important To Ensuring A Trusted, Accurate, And Fair Voting Process.”** “A group of Texas state senators has filed seven key bills to protect election integrity, a top legislative priority for Texas Republican activists that was designated an emergency item by Gov. Greg Abbott over a month ago. State Sen. [Paul Bettencourt](#) (R–Houston) [announced the new bills on Monday](#), saying they ‘are important to ensuring a trusted, accurate and fair voting process.” [Texas Scorecard, [03/08/21](#)]

**Texas A&M Professor Jeffery Dixon Claimed That SB 7 Was “An Extremely Severe Set Of Voting Restrictions When Compared To Other States.”** “Texas A&M Central Texas Professor Jeffery Dixon tells 6 News the legislation is unusually restrictive when compared to some other states. ‘It’s an extremely severe set of voting restrictions when compared to other states. In North Dakota, for example, you can register to vote4 and vote on the same day,’ Dixon said.” [KCEN, [04/05/21](#)]

### **In 2008, During His Tenure As The Harris County Tax Assessor, Paul Bettencourt Faced Accusations Of Voter Suppression Due To His Office’s Delays In Processing Voter Registrations And Tendency To Reject Registrations On Technicalities.**

**Bettencourt, Who Was Tax Assessor For Harris County, Was Criticized For Purging Voter Rolls And Using “Technicalities” To Purge Voter Registrations In The Late 2000’s.** “But perhaps no race is more important to Harris County Democrats than tax assessor. It may sound dull, but Democrats say their future success in Harris County may hinge on whether Democrat Diane Trautman can defeat incumbent Bettencourt. That’s because the tax assessor’s office, in addition to assessing taxes, also maintains the voter rolls. Although Bettencourt isn’t facing a federal corruption probe, he has generated his share of controversy [...] local Democrats accuse Bettencourt - a delegate to the 2008 Republican National Convention - of overzealously scrubbing the county voter rolls to minimize Democratic turnout. The Houston Chronicle reported in July that Bettencourt has used technicalities to purge voters, including people who fail to check the correct box on a form. [The Texas Observer, “Turning Houston Blue,” 10/17/08]

**2008: Bettencourt Faced “Accusations Of Voter Suppression By Dragging His Feet On Processing Voter Registration Applications And Rejecting Applications On Technicalities.”** “Paul Bettencourt is facing accusations of voter suppression by dragging his feet on processing voter registration applications and rejecting applications on technicalities.” [Austin Chronicle, [10/23/08](#)]

- **By The Day Harris County Voters Began Early Voting In 2008, Battencourt’s Office Still Had 13,000 Registration Applications To Process, With “Many Of The New Registrants” Expected To “Favor” Democrats.** “When the first day of early voting arrived on Monday, Bettencourt told *The Houston Chronicle* that 13,000 applications were still waiting to be processed. Bettencourt said that a lot of those were probably just unintended duplicates – but, the *Chronicle* noted, it obviously meant that some newly registered voters might show up and the polls and not find their names on the list of eligible voters. This could have an affect on Austin, because Congressional District 10’s voters are almost evenly split between Travis and Harris counties – and conventional wisdom says that many of the new registrants will favor Obama and other Democrats.” [Austin Chronicle, [10/23/08](#)]
- **Despite Experts Predicting A “Tsunami” Of Voter Registrations And The Texas Secretary Of State Predicting “Huge Voter Turnout,” Battencourt’s Stated That “The Interest Level In This**

**Election Is Not As High” As Expected.** “Back on Oct. 6, the final day of the voter registration deadline, KTRH radio in Houston quoted Bettencourt as saying, "The interest level in this election is not as high as people thought it would be" and his voter registration director, George Hammerline, said registration would be about the same as 2004 and commented, "Then you do start to wonder, maybe everyone that wanted to register is registered." Those beliefs were wildly at odds with predictions here in Travis County, where Bettencourt's counterpart Dana DeBeauvoir predicted a "tsunami" of voters, and statewide, where Secretary of State Hope Andrade predicted "huge voter turnout." [Austin Chronicle, [10/23/08](#)]

- **Battencourt’s Voter Registration Director George Hammerline Claimed That There Were Still 13,000 Pending Registrations When Early Voting Started Because “There Are Only So Many Hours In A Day” And “Nobody Could Have Predicted” The Backlog.** “I just talked to Hammerline, and he said the 13,000 registrations hadn't been processed "because there are only so many hours in a day. We received 100,000 voter registration applications on the cutoff day and for two days afterward. We've been working 12 to 13 hours a day. And we had a backlog going into that. 'Nobody would have predicted you'd get 100,000 cards on cutoff day. We'd been working 10-hour days for three weeks before that. And we begged all the volunteer deputy voter registrars to bring their stuff in as soon as possible, and of course they all showed up on the last day, so that doesn't help things.'" [Austin Chronicle, [10/23/08](#)]

**As Tax Assessor, Bettencourt Was “More Focused On Keeping People From Voting Than Getting People To Vote.”** “Bettencourt is ‘more focused on keeping people from voting than getting people to vote,’ Birnberg says. ‘We purge based upon federal and state law,’ Bettencourt told the Observer. ‘Every add or deletion I make is subject to [Texas] secretary of state approval.’ He noted that Birnberg hadn't filed any official complaints with his office and attributed Birnberg's criticisms to election-year politics. Bettencourt will be tough to beat. In recent elections, he has performed better than fellow Republicans (he garnered 25,000 more votes than President Bush in Harris County in 2004), an indication that he attracts votes from Democrats as well as Republicans.” [The Texas Observer, “Turning Houston Blue,” 10/17/08]

**Bettencourt Was A “Staunch” Supporter Of Voter ID Laws.** “The smarmy tenure of Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector (and voter registrar) Paul Bettencourt just added one more bit of smarm: He has resigned only a month after being re-elected. Although [today's article in the Houston Chronicle](#) gives the Republican credit for modernizing his office since he was elected in 1998, he has also drawn accusations of voter suppression, both for his [failure](#) to process thousands of voter registrations before the start of this year's general election early voting and for his [staunch support](#) of laws requiring photo identification to cast a vote or even register to vote.” [Austin Chronicle, [12/06/08](#)]

**2008: After Facing Accusations Of Voter Suppression Bettencourt Resigned His Position As Harris County Tax Assessor.** “The smarmy tenure of Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector (and voter registrar) Paul Bettencourt just added one more bit of smarm: He has resigned only a month after being re-elected. Although [today's article in the Houston Chronicle](#) gives the Republican credit for modernizing his office since he was elected in 1998, he has also drawn accusations of voter suppression, both for his [failure](#) to process thousands of voter registrations before the start of this year's general election early voting and for his [staunch support](#) of laws requiring photo identification to cast a vote or even register to vote.” [Austin Chronicle, [12/06/08](#)]

**During A Hearing About The 2008 Election, Texas Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee Claimed Bettencourt And His Staff Completed “Faulty Work” Related To Provisional Ballots That Were “Determinative In Many Races.”** “Let me just give you an example: 6,880 provisional ballots cast in Harris County. These ballots were determinative in many races. We lost a district attorney election and judges who happen to be African-American, who happen to be a representative from the gay community, a representative from -- well, a person who had an ethnic name, if you will [...] so up to four district court judicial races which have a current margin of 200 to 5,000 votes -- all of these had these kind of indicia to them, African-American and people from distinct groups. We had documentation from the Republican provisional vote counter that said a retired business executive will chair the ballot board of 35 people, said the counting process was delayed by faulty work

by Bettencourt court staff. That's our tax assessor. That's his responsibility. The problems included hundreds of voter forms whose information the registrar's staff masked with white correction fluid and then altered with new information. Also, the board has accepted ballots cast by voters whose registrations were classified by Bettencourt staff as incomplete." [House Committee on the Judiciary, Hearing before the Subcommittee on Tge Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, [03/19/09](#)]

### **State Sen. Dawn Buckingham (R-24)—Who Sponsored And Voted For SB 7—Has Taken \$20,500 From Oncor.**

#### **State Sen. Dawn Buckingham (R-24) Has Taken \$20,500 From Oncor:**

Donor	Amount
Oncor	\$20,500

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

#### **Sen. Dawn Buckingham Sponsored And Voted For SB 7, “An Extremely Severe Set Of Voting Restrictions.”**

**Sen. Dawn Buckingham Is A Sponsor Of SB 7.** [LegiScan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

**Sen. Dawn Buckingham Voted For SB 7.** [LegiScan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, voted 04/06/21]

**Texas A&M Professor Jeffery Dixon Claimed That SB 7 Was “An Extremely Severe Set Of Voting Restrictions When Compared To Other States.”** “Texas A&M Central Texas Professor Jeffery Dixon tells 6 News the legislation is unusually restrictive when compared to some other states. ‘It's an extremely severe set of voting restrictions when compared to other states. In North Dakota, for example, you can register to vote4 and vote on the same day,’ Dixon said.” [KCEN, [04/05/21](#)]

### **State Sen. Donna Campbell (R-25)—Who Sponsored SB 7 And Told One Of Texas’ Black State Senators To Speed Up Questioning During A Hearing For The Bill, Saying “You’re A Man Of Fewer Words And I Think You Can Do That”—Has Taken \$20,000 From Ryan LLC.**

#### **State Sen. Donna Campbell (R-25) Has Taken \$20,000 From Ryan LLC.**

Donor	Amount
Ryan LLC	\$20,000

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

#### **Sen. Donna Campbell, Who Sponsored And Voted For SB 7, Also Interrupted State Sen. Royce West, One Of Texas’ Two Black State Senators, While He Asked Questions During An SB 7 Hearing, Telling Royce To Speed Up His Questions And Saying “You’re A Man Of Fewer Words And I Think You Can Do That.”**

**Sen. Donna Campbell Is A Sponsor Of SB 7.** [LegiScan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, accessed [04/08/21](#)]



**Sen. Donna Campbell Voted For SB 7.** [LegiScan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, voted [04/06/21](#)]

**Sen. Campbell Interrupted Senator Royce West's Questioning Period During An SB7 Hearing, Telling Him To "Stick Specifically To A Question" And Claiming "You're A Man Of Fewer Words And I think You Can Do That."** "Senator West, as you acknowledged earlier we have a lot of people waiting to testify, and I'd like you to stick specifically to a question rather than a lot of introduction before you get to the question [...] You're a man of fewer words and I think you can do that." [Youtube, Texas Impact, [03/26/21](#)]

**Senator Royce West Is One Of Texas' Two Black State Senators.** [Texas State Senate, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

**State Sen. Bob Hall (R-02)—Who Sponsored SB 7 And Defended A Self-Proclaimed "White Nationalist" Who Called For A "Rope And A Tree" For A Black Lawmaker—Has Taken \$7,500 From Ryan LLC.**

**State Sen. Bob Hall (R-02) Has Taken \$7,500 From Ryan LLC:**

Donor	Amount
Ryan LLC	\$7,500

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

**Sen. Bob Hall Sponsored And Voted For SB 7, Texas' "Extremely Severe Set Of Voting Restrictions."**

**Sen. Bob Hall Is A Sponsor Of SB 7.** [LegiScan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

**Sen. Bob Hall Voted For SB 7.** [LegiScan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, voted [04/06/21](#)]

**Texas A&M Professor Jeffery Dixon Claimed That SB 7 Was "An Extremely Severe Set Of Voting Restrictions When Compared To Other States."** "Texas A&M Central Texas Professor Jeffery Dixon tells 6 News the legislation is unusually restrictive when compared to some other states. 'It's an extremely severe set of voting restrictions when compared to other states. In North Dakota, for example, you can register to vote and vote on the same day,' Dixon said." [KCEN, [04/05/21](#)]

**After Tea Party Activist Ray Myers Declared Himself A "White Nationalist" And Called For A "Rope And A Tree" For A Black Lawmaker, Texas State Sen. Bob Hall Defended Myers And Blamed Criticism Of Myers On "Political Correctness."**

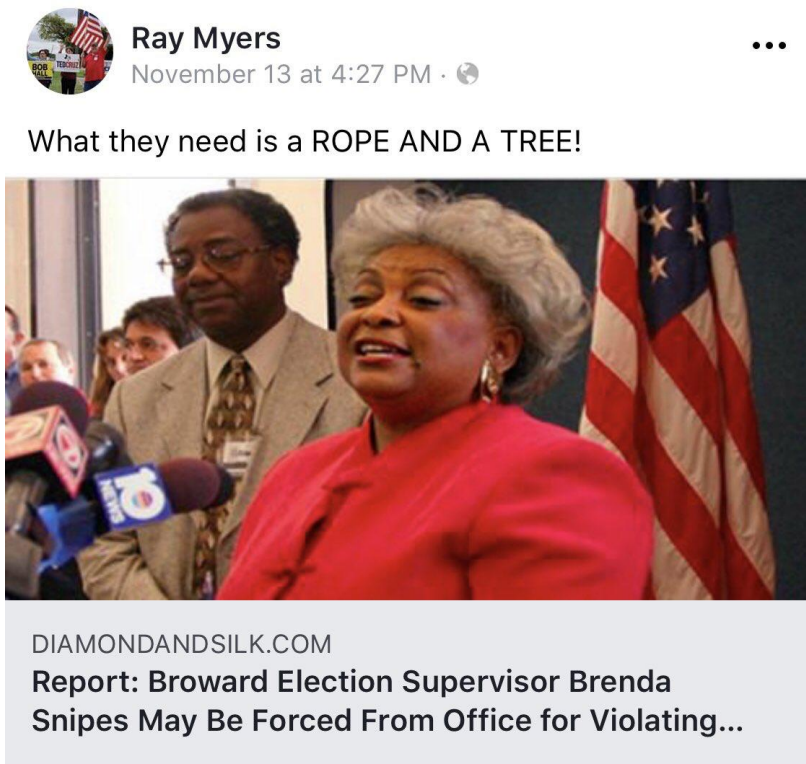
**Headline: "Texas Senator Bob Hall Defends 'White Nationalist' Ally as Victim of Political Correctness."** [Texas Observer, [12/20/18](#)]

**Ray Myers Posted On Facebook "Damn Right I'm A White Nationalist And Very Proud Of It."**



[Ray Myers on Facebook, Screenshot Retrieved From The Texas Observer, [12/20/18](#)]

**Ray Myers Posted An Article On Facebook About A Black Woman Lawmaker With The Caption “What They Need Is A ROPE AND A TREE!”**



[Ray Myers on Facebook, Screenshot Retrieved From The Texas Observer, [12/20/18](#)]

**Myers: “I Am Anglo And I’m Very Proud Of It [...] White Nationalist, All That Means Is America First.”**  
Reached by phone on Friday, Myers insisted that he saw nothing wrong with labeling himself a white nationalist. “I am Anglo and I’m very proud of it, just like black people and brown people are proud of their race. I am a patriot. I am very proud of my country,” Myers said. “And white nationalist, all that means is America first. That’s exactly what that means. That’s where the president’s at. That’s where I’m at and that’s where

every solid patriotic American is. It doesn't have anything to do with race or anything else." [The Texas Observer, [12/20/18](#)]

**While Other Members Of The Texas GOP "Scrambled To Distance Themselves" From Ray Myers And His Racist Social Media Posts, State Senator Bob Hall "Chose To Lean In."** "Kaufman County tea party insurgent Ray Myers long had a reputation for extremist views, off-the-cuff bigotry and an in-your-face style of activism. But recent Facebook posts declaring himself to be a "white nationalist" and calling for a "rope and a tree" for a black female elected official in Florida were beyond the pale even for him. After his comments drew national attention, leaders within the Texas GOP scrambled to distance themselves from Myers, a connected member of the far-right firmament who served on the platform committee at the state party's 2018 convention. But not state Senator Bob Hall, a fellow tea party activist from East Texas. He chose to lean in." [Texas Observer, [12/20/18](#)]

**The Day After News Broke Of Myers' Racist Social Media Posts, Senator Bob Hall Was Pictured Eating A Meal With Myers At The Trump Hotel.** "The day after the *Observer* broke the story about Myers' "white nationalist" comments, Hall showed up in a photo on Myers' Facebook page enjoying a meal at Trump Hotel in Washington, D.C., with other Kaufman County activists." [Texas Observer, [12/20/18](#)]

**In Response To A Request For Comment, Hall's Chief Of Staff Stated "Those Who Sit On A Self-Appointed Seat Of Judgment Where They View Others Through The Faulty Prism Of Perverted Extreme Political Correctness, Rather Than The Clear Glass Of Honesty, Will Always See The Ugly They Seek To See Rather Than The Truth."** "The *Observer* reached out to Hall for comment. Five days later, his chief of staff emailed several paragraphs of responses to a number of our questions. Hall asserted that Myers was merely the victim of the P.C. police. 'Those who sit on a self-appointed seat of judgment where they view others through the faulty prism of perverted extreme political correctness, rather than the clear glass of honesty, will always see the ugly they seek to see rather than the truth,' Hall wrote." [Texas Observer, [12/20/18](#)]

**State Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-01)—Who Sponsored SB 7 And Previously Introduced "One Of The Harshest Voter Suppression Bills In The Country"—Has Taken \$31,000 From Oncor And Ryan LLC.**

**State Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-1) Has Taken \$31,000 From Oncor, And Ryan LLC:**

Donor	Amount
Oncor	\$21,000
Ryan LLC	\$10,000

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

**Sen. Bryan Hughes, Who Sponsored SB7 And Voted For SB7, Claimed That SB7 Would "Make It Easier To Vote And Harder To Cheat."**

**Sen. Bryan Hughes Is A Sponsor Of SB7.** [LegiScan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

**Sen. Bryan Hughes Voted For SB7.** [Legiscan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, voted [04/06/21](#)]

**Hughes Claimed That SB7 Would Make It "Easier To Vote And Harder To Cheat."** "Senate Bill 7 will make it easier to vote and harder to cheat,' Hughes said. 'It's about making sure the voter rolls are accurate, the election process, mail ballots, in person, and also the tabulation and the reporting at every step. It tries to make the process better.'" [KXAN, [04/04/21](#)]

**Texas A&M Professor Jeffery Dixon Claimed That SB 7 Was “An Extremely Severe Set Of Voting Restrictions When Compared To Other States.”** “Texas A&M Central Texas Professor Jeffery Dixon tells 6 News the legislation is unusually restrictive when compared to some other states. ‘It’s an extremely severe set of voting restrictions when compared to other states. In North Dakota, for example, you can register to vote<sup>4</sup> and vote on the same day,’ Dixon said.” [KCEN, [04/05/21](#)]

## **Sen. Hughes Also Authored A 2019 Religious Liberty Bill Described By Opponents As A “Misguided Attempt To Disguise Discrimination As Religious Liberty.”**

**Hughes Authored The “Save Chik-Fil-A” Religious Liberty Bill SB 1978.** “The ‘Save Chick-Fil-A’ bill continued its blistering pace through the Texas Senate on Wednesday with a largely party-line vote to give initial approval to legislation that had been going nowhere only three days earlier [...] But the bill’s author, Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, said the need for SB 1978 was shown by the way the San Antonio City Council treated Chick-fil-A, which was denied commercial space in the city airport based on what politicians called ‘anti-LGBTQ behavior’ based on a history of donating money to faith-based groups that oppose same-sex marriage.” [Statesman, [05/15/19](#)]

**Opponents Criticized The Bill As A “Misguided Attempt To Disguise Discrimination As Religious Liberty.”** “Opponents said the bill was a misguided attempt to disguise discrimination as religious liberty — banning, for example, a city from canceling a contract with somebody who donated money or belonged to a religious organization with racist or discriminatory views. ‘Your bill will allow someone to be a member of an organization that discriminates,’ said Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas. ‘Your bill would force a government to do business with them even if that government didn’t want to do business with them.’” [Statesman, [05/15/19](#)]

## **In 2019, Sen. Hughes Introduced Senate Bill 9, Which Election Officials Called “Bad Policy” And Which Voting Rights Groups Decried As “One Of The Harshest Voter Suppression Bills In The Country.”**

**2019: State Sen. Hughes Introduced Senate Bill 9.** “Filed in early March, [Senate Bill 9](#) by Republican state Sen. [Bryan Hughes](#) emerged as a priority for Senate leadership and first appeared to seize on bipartisan support for modernizing outdated voting equipment and enhancing election security.” [Texas Tribune, [05/15/19](#)]

**SB9 Sought To Make It A Felony For Ineligible People To Vote, Even If The Voter Was Unaware Of Their Ineligibility.** “The legislation would make it a state jail felony for Texans to vote when they’re ineligible even if they did so unknowingly, elevating that offense from a Class B misdemeanor to include possible jail time and a fine of up to \$10,000. Although federal law generally allows a voter to receive assistance in filling out a ballot by the person of their choice, SB 9 would authorize partisan poll watchers or election officials to be present at a voting station if a voter is getting help from someone who isn’t a relative. Those individuals would then be allowed to examine the voter’s ballot before it’s submitted to determine whether it was filled out ‘in accordance with the voter’s wishes.’” [Texas Tribune, [05/15/19](#)]

**SB9 Sought To Require Anyone Who Drives More Than Three People To Curbside Polls To Sign An Affidavit Swearing The Voters Are Unable To Enter The Polling Place.** “SB 9 would require people who drive at least three voters to whom they’re not related to the polls at the same time for curbside voting — popular among the elderly and people with disabilities — to sign a sworn statement affirming those voters are physically unable to enter the polling place without personal assistance or health risks.” [Texas Tribune, [05/15/19](#)]

**The President Of The Texas Association Of Voting Administration Opposed SB9, Calling It “Criminalization Of Poll Workers” And “Bad Policy.”** “The Texas Association of Election Administrators re-upped its opposition to the legislation, with its president, Chris Davis, speaking against what he called the “criminalization of poll workers” and other “bad policy” in the bill. He focused on the provisions allowing poll

watchers to record ballot counting where voting is happening, the curbside voting provision and new language added by Klick that regulates where counties can place voting centers if they allow what's known as countywide voting, which allows a voter to cast votes at any polling place and not just the one in their voting precinct." [Texas Tribune, [05/15/19](#)]

**"Several" People Testified That SB9 Would Harm Voters With Disabilities.** "Several individuals testified against the bill, citing concerns about the chilling effect it could have on voters with disabilities. Jeff Miller of Disability Rights Texas explained there was no safe harbor for those assisting people with disabilities from a provision that would make it a state jail felony to unlawfully assist a voter by suggesting even with a gesture how a person should vote. Miller said the harsher penalty could make it tougher to find people willing to assist voters if they fear they could be charged with a crime while helping voters with intellectual or developmental disabilities through gestures or questions." [Texas Tribune, [05/15/19](#)]

**Voting Rights Groups Described SB9 As "One Of The Harshest Voter Suppression Bills In The Country."** "Described by voting rights groups as one of the harshest voter suppression bills in the country and one that carries discriminatory intent, SB 9 is an ostensible attempt at penalizing voter fraud, a virtually non-existent problem drummed up by GOP officials [...] In reality, SB 9 wouldn't improve 'election integrity' but could punish innocuous mistakes on voter registration forms with state jail felonies (upping it from a Class B misdemeanor) and a fine of up to \$10,000." [Austin Chronicle, [05/16/19](#)]

**State Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (R-18)—Who Sponsored And Voted For SB 7—Has Taken \$45,750 From Ryan LLC, Oncor, And Exelon.**

**State Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (R-18) Has Taken \$45,750 From Ryan LLC, Oncor, And Exelon.**

Donor	Amount
Ryan LLC	\$21,000
Oncor	\$13,750
Exelon Corp	\$11,000

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

**State Sen. Lois Kolkhorst Sponsored And Voted For SB7, Texas' "Extremely Severe Set Of Voting Restrictions."**

**Sen. Lois Kolkhorst Is A Sponsor Of SB7.** [LegiScan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

**Sen. Lois Kolkhorst Voted For SB7.** [Legiscan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, voted [04/06/21](#)]

**Texas A&M Professor Jeffery Dixon Claimed That SB 7 Was "An Extremely Severe Set Of Voting Restrictions When Compared To Other States."** "Texas A&M Central Texas Professor Jeffery Dixon tells 6 News the legislation is unusually restrictive when compared to some other states. 'It's an extremely severe set of voting restrictions when compared to other states. In North Dakota, for example, you can register to vote4 and vote on the same day,' Dixon said." [KCEN, [04/05/21](#)]

**State Sen. Brian Birdwell (R-22)—Who Sponsored And Voted For SB7—Has Taken \$50,500 From Exelon And Oncor.**

**State Sen. Brian Birdwell (R-22) Has Taken \$50,500 From Exelon And Oncor.**

Donor	Amount
-------	--------



Exelon Corp	\$34,000
Oncor	\$16,500

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

### **State Sen. Brian Birdwell Sponsored And Voted For SB7, Texas’ “Extremely Severe Set Of Voting Restrictions.”**

**Sen. Brian Birdwell Is A Sponsor Of SB7.** [LegiScan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

**Sen. Brian Birdwell Voted For SB7.** [Legiscan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, voted [04/06/21](#)]

**Texas A&M Professor Jeffery Dixon Claimed That SB 7 Was “An Extremely Severe Set Of Voting Restrictions When Compared To Other States.”** “Texas A&M Central Texas Professor Jeffery Dixon tells 6 News the legislation is unusually restrictive when compared to some other states. ‘It’s an extremely severe set of voting restrictions when compared to other states. In North Dakota, for example, you can register to vote4 and vote on the same day,’ Dixon said.” [KCEN, [04/05/21](#)]

### **State Sen. Jane Nelson (R-12)—Who Sponsored And Voted For SB 7—Has Taken \$113,000 From Ryan LLC And Oncor.**

### **State Sen. Jane Nelson (R-12) Has Taken \$113,000 From Ryan LLC And Oncor.**

Donor	Amount
Ryan LLC	\$89,500
Oncor	\$23,500

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

### **State Sen. Jane Nelson Sponsored And Voted For SB7, Texas’ “Extremely Severe Set Of Voting Restrictions.”**

**Sen. Jane Nelson Is A Sponsor Of SB7.** [LegiScan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

**Sen. Jane Nelson Voted For SB7.** [Legiscan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, voted [04/06/21](#)]

**Texas A&M Professor Jeffery Dixon Claimed That SB 7 Was “An Extremely Severe Set Of Voting Restrictions When Compared To Other States.”** “Texas A&M Central Texas Professor Jeffery Dixon tells 6 News the legislation is unusually restrictive when compared to some other states. ‘It’s an extremely severe set of voting restrictions when compared to other states. In North Dakota, for example, you can register to vote4 and vote on the same day,’ Dixon said.” [KCEN, [04/05/21](#)]

### **State Sen. Angela Paxton (R-8)—Who Sponsored And Voted For SB 7—Has Taken \$10,000 From Ryan LLC.**

### **State Sen. Angela Paxton (R-8) Has Taken \$10,000 From Ryan LLC.**

Donor	Amount
Ryan LLC	\$10,000

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

## **State Sen. Angela Paxton Sponsored And Voted For SB 7, Texas' "Extremely Severe Set Of Voting Restrictions."**

**State Sen. Angela Paxton Is A Sponsor Of SB 7.** [LegiScan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

**State Sen. Angela Paxton Voted For SB 7.** [Legiscan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, voted [04/06/21](#)]

**Texas A&M Professor Jeffery Dixon Claimed That SB 7 Was "An Extremely Severe Set Of Voting Restrictions When Compared To Other States."** "Texas A&M Central Texas Professor Jeffery Dixon tells 6 News the legislation is unusually restrictive when compared to some other states. 'It's an extremely severe set of voting restrictions when compared to other states. In North Dakota, for example, you can register to vote4 and vote on the same day,' Dixon said." [KCEN, [04/05/21](#)]

**State Sen. Charles Perry (R-28)—Who Sponsored SB 7 And Previously Wrote A Bill That Would Allow Businesses To Refuse Service Based On Their Faith And "Could Be Used As A Defense For Discrimination"—Has Taken \$13,250 From Oncor.**

## **State Sen. Charles Perry (R-28) Has Taken \$13,250 From Oncor.**

Donor	Amount
Oncor	\$13,250

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

## **State Sen. Charles Perry, Who Sponsored And Voted For SB 7, Called Voting Rights "Democrats' Hill To Die On" And Alleged That SB 7 Doesn't "Change The Game" In Voting Access.**

**State Sen. Charles Perry Is A Sponsor Of SB 7.** [LegiScan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

**State Sen. Charles Perry Voted For SB 7.** [Legiscan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, voted [04/06/21](#)]

**Sen. Charles Perry Called SB 7 "The Democrats Hill To Die On" And A "Voter Security Bill."** "Well it's the Democrat's hill to die on. They've made that clear coming into session that they didn't want want to see an omnibus voter rights bill... or voter security bill, and that's what Senate Bill 7 is." [KYFO, [04/02/21](#)]

**Sen. Charles Perry Claimed That SB 7 "Didn't Really Change The Game" And Just Made Election Law "Clear In Statute."** "Now honestly, it really didn't change the game, it's what Texas has always done. We just made it clear in statute that local jurisdictions, for the most part, can't override state law. During the pandemic there were numerous new ways to vote that were created at the local level that were in violation of the Texas constitution as well as state law, and all we did is say those are no longer acceptable practices, and by statute now that will be no longer allowed to happen, no matter what the environment is. It really didn't [substantially] change what Texas has always done [with respect] to mail-in ballots. It does outlaw effectively curb-side voting. Under certain circumstances they are still allowed, but that was already allowed in Texas. The mail-in ballot process in Texas was always secure and pretty solid, we're just not going to allow this blanket wholesale mail out of ballots like Harris County tried...We've got a system that prevents people from doing mischievous things to it." [KYFO, [04/02/21](#)]

## **Sen. Charles Perry Also Authored A Religious Refusal Bill That Harkened Back To The Civil Rights Era, Leading A Fellow Republican State Senator To Oppose The Bill Because It “Could Be Used As A Defense For Discrimination.”**

**Sen. Charles Perry Authored SB17, A Religious Refusal Bill That Prevented The State’s Hundreds Of Occupational Licensing Boards From Enacting Rules That Interfere With License Holders’ Religion.** “[Senate Bill 17](#) by Charles Perry, R-Lubbock, was passed Wednesday by a vote of 19-12. One Republican, Kel Seliger of Amarillo, voted against the bill and one Democrat, Eddie Lucio of Brownsville, voted in favor during the preliminary vote on the bill Tuesday [...] The bill would prohibit the state's hundreds of occupational licensing boards from enacting rules or regulations that burden ‘an applicant's or license holder's free exercise of religion.’ It would also give those licensed by the state — including lawyers, social workers and therapists — the ability to fight to keep their license if it is threatened because of actions they took based on their faith. [Dallas Morning News, [04/03/19](#)]

**State Sen. Royce West “Likened The Bill To Earlier Civil Rights Debates.”** “Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, likened the bill to earlier civil rights debates when politicians cited their religious beliefs to enact racist policies, calling the bill ‘a subjective and not objective bill.’ ‘I go on and on about how our religious beliefs have been perverted by some people in this country,’ West said Wednesday. ‘I think this is a perversion right now. This is going to be a seminal moment in the history of this state.’” [Dallas Morning News, [04/03/19](#)]

**Republican State Sen. Seliger Opposed The Bill, Claiming It “Could Be Used As A Defense For Discrimination.”** “While I believe the author's intent is pure, unfortunately SB 17 as written can also be used as a defense for discrimination,’ Seliger tweeted. ‘West Texans aren't like that. People have invoked religion to justify or excuse discrimination violence and even genocide. We must not have such short-term memory to forget history's atrocities justified by religious beliefs. True religion is founded on love. Period.’” [Dallas Morning News, [04/03/19](#)]

## **State Sen. Charles Schwertner (R-05)—Who Sponsored And Voted For SB 7—Has Taken \$13,000 From Oncor.**

### **State Sen. Charles Schwertner (R-5) Has Taken \$13,000 From Oncor.**

Donor	Amount
Oncor	\$13,000

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

## **State Sen. Charles Schwertner Sponsored And Voted For SB 7, Texas’ “Extremely Severe Set Of Voting Restrictions.”**

**State Sen. Charles Schwertner Is A Sponsor Of SB 7.** [LegiScan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

**State Sen. Charles Schwertner Voted For SB 7.** [Legiscan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, voted [04/06/21](#)]

**Texas A&M Professor Jeffery Dixon Claimed That SB 7 Was “An Extremely Severe Set Of Voting Restrictions When Compared To Other States.”** “Texas A&M Central Texas Professor Jeffery Dixon tells 6 News the legislation is unusually restrictive when compared to some other states. ‘It's an extremely severe set of voting restrictions when compared to other states. In North Dakota, for example, you can register to vote4 and vote on the same day,’ Dixon said.” [KCEN, [04/05/21](#)]

**State Sen. Drew Springer (R-30)—Who Was “Proud” To Back SB 7 Because “The Right To Free And Fair Elections Has Been Under Attack”—Has Taken \$40,000 From Oncor, Exelon, And Ryan LLC.**

**State Sen. Drew Springer (R-30) Has Taken \$40,000 From Oncor, Exelon, And Ryan LLC.**

Donor	Amount
Oncor	\$16,500
Exelon Corp	\$12,500
Ryan LLC	\$11,000

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

**State Sen. Drew Springer, A Sponsor Of SB 7, Claimed That He Was “Proud” To Support SB 7 Because “The Right To Free And Fair Elections Has Been Under Attack.”**

**State Sen. Drew Springer Is A Sponsor Of SB 7.** [LegiScan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, accessed [04/08/21](#)]

**State Sen. Drew Springer Voted For SB 7.** [Legiscan, Texas State Legislature, SB7, voted [04/06/21](#)]

**Spring Claimed “The Right To Free And Fair Elections Has Been Under Attack” And Said He Was “Proud To Support #SB7.”**



[Drew Springer on Twitter, [04/01/21](#)]

# Arizona's Top 5 Corporate Donors—All Of Which Tout Commitments To Diversity—Have Given Nearly \$77,000 To Three Lawmakers With Troubling Histories On Race Who Authored Three Of The State's Worst Voter Suppression Bills

**SUMMARY:** Arizona lawmakers have pushed “[drastic changes](#)” to Arizona’s “[incredibly popular](#)” mail-in election system through [two dozen](#) voting restrictions that have been likened to [Jim Crow laws](#) and have been called “[a full on assault on voting rights](#).”

Voting rights advocates were “[most worried](#)” about three bills in particular—Senate Bills 1485, 1593, and 1713—that would purge Arizonans from voter rolls, shorten mail-in ballot deadlines, and increase voter ID burdens. It turns out that the three sponsors of these voter suppression bills have taken **\$76,647 total from Arizona’s top 5 corporate donors**, all of which have touted a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. One donor, Raytheon, has made a [\\$25 million](#) commitment to help “racially and ethnically marginalized communities” and another, the Phoenix-based Salt River Project, [touts its contributions](#) to a county NAACP and an MLK Jr. “celebration.”

- **State Sen. Michelle Ugenti-Rita (R-23)**—Who Was Previously Responsible For Another Voter Suppression Law That A Federal Court Ruled Was [Racially Motivated](#) And Violated The Voting Rights Act And Who Made A “[Repulsive](#)” Demand To Allow Business Owners To Kill Looters During 2020’s Unrest—Has [Taken](#) \$25,076 From Arizona’s Top 5 Corporate Donors.
- **State Sen. David Gowan (R-14)**—Who Sponsored A Bill To Shorten Mail-In Voting Deadlines That Would Disproportionately [Harm Native American Voters](#) And Authorized A House Floor Conference For A Group That Claimed [Black People “Hijacked”](#) The Civil Rights Movement—Has [Taken](#) \$6,418 From Arizona’s Top 5 Corporate Donors.
- **State Sen. Javan Mesnard (R-17)**—Who Sponsored A Bill To [Increase](#) Voter ID Burdens For Mail-In Ballots And “[Formally Reprimanded](#)” Arizona’s Only Two Black Lawmakers For Criticizing A State Rep. Who Used A Racial Slur In A Column—Has [Taken](#) \$45,153 From Arizona’s Top 5 Corporate Donors.

**Arizona Lawmakers Have Pushed “Drastic Changes” To Arizona’s “Incredibly Popular” Mail-In Election System Through Two Dozen Proposed Voting Restrictions That Have Been Likened To Jim Crow Laws And Have Been Called “A Full On Assault On Voting Rights.”**

**Following Trump’s Loss In The State, Arizona Republicans Proposed “Drastic Changes” To The State’s “Incredibly Popular” Mail-In Voting System, Introducing At Least 24 New Voting Restriction Bills By Mid-March 2021—One Failed Bill Would Have Let State Lawmakers “Ignore The Election Results.”**

Arizona Republicans Proposed “Drastic Changes” To The State’s Mail Voting Systems Following Donald Trump’s Election Loss, Including At Least 24 Bills To Restrict Elections. “Arizona Republicans are proposing drastic changes to its mail voting systems, a move that echoes the flurry of election restrictions advanced in GOP-controlled legislatures in a number of states after former President Donald Trump’s election loss. Republican lawmakers in Arizona have introduced at least 22 restrictive bills, according to the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law.” [NBC News, [03/02/21](#)]



- **More Than Half Of The 22 Bills Introduced By March 2, 2021 Were Related To Mail Voting.** “More than half the proposals address mail voting, with one particularly contentious bill seeking to kick infrequent voters off something called the Permanent Early Voting List, or PEVL.” [NBC News, [03/02/21](#)]
- **The Number Of Voting Restriction Bills Had Grown To 24 By March 11, 2021.** “Arizona has introduced 24 bills restricting voting rights since January. Most of the legislation targets limits on absentee voting after roughly 80% of Arizonans voted by mail in the 2020 election. Although not every bill will become law, several are likely to pass in the Republican-controlled state legislature. As of March 10, three of the Arizona House bills have passed and await a vote in the Senate. Five Senate bills have passed and have crossed over to the House.” [CNN, [03/11/21](#)]

**Mail Voting Was “Incredibly Popular” Among Arizona Voters, With About 80% Casting Votes Early By Mail Or By Person Even Before The COVID-19 Pandemic And About 88% During The Pandemic.** “Mail voting, meanwhile, is an incredibly popular way to vote in Arizona: According to the state secretary of state’s office, approximately 80 percent of voters cast ballots early — by mail or in person — before the pandemic. In 2020, that number rose to 88 percent.” [NBC News, [03/02/21](#)]

**One Of The Bills, Which Has Failed, Would Have Let Lawmakers “Ignore The Election Results” And Override Electoral College Certification.** “One of the proposed bills, which has since died in committee, would have let legislators ignore the election results and override the certification of presidential electors.” [NBC News, [03/02/21](#)]

### **“Leading Civil And Voting Rights Advocates” Have Called The Bills Voter Suppression, With One Calling Them “A Full On Assault On Voting Rights” And A Democratic Lawmaker Likening Them To Jim Crow Laws.**

**A Voting Rights Advocate Called The Voting Restriction Bills “A Full On Assault On Voting Rights And Democratic Institutions In Arizona.”** “‘We are seeing this as a full on assault on voting rights and democratic institutions in Arizona,’ Emily Kirkland, executive director of the advocacy group Progress Arizona, said, arguing that the same state lawmakers advancing voting restrictions had spread Trump’s lie of a stolen election. ‘This is part of a pattern.’” [NBC News, [03/02/21](#)]

**“Leading Civil And Voting Rights Advocates Have Protested The Laws As Voter Suppression.”** “While Republicans control all three branches of state government, it’s unclear if these bills can make it past Gov. Doug Ducey, who has defended the state’s mail voting system in the past. Democrats, as well as leading civil and voting rights advocates have protested the laws as voter suppression.

**One Democratic Lawmaker Said, “These Are The Same Justifications That We Heard In The Era Of Jim Crow.”** “His remarks prompted immediate outrage. Rep. Colin Allred, D-Texas, said on MSNBC that ‘these are the same justifications that we heard in the era of Jim Crow.’” [NBC News, [03/02/21](#)]

### **One Republican Lawmaker Defended The Voter Suppression Effort By Doubting The “Quality” Of Arizona’s Voters.**

**One Republican Lawmaker Defended The Voter Suppression Effort By Saying He Was Concerned About The “Quality” Of Arizona’s Voters.** Last week, state Rep. John Kavanagh, a Republican, told CNN that the party was concerned with the ‘quality’ of the voters. ‘Not everybody wants to vote, and if somebody is uninterested in voting, that probably means that they’re totally uninformed on the issues,’ Kavanagh told the network. ‘Quantity is important, but we have to look at the quality of votes, as well.’” [NBC News, [03/02/21](#)]

## **Voting Rights Advocates Were “Most Worried” About Mail-In Ballot Restrictions In Three Bills That Would Purge Arizonans From Voter Rolls, Shorten Mail-In Ballot Deadlines, And Increase Voter ID Burdens.**

### **Voting Rights Advocates Were “Most Worried” About Three Bills Which Targeted Mail-In Voting—SB 1485, SB 1593, And SB 1713—And Which Would Purge Arizonans From Voter Rolls, Shorten Mail-In Ballot Deadlines, And Increase Voter ID Burdens.**

**Voting Rights Advocates Were “Most Worried” About Three Particular Bills That Targeted Mail-In Voting.** “Voting rights advocates told NBC News they are most worried about three proposed mail voting restrictions.” [NBC News, [03/02/21](#)]

**Senate Bill 1485, Still Pending As Of April 9, 2021, “Could Lead To Voters Being Tossed Off The Rolls For Missing A Single Election” Due To Its Confusing Language.** “Senate Bill 1485, which awaits a final House vote, would remove voters who haven’t cast a ballot in ‘both the primary election and the general election for two consecutive primary and general elections.’ The bill says purges would occur in December of even-numbered years, removing voters who do not respond to a notice from officials. While the bill has been pitched as removing voters who do not cast a ballot in four elections, advocates warn that the language is confusing enough that it could lead to voters being tossed off the rolls for missing a single election. And independent voters have to request a party primary ballot to participate, so they could be removed after missing just two mailed ballots for general elections. Arizona Wins, one of the groups working with Progress Arizona, analyzed state voter file data and found there were 126,686 Arizonans who voted in 2020 after sitting out the 2018 and 2016 primary and general elections. Those voters — a fifth of whom are Latino — might have been removed from PEVL by such a bill.” [NBC News, [03/20/21](#)]

- **SB 1485 Had Passed The Arizona Senate But Not Its House As Of April 9, 2021.** [Legiscan, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Senate Bill 1593, Still Pending As Of April 9, 2021, “Would Shorten The Window For Mail Voters To Get And Return Their Ballots,” Disproportionately Affecting Arizona’s Many Native American Voters Who Live On Reservations And Who Do Not Have Home Mail Service.** “Senate Bill 1593 would shorten the window for mail voters to get and return their ballots and require they [sic] be postmarked on or prior to the Thursday before an election, something that could be particularly difficult on Arizona’s many Native American reservations, where many people do not have home mail service. Turnout among Native American voters surged in 2020, fueling Biden’s win. What’s more, post offices don’t always postmark prepaid mailers, something advocates worry could lead clearly on-time ballots to be tossed by postal carrier error. The bill awaits a Senate floor vote.” [NBC News, [03/20/21](#)]

- **SB 1593 Had Not Passed The Arizona Senate As Of April 9, 2021.** [Legiscan, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Senate Bill 1713 Would Require Arizonans To “Add More Voter ID To Their Mail Ballots.”** “Senate Bill 1713 would require voters to add more voter ID to their mail ballots, which could force those without driver’s licenses to make copies of identifying documents. Currently, mail voters sign an affidavit attesting to their identity under penalty of perjury, and signatures are verified by county officials. The bill will be heard in committee next week.” [NBC News, [03/20/21](#)]

- **SB 1713 Had Passed In The Arizona Senate But Not In The House As Of April 9, 2021.** [Legiscan, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**All Of The Arizona Legislature’s Top Five Corporate Donors Have Touted A Commitment To Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion—including One Company’s \$25 Million Commitment To Help “Racially And Ethnically Marginalized Communities” And Another’s Contributions To A County NAACP And An MLK Jr. “Celebration.”**

**The Arizona Legislature’s Top Corporate Donors Are Pinnacle West, The Salt River Project, Freeport McMoran, Raytheon And Southwest Gas.**

The Top Five Corporate Contributors To Arizona Legislators Were Pinnacle West, Salt River Project, Freeport McMoran, Raytheon, And Southwest Gas.

1 – Pinnacle West  
(\$168,600)

2 – Salt River Project  
(\$82,675)

3 – Freeport McMoran  
(\$67,050)

4 – Raytheon (\$62,800)

5 – Southwest Gas  
(\$53,150)

[Public Citizen, [April 2021](#)]

**Pinnacle West And Its Main Subsidiary Arizona Public Service Have Claimed “Equity And Inclusion Is A Key Force” In Their Work, Have Touted Recognition From Major Human Rights Groups, And Their CEO Has Emphasized, “Each Of Us Plays A Vital Role In Ensuring We Do The Right Thing. In All That We Do. In Every Instance. Without Exception.”**

Phoenix-Based Pinnacle West Capital Corporation Is An “Electric Utility Holding Company” Which Counts Arizona Public Service (APS) As Its Main Subsidiary. “Pinnacle West Capital Corporation (NYSE: PNW) is an investor-owned electric utility holding company based in Phoenix, Ariz. We are recognized for our strong customer growth, healthy finances, principled ESG focus and innovative energy solutions to meet the changing needs of our customers. Along with our main subsidiary, Arizona Public Service (APS), we are working to meet business needs with practices that balance a healthy environment, a vibrant economy and strong communities for current and future generations.” [Pinnacle West, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Pinnacle West’s Site States That “Equity And Inclusion Is A Key Force Driving The APS Promise And Principles.”** “Our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is a key force driving the APS Promise and Principles. Inclusive behaviors support all three of our Principles, and they are foundational to Empower Each Other. By taking actions to include each team member, we create a culture of trust that allows us to embrace

diverse perspectives, create psychological safety for challenging respectfully, and unite as a team.” [Pinnacle West, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**APS’ Principles, As Stated On Pinnacle West’s Site, Include “Embrace Diverse Perspectives” And “Deliver For The Community.”**



[Pinnacle West, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**APS Claims That Its “Commitment” To Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion Includes An “Evolved Inclusion Council” And Partnerships With A Wide Variety Of Groups Representing Minorities To Increase Diversity Among Its Workforce.** “Our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is demonstrated in numerous ways, internally and externally, including:

- Evolved Inclusion Council. Our revitalized Inclusion Council includes a Steering Committee and Executive Advocate group. In 2021, we will be adding an Employee Advisory Board to expand stakeholder representation and an Inclusion Working Team to drive progress.  
[...]
- Ongoing community partners for recruiting diverse talent. In the past three years, an average of one-third of the Company’s pre-apprentice programs hires for lineman, electrician and polyphase meterman positions were ethnically diverse. This is an example of the Company’s recruiting efforts centering on ensuring a diverse slate of candidates to reinforce equality for all roles. APS partners with the following organizations to recruit diverse talent into the Company’s internship and emerging talent pipelines: American Indian Science and Engineering Society, Hispanic Business Student Association, National Society of Black Engineers, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Society of Women Engineers, Student Veterans, Women’s Business Leaders Association at Arizona State University.”  
[Pinnacle West, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Pinnacle West Has Touted It Place On “The Human Rights Campaign Foundation’s 2020 Corporate Equality Index.”** “Recently, the Company’s efforts to build a diverse, inclusive environment have received recognition such as:

- Parent company Pinnacle West Capital Corporation is one of only eight Arizona-based companies included in the Human Rights Campaign Foundation’s 2020 Corporate Equality Index.”

[Pinnacle West, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Pinnacle West Has Touted APS’ “Torch Of Liberty Award” From The Arizona Anti-Defamation League For Its “Support Of Diversity And Inclusion.”** “Recently, the Company’s efforts to build a diverse, inclusive environment have received recognition such as:

[...]

- APS received the Torch of Liberty Award from the Arizona Anti-Defamation League in 2019 for its support of diversity and inclusion.  
[Pinnacle West, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Pinnacle West’s Site Touts Its High Rate Of Ethnically Or Racially Diverse Employment.** “Overall Employee Diversity at the End of 2020 [...] 32% of employees are ethnically or racially diverse [...] New hires in 2020 [...] 36% were ethnically or racially diverse” [Pinnacle West, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Pinnacle West Claims An Emphasis On “Dialogue In Our Communities,” Including “Strategic Partnerships In Areas Such As Diversity, Inclusion, And Workforce Development To Advance Social And Economic Goals.”** “We use a variety of communications channels to develop dialogue in our communities, such as open houses, business forums and other special events. These enable us to gather feedback from participants, inform them about issues that affect their communities and APS, and identify opportunities for action. We also develop strategic partnerships in areas such as diversity, inclusion, and workforce development to advance social and economic goals.” [Pinnacle West, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Jeff Guldner, President And CEO Of Both Pinnacle West And APS, Wrote In APS’ Code Of Ethics, “Each Of Us Plays A Vital Role In Ensuring We Do The Right Thing. In All That We Do. In Every Instance. Without Exception.”** “As a part of the APS family, each of us plays a vital role in ensuring we do the right thing. In all that we do. In every instance. Without exception.” [Arizona Public Service, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

- **Jeff Guldner Is Chairman And CEO Of Both Pinnacle West And Arizona Public Service.** [Pinnacle West, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Guldner Also Wrote In APS’ Code Of Ethics, “Even One Lapse In Judgment Can Have An Adverse Effect On Our Customers, Our Colleagues, Our Communities And Our Shareholders.”** “Our commitment to serving our customers in the best way possible requires us to work from a strong foundation built on a culture of integrity and trust. When every one of us is committed to doing the right thing, that foundation is unshakeable. But even one lapse in judgment can have an adverse effect on our customers, our colleagues, our communities and our shareholders.” [Arizona Public Service, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Salt River Project Claims It Has “Kept Diversity At Our Forefront,” Highlights Its Work To “Promote Pride In Our Diverse Communities” And “Reach Underserved Populations,” And Promotes Its Contributions To Minority Organizations Including The Maricopa County NAACP And An MLK Jr. Celebration.**

**Arizona-Based Salt River Project (SRP) Claims It Has “Kept Diversity At Our Forefront” Since Its Founding.** “Our commitment to supplier diversity At SRP, we do things a little differently. We were founded by a diverse group of people over 100 years ago, and have kept diversity at our forefront ever since.” [Salt River Project, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

- **SRP Is A “Community-Based Not-For-Profit Water And Energy Company” In Arizona.** “As a community-based not-for-profit water and energy company, SRP provides reliable, affordable water and power to more than 2 million people living in central Arizona. SRP has provided these essential resources for more than a century to meet the needs of customers and help the region grow.” [Salt River Project, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**SRP Claims “Inclusion Is A Core Value Of How We Do Business.”** “Inclusion is a core value of how we do business, and we look to our suppliers to have the same commitment. Supplier Diversity is integrated into our supply chain practices and viewed as a competitive advantage.” [Salt River Project, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**SRP Emphasizes Its “Supplier Diversity Mission” To Contract With Diverse Businesses Including Those Owned By Minorities.** “Our mission SRP’s supplier diversity mission is to promote a composition of



corporate spending reflective of the community we serve by utilizing diverse businesses, including: [...] minority suppliers and contractors” [Salt River Project, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**SRP Claims To Invest In “Community Programs And Events That Promote Pride In Our Diverse Communities.”** “SRP invests in community programs and events that promote pride in our diverse communities while also supporting forums that enhance the quality of life through strategic planning.” [Salt River Project, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

- **SRP Also Claims To Sponsor These Events.** “Sponsor select special community events that promote pride in our diverse communities” [Salt River Project, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**In 2019, SRP Claims To Have Spent Over \$4 Million On Community-Oriented Contributions, Including Giving To Several Minority-Based Groups, Including The Maricopa County NAACP, The State Of Black Arizona, NALEO, And The “Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Living the Dream Celebration.”** “During 2019, SRP supported the community through monetary and in-kind contributions totaling \$4,083,404,” including:

- Anti-Defamation League
- Arizona Asian American Association
- Arizona Opportunities Industrialization Center - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Living the Dream Celebration
- Hispanic Women’s Corporation
- Maricopa County NAACP
- NALEO Educational Fund
- The State of Black Arizona
- Valley Hispanic Bomberos


[Salt River Project, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**SRP Claims To “Proudly Support The Rich Diversity Of Our Community And Customers With Innovative Programs That Reach Underserved Populations.”** “Support for Multicultural Programs At SRP, we proudly support the rich diversity of our community and customers with innovative programs that reach underserved populations.” [Salt River Project, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**The SRP Website’s Section On Diversity Included 6 Pages Of Posts About Diversity, As Of April 9, 2021.** [Salt River Project, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**International Defense Company Raytheon Claims It Has Made A \$25 Million Commitment To “Support Marginalized Individuals And Communities,” Including Support For “Racial Justice” Programs, As Well As “Pillars For Action” Including “Justice Reform” And Support For “Racially And Ethnically Marginalized Communities.”**

**Raytheon Technologies, An International Aerospace And Defense Company, Maintains An Entire Webpage Dedicated To Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion.**

 [www.rtx.com/social-impact/diversity-equity-inclusion](https://www.rtx.com/social-impact/diversity-equity-inclusion)

[Raytheon, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

- **“Raytheon Technologies** (NYSE: RTX) is an aerospace and defense company that provides advanced systems and services for commercial, military and government customers worldwide.” [Raytheon, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Raytheon Aspires To “Embrace Diversity In All Its Forms” And Claims It Has A Long-Term Plan To “Create Meaningful And Measurable Progress To Advance Diversity, Equity And Inclusion Across The Company And Beyond.”** “Our people are the key to our long-term success — from exceeding customer

expectations to stretching the boundaries of what's possible in aerospace and defense. When we embrace diversity in all its forms, we fuel opportunities for our employees, customers, suppliers and communities. Our multi-year plan will create meaningful and measurable progress to advance diversity, equity and inclusion across the company and beyond.” [Raytheon, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Raytheon Has Made A \$25 Million Five-Year “Commitment To Support Marginalized Individuals And Communities Through Programs Focused On Racial Justice, Empowerment And Career Readiness.”**

“As part of its commitment to improving communities, Raytheon Technologies has made a \$25 million, five-year community engagement and philanthropic commitment to support marginalized individuals and communities through programs focused on racial justice, empowerment and career readiness.” [Cision, [01/06/21](#)]

**Raytheon Has Supported The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation In Founding A Fellowship Program And Expanded Its Support For “Understanding And Discourse Around Issues Of Race.”** “The company is also supporting the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation with the establishment of its first-ever Defense and Aerospace Policy Fellowships, and has expanded its support for the Faith & Politics Institute and the Equal Justice Initiative to address understanding and discourse around issues of race.” [Cision, [01/06/21](#)]

**Raytheon’s Diversity Page Describes Four “Pillars For Action”:**

## Our pillars for action



**Public policy advocacy**

We are advancing education initiatives, justice reform and economic policy to support equality in the communities where we live and work.



**Community engagement**

We have committed \$25 million to address education and food insecurity in racially and ethnically marginalized communities.



**Workforce diversity**

We are instituting deeper talent inclusion efforts, as well as committing additional resources, to grow and sustain a more diverse workforce.



**Supplier diversity**

We will address economic equality in our supply chain by evaluating and analyzing our supplier relationships.

[Raytheon, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Raytheon Claims Its Public Policy Advocacy Includes “Justice Reform And Economic Policy To Support Equality In The Communities Where We Live And Work.”** “Public policy advocacy We are advancing education initiatives, justice reform and economic policy to support equality in the communities where we live and work.” [Raytheon, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Raytheon Claims It Has “Committed \$25 Million To Address Education And Food Insecurity In Racially And Ethnically Marginalized Communities.”** “Community engagement We have committed \$25 million to address education and food insecurity in racially and ethnically marginalized communities.” [Raytheon, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Raytheon Claims It Is “Instituting Deeper Talent Inclusion Efforts.”** “Workforce diversity We are instituting deeper talent inclusion efforts, as well as committing additional resources, to grow and sustain a more diverse workforce.” [Raytheon, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Raytheon Claims It Will “Address Economic Equality In Our Supply Chain.”** “Supplier diversity We will address economic equality in our supply chain by evaluating and analyzing our supplier relationships.” [Raytheon, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**As Of 2016, Every Raytheon Employee Was Issued A Badge That Said, “We Are Inclusive, Embrace Diverse Perspectives, And Value The Role We All Play In Our Shared Vision.”** “In fact, every employee is issued a badge that summarizes the company's core values of trust, respect, collaboration, innovation and accountability, stating among other things, *We are inclusive, embrace diverse perspectives, and value the role we all play in our shared vision... We honor our commitments, anticipate the needs of our customers, serve our communities and support each other.*” [Forbes, [04/28/16](#)]

**Former Raytheon CEO Thomas Kennedy Said In 2016, “Diversity Is At The Heart Of All We Do At Raytheon.”** “She told me earlier this week that Chairman and CEO Dr. Thomas Kennedy believes winning in technology markets requires having the best talent, and the more inclusive a company is, the bigger the talent pool from which it can draw. [...] But Kennedy believes that technological prowess starts with individual talent, and he seeks that talent wherever it can be found: *Diversity is at the heart of all we do at Raytheon. We embrace diversity and diverse opinions; we treat people with dignity and respect to support our inclusive culture. This allows us to retain and attract the world-class talent and supplier base we need to develop the innovative solutions our global customers depend on. We view our diversity as a competitive advantage -- as a key enabler of our growth.*” [Forbes, [04/28/16](#)]

- **Thomas Kennedy Is No Longer Raytheon’s CEO.** [Raytheon, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

### **Southwest Gas—The “The Largest Distributor Of Natural Gas” In Arizona—Touts Its Commitment To Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, And, In A Press Release About “Equality For All Arizonans, Southwest’s CEO Said “We Are Dedicated To The Integrity Of The Cities And Towns Where We Serve.”**

**Southwest Gas Is “The Largest Distributor Of Natural Gas” In Arizona.** “Southwest Gas is engaged in the business of purchasing, transporting and distributing the environmental fuel of choice - natural gas. We serve more than two million customers in Arizona, California, and Nevada. As the largest distributor of natural gas in Nevada and Arizona, we serve the Las Vegas, Phoenix, and Tucson metropolitan areas. In addition, we transport and distribute natural gas in portions of California, including areas in Lake Tahoe and San Bernardino County.” [LinkedIn Profile for Southwest Gas Corporation, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

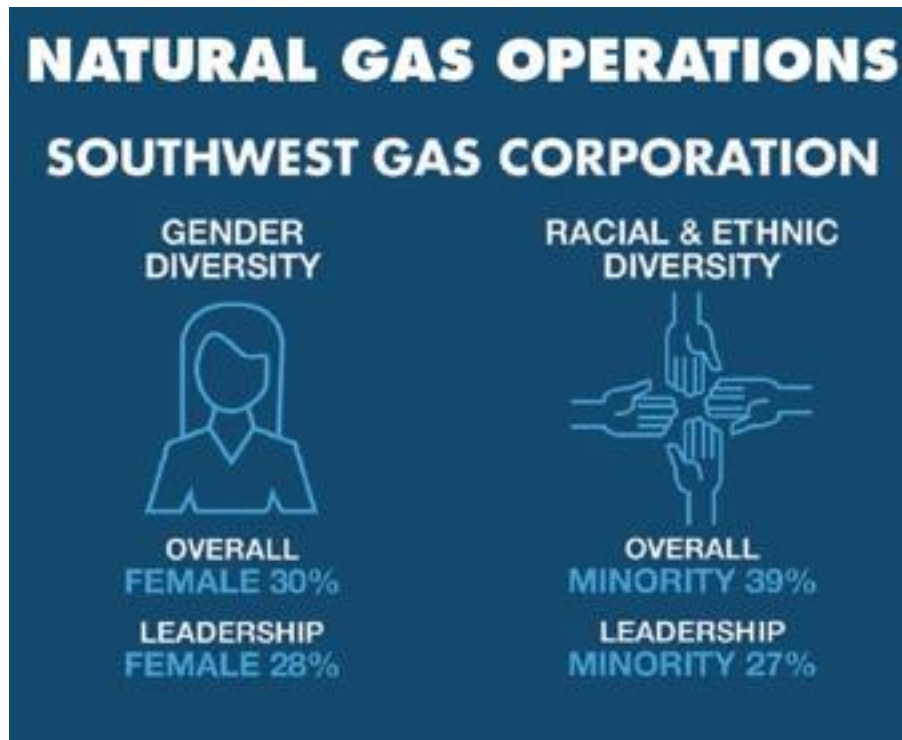
**Southwest Maintains A “Community Impact” Page That Says, “We Make A Significant Impact By Creating A Culture Rooted In Community Engagement, Giving And Inclusivity.”** “Community Impact We make a significant impact by creating a culture rooted in community engagement, giving and inclusivity.” [Southwest Gas, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Southwest’s Community Impact Page Includes A Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Section That Touts The Company’s Diverse Workforce As Well As Its Commitment To Provide Employees “Equal Opportunity” And “Empowerment.”**

## **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I)**

[Southwest Gas, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

- **Southwest Claims “We Are Committed To Providing All Employees Equal Opportunity In All Aspects Of Employment As Well As Empowerment To All Employees To Achieve Their Maximum Potential.”** “We are committed to providing all employees equal opportunity in all aspects of employment as well as empowerment to all employees to achieve their maximum potential. The Company recognizes that learning about cultural diversity is important because it helps us dispel negative stereotypes and personal biases.” [Southwest Gas, accessed [04/09/21](#)]
- **Southwest Touts Its High Rates Of Racial, Ethnic, And Gender Diversity:**



[Southwest Gas, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

Southwest's "Community Engagement" Page Includes A "Supplier Diversity" Section That Claims A "Steadfast" Commitment To Supporting Minority-Owned Businesses And States The Company Is "Fortunate To Operate In One Of The Fastest Growing And Diverse Regions Of The Country."

## Supplier Diversity

[Southwest Gas, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

### 2020 SUPPLIER DIVERSITY SPONSORSHIPS



#### ARIZONA

Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Associated Minority Contractors of Arizona  
Black Chamber of Arizona  
Minority and Small Business Alliance of Southern Arizona

[Southwest Gas, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

- Southwest Claims It Is "Steadfast In Our Commitment To Advancing And Supporting Supplier Diversity And Offering Opportunities For Women, Minority, LGBTQ, And Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises." "Our Company remains steadfast in our commitment to advancing and supporting supplier diversity and offering opportunities for women, minority, LGBTQ, and disabled veteran-owned business enterprises." [Southwest Gas, accessed [04/09/21](#)]



- **Southwest Say It Is “Fortunate To Operate In One Of The Fastest Growing And Diverse Regions Of The Country” And “We Must Take Advantage Of Opportunities To Connect With Local Organizations” That Increase Supplier Diversity.** “Southwest is fortunate to operate in one of the fastest growing and diverse regions of the country. We must take advantage of opportunities to connect with local organizations that will help expose local, diverse suppliers to larger organizations like ours. Through diverse supplier certification, our primary consideration is to ensure that companies owned by minorities, women and veterans in our communities are the ones benefitting from this focus.” [Southwest Gas, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Southwest Issued A Press Release Announcing It Signed The “UNITY Pledge In Support Of Full Inclusion And Equality In Employment, Housing, And Public Accommodations, Including Gay And Transgender People.”**

## Southwest Gas Corporation supports equality for all Arizonans

[Southwest Gas, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

- **“Southwest Gas Corporation (SWG) Has Signed The UNITY Pledge In Support Of Full Inclusion And Equality In Employment, Housing, And Public Accommodations For All Arizonans, Including Gay And Transgender People.”** [Southwest Gas, accessed [04/09/21](#)]
- **Southwest’s President And CEO Claimed The Company “Is Built On A Culture That Promotes And Supports Inclusion On A Daily Basis.”** “Southwest Gas is built on a culture that promotes and supports inclusion on a daily basis. [...] said John Hester, President and CEO of Southwest Gas.” [Southwest Gas, accessed [04/09/21](#)]
- **Southwest’s President And CEO Said, “We Are Dedicated To The Integrity Of The Cities And Towns Where We Serve.”** “We are dedicated to the integrity of the cities and towns where we serve, because we live here too,” said John Hester, President and CEO of Southwest Gas.” [Southwest Gas, accessed [04/09/21](#)]
- **The UNITY Pledge Was Created By A “Member-Based Coalition Of Socially Responsible Businesses.”** “SWG SIGNS ONE COMMUNITY’S UNITY PLEDGE IN SUPPORT OF EQUAL TREATMENT IN EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING AND PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS [...] Created by ONE Community, the member-based coalition of socially responsible businesses, organizations and individuals moving diversity, inclusion and equality for all Arizonans forward, the UNITY Pledge is a public declaration to support and advance workplace equality and non-discrimination policies in housing and public accommodations for all Arizonans, including gay and transgender Arizonans.” [Southwest Gas, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Southwest Claimed, “We Pride Ourselves On Our Commitment To Diversity, Equity And Inclusion” In A Post Recognizing Women’s History Month.** “March is Women's History Month. We pride ourselves on our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and recognize the role women have in leading Southwest Gas into the future. We’re excited to share that women comprise one-third of our Board of Directors and want to highlight the stories of some of our women in senior leadership.” [Linkedin Post by Southwest Gas Corporation, accessed [04/09/21](#)]



## **Phoenix-Based Mining Company Freeport-McMoRan Maintains An Entire Page On “Inclusion And Diversity” And Claims “Our Inclusive Environment Is The Foundation Of Our High-Performance Culture.”**

Phoenix-Based Mining Company Freeport-McMoRan Maintains An Entire Webpage Dedicated To “Inclusion And Diversity.”

# INCLUSION and DIVERSITY

[Freeport-McMoran, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

- **Phoenix-Based Freeport-McMoRan “A Leading International Mining Company.”** “Freeport-McMoRan (FCX) is a leading international mining company with headquarters in Phoenix, Arizona. Our company was incorporated under the laws of the state of Delaware on November 10, 1987. We operate large, long-lived geographically diverse assets with significant proven and probable reserves of copper, gold and molybdenum.” [Freeport-McMoran, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Freeport-McMoRan Claims To Have “Launched A Global Initiative To Further Strengthen Our Focus On Inclusion And Diversity In The Workplace” In 2019.** “In 2019, we launched a global initiative to further strengthen our focus on inclusion and diversity in the workplace. Our initial focus areas include executive training and various human resource processes, including identifying more diverse applicant pools and measuring trends.” [Freeport-McMoran, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Freeport-McMoRan’s “About Us” Page Claims, “Our Inclusion And Diversity Principles Align With Our Core Values Of Safety, Respect, Integrity, Excellence And Commitment.”** “Our inclusion and diversity principles align with our core values of safety, respect, integrity, excellence and commitment, and are reflected in our Principles of Business Conduct and other company policies.” [Freeport-McMoran, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Freeport-McMoRan Claims, “Our Inclusive Environment Is The Foundation Of Our High-Performance Culture.”** “Our inclusive environment is the foundation of our high-performance culture and is paramount to the long-term sustainable success of our business.” [Freeport-McMoran, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**State Sen. Michelle Ugenti-Rita (R-23)—Who Was Previously Responsible For Another Voter Suppression Law That A Federal Court Ruled Was Racially Motivated And Violated The Voting Rights Act And Who Made A “Repulsive” Demand To Allow Business Owners To Kill Looters During 2020’s Unrest—Has Taken \$25,076 From Arizona’s Top 5 Corporate Donors.**

**State Sen. Michelle Ugenti-Rita (R-23) Sponsored SB 1485, A Bill That Could Have Arizonans Purged From Voter Rolls After Missing Just One Election.**

State Sen. Michelle Ugenti-Rita (R-23) Sponsored SB 1485. [Legiscan, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Senate Bill 1485, Still Pending As Of April 9, 2021, “Could Lead To Voters Being Tossed Off The Rolls For Missing A Single Election” Due To Its Confusing Language.** “Senate Bill 1485, which awaits a final House vote, would remove voters who haven’t cast a ballot in ‘both the primary election and the general election for two consecutive primary and general elections.’ The bill says purges would occur in December of even-numbered years, removing voters who do not respond to a notice from officials. While the bill has been pitched as removing voters who do not cast a ballot in four elections, advocates warn that the language is

confusing enough that it could lead to voters being tossed off the rolls for missing a single election. And independent voters have to request a party primary ballot to participate, so they could be removed after missing just two mailed ballots for general elections. Arizona Wins, one of the groups working with Progress Arizona, analyzed state voter file data and found there were 126,686 Arizonans who voted in 2020 after sitting out the 2018 and 2016 primary and general elections. Those voters — a fifth of whom are Latino — might have been removed from PEVL by such a bill.” [NBC News, [03/20/21](#)]

- **SB 1485 Had Passed The Arizona Senate But Not Its House As Of April 9, 2021.** [Legiscan, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

### **State Sen. Ugenti-Rita Also Co-Sponsored SB 1713, A Bill That Would Increase Voter ID Burdens For Mail-In Voters.**

**State Sen. Michelle Ugenti-Rita (R-23) Co-Sponsored SB 1713.** [Arizona Legislature, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Senate Bill 1713 Would Require Arizonans To “Add More Voter ID To Their Mail Ballots.”** “Senate Bill 1713 would require voters to add more voter ID to their mail ballots, which could force those without driver's licenses to make copies of identifying documents. Currently, mail voters sign an affidavit attesting to their identity under penalty of perjury, and signatures are verified by county officials. The bill will be heard in committee next week.” [NBC News, [03/20/21](#)]

- **SB 1713 Had Passed In The Arizona Senate But Not In The House As Of April 9, 2021.** [Legiscan, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

### **State Sen. Ugenti-Rita Has Taken \$25,076 From The Arizona Legislature’s Top Five Corporate Donors.**

Donor	Amount
Pinnacle West	\$12,052
Salt River Project	\$6,700
Freeport McMoran Copper & Gold	\$2,724
Raytheon	\$2,500
Southwest Gas	\$1,100

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

### **January 2020: A Federal Appeals Court Ruled That Republican Election Restrictions—The “Most-Well Known Of Which” Was An Anti-Ballot Harvesting Law That Sen. Ugenti-Rita Sponsored—Violated The Voting Rights Act And Were Racially Motivated.**

**January 2020: The 9th U.S. Circuit Court Of Appeals Ruled That Arizona Republican Lawmakers Who Advanced A Law Blocking Ballot Harvesting Violated The Voting Rights Act And Had “The Intent Of Suppressing Turnout” Of Minority Voters.** “Arizona violated the Voting Rights Act by barring voters from delivering the early ballots of neighbors, friends and others to polling places, a federal appeals court ruled Monday. The policy against so-called ‘ballot harvesting’ disproportionately affects American Indian, Hispanic and African American voters, a majority of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said. Republicans who control the Legislature enacted the policy with the intent of suppressing turnout among voters from minority groups, the court decided.” [The Arizona Republic, [01/28/20](#)]

**“The Most Well-Known Of Those Policies” Was From A Law Sen. Ugenti-Rita Sponsored To Ban Voters From Turning In Other Voters’ Ballots, Which The Court Found To Disproportionately Affect Hispanic**

**And American Indian Voters.** “Perhaps the most well-known of those policies stems from a 2016 law sponsored by then-Rep. Michelle Ugenti-Rita, R-Scottsdale, which banned voters from turning in the early ballots of other voters, except for family members. The court said uncontested evidence showed a large and disproportionate number of Hispanic and American Indian voters relied on others to collect and deliver their early mail ballots.” [The Arizona Republic, [01/28/20](#)]

- **The Court Found That These Communities “Frequently Face Problems With Mail Service That Make It Difficult To Turn In Mail Ballots On Time,” And They Had To Rely On Organizers To Help Turn Ballots In On Time.** “American Indian and Hispanic communities frequently face problems with mail service that make it difficult to turn in mail ballots on time, the court said. In urban areas, apartment buildings might not have outgoing mail service and residents may not regard their mailboxes as safe. Only 18% of American Indian voters have home mail service, the court said, adding that a lack of transportation compounds the problem. In turn, organizers regularly collected ballots from voters and delivered the ballots to election officials.” [The Arizona Republic, [01/28/20](#)]

**A Majority Of The Court Ruled That The Law Was “Racially Motivated” And One Judge Wrote, “‘The Anti-Fraud Rationale Advanced In Support Of HB 2023 ‘Seems To Have Been Contrived.’”** “But a majority of the court dismissed those allegations - and the bill itself - as racially motivated. ‘The history of HB 2023 shows that its proponents had other aims in mind than combating fraud. HB 2023 does not forbid fraudulent third-party ballot collection. It forbids non-fraudulent third-party ballot collection,’ wrote Judge William A. Fletcher, who was appointed by President Bill Clinton. ‘To borrow an understated phrase, the anti-fraud rationale advanced in support of HB 2023 ‘seems to have been contrived.’” [The Arizona Republic, [01/28/20](#)]

**Sen. Ugenti-Rita Asked Gov. Doug Ducey To Allow Business Owners To “Maim Or Kill Looters” During The Nationwide Wave Of Police Brutality Protests In The Summer Of 2020—One State Progressive Leader “It Is Repulsive That Sen. Ugenti-Rita Would Entertain The Idea Of Justifying These Types Of Murders Even Further” After So Many Black Victims Had Been Killed.**

**June 2020: Sen. Ugenti-Rita Fell “Under Fire From Progressive Activists Who Say She’s Inciting Violence” After She Wrote A Facebook Post Asking Gov. Doug Ducey To Allow Business Owners To “Maim Or Kill Looters.”** “A Republican lawmaker who wants to allow business owners to maim or kill looters is under fire from progressive activists who say she’s inciting violence and from her primary opponent, who says she stole his idea. Sen. Michelle Ugenti-Rita, R-Scottsdale, explained in a lengthy Facebook post late last week that she was asking Gov. Doug Ducey to extend a legal justification for using force or deadly force to business owners or managers defending their property from criminal damage.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [06/09/20](#)]

- **“Although The Looting Occurred During A Nationwide Wave Of Protests Against Police Brutality, It Was Disavowed By Leaders Of The Black Lives Matter Movement.** “The looting, which happened among a nationwide wave of protests over police treatment of black Americans, was denounced by leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement as unrelated to the wider protests.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [06/09/20](#)]

**Ugenti-Rita’s Post Said, “I Agree That A Business Owner Should Have The Ability To Defend Their Property As A Homeowner Does.”** “In her Facebook post, Ugenti-Rita said she received many calls from constituents after a night of vandalism and looting at Scottsdale Fashion Square on May 30. ‘Many, if not most, expressed a sentiment that these businesses were the livelihood for their and their employees’ families and they wanted to be able to defend them like their homes,’ Ugenti-Rita said. ‘I agree that a business owner should have the ability to defend their property as a homeowner does. However, this is an action that should only be considered as a last resort and when all other options to protect oneself and one’s business have been exhausted.’” [Arizona Capitol Times, [06/09/20](#)]

**An Arizonan Progressive Leader Said “It Is Repulsive That Sen. Ugenti-Rita Would Entertain The Idea Of Justifying These Types Of Murders Even Further,” Following The Murders Of So Many “Victims Of Racist Police And Civilian Violence.”** “On Tuesday, the group Progress Now Arizona called on Ugenti-Rita to scrap the bill entirely, saying it would have a disproportionate impact on people of color. ‘During a time where the nation is grieving for George Floyd, Dion Johnson, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless other people who have been victims of racist police and civilian violence, it is repulsive that Sen. Ugenti-Rita would entertain the idea of justifying these types of murders even further,’ Progress Now Arizona executive director Emily Kirkland said in a statement. “Property and products can be replaced, but Black and Brown lives cannot.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [06/09/20](#)]

**About Half Of Ugenti-Rita’s Constituents Who Responded To Her Post, In Addition To Progressive Activists, Disagreed With Her.** “Progressive activists and about half of the Legislative District 23 constituents who responded to Ugenti-Rita’s Facebook posts would disagree with characterizations of the proposal making a good bill.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [06/09/20](#)]

**State Sen. David Gowan (R-14)—Who Sponsored A Bill To Shorten Mail-In Voting Deadlines That Would Disproportionately Harm Native American Voters And Authorized A House Floor Conference For A Group That Claimed Black People “Hijacked” The Civil Rights Movement—Has Taken \$6,418 From Arizona’s Top 5 Corporate Donors.**

**State Sen. David Gowan (R-14) Sponsored SB 1593, Which Would Shorten Deadlines For Mail-In Voters, Disproportionately Native American Voters On Reservations Who Don’t Have Home Mail Service.**

**SB 1593 Was Sponsored By State Sen. David Gowan (R-14).** [Legiscan, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Senate Bill 1593, Still Pending As Of April 9, 2021, “Would Shorten The Window For Mail Voters To Get And Return Their Ballots,” Disproportionately Affecting Arizona’s Many Native American Voters Who Live On Reservations And Who Do Not Have Home Mail Service.** “Senate Bill 1593 would shorten the window for mail voters to get and return their ballots and require they [sic] be postmarked on or prior to the Thursday before an election, something that could be particularly difficult on Arizona’s many Native American reservations, where many people do not have home mail service. Turnout among Native American voters surged in 2020, fueling Biden’s win. What’s more, post offices don’t always postmark prepaid mailers, something advocates worry could lead clearly on-time ballots to be tossed by postal carrier error. The bill awaits a Senate floor vote.” [NBC News, [03/20/21](#)]

- **SB 1593 Had Not Passed The Arizona Senate As Of April 9, 2021.** [Legiscan, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**State Sen. Gowan Has Taken \$6,418 From The Arizona Legislature’s Top Five Corporate Donors.**

Donor	Amount
Pinnacle West	\$2,000
Salt River Project	\$500
Freeport McMoran Copper & Gold	\$2,424
Raytheon	\$750
Southwest Gas	\$744

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**HEADLINE: Gowan OKs, then bars controversial group from meeting on House floor** [Arizona Capitol Times, [05/12/16](#)]

**While Arizona House Speaker, Gowan Authorized A Conference On The House Floor Held By The American Unification Movement, An Anti-Immigration Group Which Claims The Civil Rights Movement Was “Hijacked” By Black People And That Revisionist History Denigrates “English-Speaking White Citizens.”**

While Arizona House Speaker, David Gowan Authorized A “Civil Rights Conference” On The House Floor Held By The American Unification Movement, Which Has Claimed The Civil Rights Movement Had Been “Hijacked” By Black People And That Revisionist History “Denigrates ‘English-Speaking White Citizens.’” “America’s civil rights legacy has been ‘hijacked’ by blacks, and revisionist history unfairly denigrates ‘English-speaking white citizens’ even though they freed the slaves and ended segregation, according to a group that had planned a ‘civil rights conference’ on the floor of the Arizona House of Representatives. But upon learning more about the group, House Speaker David Gowan’s spokeswoman announced Gowan was canceling the event he had authorized, saying the group had misrepresented itself.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [05/12/16](#)]

- **The “Anti-Immigration” Group, The American Unification Movement, Planned An “All-Day Event At The State House,” Taking Up The Floor Of The Chamber.** “The organizers, the American Unification Movement, are an anti-immigration group headed by Los Angeles-based activist Ted Hayes. He teamed up with local conservative activist Ron Ludders to host the all-day event at the statehouse, which was planned for May 21. Shortly after the Capitol Times wrote that the group would be taking over the Arizona House of Representatives floor for the full-day conference, House Republican spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham announced the event had been canceled.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [05/12/16](#)]

**The American Unification Movement’s Leader Ted Hayes Has Argued That Civil Rights Heroes Like Weren’t Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass Or Martin Luther King Jr. Were “Propped Up” By White Politicians And Soldiers Who Aided The Movement.** “Ludders and Hayes, who is black, argue that the true heroes of the country’s darkest days – from slavery through the civil rights era – weren’t Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass or Martin Luther King Jr., but the white soldiers and politicians who ended slavery, abolished Jim Crow laws and propped up figures like Tubman, Douglass and King.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [05/12/16](#)]

- **The Southern Poverty Law Center Calls Hayes A “Front (Man)” For White Anti-Immigration Leaders, Providing Cover For Hate Groups Like The Federation For American Immigration Reform (FAIR.).** “The SPLC calls Hayes a ‘front (man)’ for a campaign orchestrated and funded by white anti-immigration leaders.’ ‘The campaign aims to convert black Americans to their cause, and simultaneously to provide groups like the Minuteman Project and the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) with cover against accusations of racism,’ the SPLC said in a report. The SPLC has labeled FAIR a hate group. Hayes’ American Unity Movement claims to be nonpartisan, but resolutions posted on its website are decidedly conservative. The group proclaims that ‘illegal aliens,’ ‘anchor babies’ and ‘foreign usurpers’ are destroying the country.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [05/12/16](#)]

**The Event Was Canceled Just Thirty Minutes After It Was Reported In The Arizona Capitol Times.** “The notice that the event was canceled came about 30 minutes after the *Arizona Capitol Times* published an article on its website detailing the event organizers’ controversial views.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [05/12/16](#)]

**Despite Saying That Gowan Had “Approved” The Event, A Spokesperson Later Claimed It Had Never Been Confirmed.** “Further, [House Republican Spokesperson Stephanie] Grisham said the event had never actually been confirmed. However, in an earlier email, she said that Gowan had ‘approved it.’ ‘It was presented to the speaker as a ‘14th Amendment Conference’ which had been done in the Senate in the past. They didn’t



run their marketing materials past us and as soon as we saw them, we had a meeting and expressed our concerns,' Grisham said in a text message." [Arizona Capitol Times, [05/12/16](#)]

**The Spokesperson Cited Security, Cost, And Other Factors For Canceling The Event, But Did Not Mention The Group's Controversial Views.** "Based upon many factors, including potential security issues, costs, and appropriate use of state resources, we will not be granting access,' she added." [Arizona Capitol Times, [05/12/16](#)]

**Gowan's Spokesperson Said He "Does Not Agree With A Good Portion Of The Language" Of A Press Release The Group Issued For The Event—The Release Said, "The Civil Rights Legacy DOES NOT Belong To Black Americans... Rather, The American Civil Rights Legacy Belongs To Anglo-European Americans, English Speaking, 'White Citizens.'" "Shortly after the American Unification Movement issued a press release publicizing the event, Grisham said that Gowan 'does not agree with a good portion of the language' the group used. The group's press release declared that 'the Civil Rights Legacy DOES NOT belong to black Americans... Rather, the American Civil Rights Legacy belongs to Anglo-European Americans, English speaking, 'white citizens.' Former black slaves however, are the sole beneficiaries of America's Civil Rights Legacy.' It also noted that '740,000 young, innocent white boys and men' died in the Civil War, as did about '38,000 blacks and President Abraham Lincoln.'" [Arizona Capitol Times, [05/12/16](#)]**

**One State Lawmaker Said It Was "Very Concerning" That The Group Was Given Special Access To The State House, But Added That It Was More Concerning That Gowan Authorized State Resources For The Event.** "The fact that the group would have been seated on the chamber's floor, rather than out on the lawn where most rallies are held, was 'very concerning' to Democratic Rep. Reginald Bolding of Laveen. 'It looks like you have a group of individuals who are not representing the cultural diversity we need in this state,' Bolding said. 'A group who I believe is trying to hijack the sacrifices that were made by those who actually fought in this country to ensure there are equal rights. It's definitely concerning.' But he said the most disturbing part was that House Speaker David Gowan, who authorized the event, was allowing the event to use state resources. He said there are all kinds of groups advocating for issues around the Capitol, and handing over the House to a group implies that the state is backing the group's platform. 'That's something which our speaker and the Republican majority need to answer to. Any time you have a group that's clearly not representing diversity, that's clearly attacking populations of people, and you're giving them an open forum to use the House floor and House resources, that's a problem,' Bolding said." [Arizona Capitol Times, [05/12/16](#)]

**State Sen. Javan Mesnard (R-17)—Who Sponsored A Bill To Increase Voter ID Burdens For Mail-In Ballots And "Formally Reprimanded" Arizona's Only Two Black Lawmakers Who Criticized A State Rep. Who Used A Racial Slur In A Column—Has Taken \$45,153 From Arizona's Top 5 Corporate Donors.**

**State Sen. Javan Mesnard (R-17) Sponsored SB 1713, A Bill That Would Increase Voter ID Burdens For Mail-In Voters.**

**State Sen. Javan Mesnard Sponsored SB 1713.** [Legiscan, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Senate Bill 1713 Would Require Arizonans To "Add More Voter ID To Their Mail Ballots."** "Senate Bill 1713 would require voters to add more voter ID to their mail ballots, which could force those without driver's licenses to make copies of identifying documents. Currently, mail voters sign an affidavit attesting to their identity under penalty of perjury, and signatures are verified by county officials. The bill will be heard in committee next week." [NBC News, [03/20/21](#)]

- **SB 1713 Had Passed In The Arizona Senate But Not In The House As Of April 9, 2021.** [Legiscan, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

## **State Sen. Mesnard Has Taken \$45,153 From The Arizona Legislature's Top Five Corporate Donors.**

Donor	Amount
Pinnacle West	\$16,420
Salt River Project	\$7,025
Freeport McMoran Copper & Gold	\$6,208
Raytheon	\$8,150
Southwest Gas	\$7,350

[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

## **While Arizona House Speaker, Sen. Mesnard “Formally Reprimanded” The State Legislature’s Only Two Black Lawmakers For Calling Out A State Representative Who Used A Racial Slur In A Newspaper Column—Mesnard Said, “I Don’t Know Why It’s So Hard To Follow The Rules.”**

**April 2018: The Arizona Legislature’s Only Two Black Members Were “Formally Reprimanded” For Calling Out A State Representative Who Used A Racial Slur In A Newspaper Column.** “The only two black members of the Arizona Legislature were formally reprimanded for calling out a Republican lawmaker's use of a racial slur. The Associated Press reported Thursday that the majority of House Republicans voted to formally rebuke Democratic Reps. Reginald Bolding and Geraldine Peten — the only two black members — for speaking out against offensive language.” [The Hill, [04/26/18](#)]

- **State Rep. Maria Syms Wrote A Column In The Arizona Republic That Cited “A Derogatory Term For African-Americans From A Song By Kendrick Lamar.”** “Rep. Maria Syms (R) wrote a column published in The Arizona Republic on Wednesday that included a derogatory term for African-Americans from a song by Kendrick Lamar. The newspaper has since updated the article to remove the offensive term.” [The Hill, [04/26/18](#)]

**While Arizona House Speaker, J.D. Mesnard Said The Black Lawmakers Violated House Decorum And Said, “I Don’t Know Why It’s So Hard To Follow The Rules.”** “Speaker J.D. Mesnard (R) said their comments violated House rules of decorum and debate. ‘I don’t know why it’s so hard to follow the rules,’ Mesnard said. ‘It doesn’t matter whether you are white or black or brown on whatever the color the color of your skin is, you follow the House rules.’” [The Hill, [04/26/18](#)]

- **Mesnard Previously Served An Arizona State Representative For Eight Years, Serving As Speaker For Two Of Them.** “J.D. Mesnard is in his first term as state senator from District 17 (Chandler, Gilbert, and Sun Lakes). He previously served in the State House of Representatives for eight years, including as Speaker of the House for the last two years.” [Arizona State Legislature, [04/12/21](#)]

**One Of The Black Legislators Said, “Let Me Be Crystal Clear: It’s Not Acceptable To Use A Racial Slur Even If That Slur Is Used As A Quote.”** “Bolding slammed the article on the House floor Wednesday, saying it was trying to discredit educator Noah Karvelis for teaching students about a black entertainer. ‘The more I read the more I was disappointed that it appears to be OK to use racial slurs about black people in the article,’ Bolding said. ‘Let me be crystal clear: It’s not acceptable to use a racial slur even if that slur is used as a quote.’ ‘No one in this chamber would think its OK to use a racial slur in print or out loud about Jewish, Latino, Asian, Native, LGBTQ, Anglo or any other group of people,’ Bolding continued.” [The Hill, [04/26/18](#)]

# Florida State Legislators' Top Donors Are Allegedly Committed To Racial Equity, But Have Given \$230,500 To Elected Officials Responsible For Advancing Voter Suppression Bills

**SUMMARY:** Florida's sweeping voting restriction bill, known as Senate Bill 90 or House Bill 7041, has sparked criticism due to its [restrictions of vote-by-mail](#), [attempt to ban ballot drop boxes](#), and [controversial provision to ban handing out food and water at the polls](#). Voting rights advocates have deemed the legislation a "[voter suppression tactic](#)" as well as "[backlash](#)" to the record vote-by-mail turnout in Florida in 2020, which strongly favored Democrats. In response, advocacy groups [are calling on Florida companies](#) to follow the lead of Georgia companies, which have criticized similar voting restrictions in the state of Georgia.

While some Florida companies may take action against voting restrictions, four of the top five corporate contributors to Florida lawmakers – Walt Disney, Healthcare Corporation of America, FCCI Insurance Group, and GEO Group – have funneled **\$230,500** to Florida lawmakers responsible for pushing Florida's proposed election restrictions. Notably, many of these lawmakers have track records of pursuing other legislation criticized as racist and peddling voter fraud conspiracy theories. Despite this troubling record, these companies have continued contributing to these lawmakers while at the same time purporting to have robust commitments to diversity and inclusion, racial equity, and Black Lives Matter.

*The SB 90 and HB 7041 backers whose top donors include companies with alleged commitments to diversity or racial justice are:*

- **State Sen. Dennis Baxley (R-12)**—Who [Sponsored](#) SB 90 And [Voted For SB 90](#) In Committee—Has Taken \$13,000 From Walt Disney And HCA Management Services, And [Was The Only Member Of The Senate Education Committee](#) To Vote Against Renaming A Law School Building Named After A Segregationist.
- **State Sen. Douglas Broxson (R-1)**—Who [Voted For SB 90](#) In Committee—Has Taken \$64,000 From HCA, FCCI Insurance, Walt Disney, And Geo Group.
- **State Sen. Jennifer Bradley (R-5)**—Who [Voted For SB 90](#) In Committee—Has Taken \$14,000 From HCA, Geo Group, And Walt Disney.
- **State Sen. George Gainer (R-2)**—Who [Voted For SB 90](#) In Committee—Has Taken \$11,000 From HCA And Walt Disney, And [Introduced Legislation](#) To Release Motorists From Liability If They Strike And Kill A Protester The Same Year A Motorist Killed A Protester In Charlottesville During The Unite The Right Rally
- **State Sen. Ileana Garcia (R-37)**—[Who Voted For SB 90](#) In Committee—Has Taken \$3,000 From HCA Management Services, And [Called](#) SB 90 A Way To "Re-Engage Voter Confidence" Despite Having Won Election By 32 Votes [After Republicans Illegally Paid](#) A Third Party Candidate With The Same Last Name As Her Opponent To Run.
- **State Sen. And Sen. Majority Leader Debbie Mayfield (R-17)**—Who [Voted For SB 90](#) In Committee And [Defended The Bill](#) As Preventing Fraud—Has Taken \$35,000 From Walt Disney And HCA.
- **State Sen. Kelli Stargel (R-22)**—Who [Voted For SB 90](#) In Committee—Has Taken \$35,000 From Walt Disney And HCA.

- **State Sen. And Florida Republican Party Chairman Joe Gruters (R-23)**—Who [Voted For SB 90](#) In Committee And [Serves](#) As The Chair Of The RNC’s “Voter Integrity” Commission—Has Taken \$25,000 From HCA And Walt Disney, [Refuses](#) To Acknowledge President Biden’s Win As Legitimate.
- **State Rep. Blaise Ingoglia (R-35)**—Who [Sponsored HB 7041](#) And Its Now-Failed [Provision](#) Banning Handing Out Water At The Polls—Has Accepted \$30,500 From HCA And Walt Disney.

**After Record Vote-By-Mail Turnout In Florida In 2020, Florida State Legislators Have Pushed A Bill To Ban Ballot Drop Boxes, Force Mail Voters To Re-Register, And Prohibit Handing Out Food And Water To Voters In Line At Polling Places, Leading County Officials And Advocacy Groups To Condemn The Bill And Call On Corporations To Do The Same.**

**As Backlash To Record 2020 Vote-By-Mail Turnout, Florida Lawmakers Are Backing A Bill To Force Mail Voters To Re-Register For Mail Ballots In 2022 A Ban Ballot Drop Boxes, Leading Voting Rights Advocates To Criticize The Bill As A “Voter Suppression Tactic” That “Severely Restricts Florida’s Access To Vote-By-Mail.”**

**SB 90 Would Limit Vote-By-Mail Applications To One Election Cycle, Making Every Person Who Registered To Vote By Mail In 2020 Re-Apply For A Mail In Ballot In 2022.**

“After a record 4.8 million Floridians voted by mail in November, the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee approved [SB 90](#) along party lines to limit vote-by-mail applications to one election cycle and require everyone who signed up for mail ballots in 2020 to reapply to get them in 2022. Current law allows voters who ask for a mail-in ballot to have their request remain current for two general election cycles unless they opt out.” [Tampa Bay Times, [02/16/21](#)]

**SB 90 Contains A “Highly Controversial Provision” To Eliminate Ballot Drop Boxes.** “Florida Senate Bill 90 contains a highly controversial provision, calling for the elimination of ballot drop boxes in the state, but its House companion bill—HB 7041—does not go as far in that regard.” [Forbes, [03/29/21](#)]

**Democrats Called SB 90 A Voter Suppression Tactic “Intended To Tamp Down The Record Vote-By-Mail Support Of Democrats.”** “Democrats called the bill a voter suppression tactic, intended to tamp down the record vote-by-mail support of Democrats in 2020, especially in the state’s largest metro areas.” [Tampa Bay Times, [02/16/21](#)]

**In 2020, There Were 2.1 Million Florida Democrats Who Voted By Mail And Only 1.5 Million Florida Republicans Who Voted By Mail.** “Democrats called the bill a voter suppression tactic, intended to tamp down the record vote-by-mail support of Democrats in 2020, especially in the state’s largest metro areas. In 2020, there were 2.1 million Democrats who vote by mail, compared to 1.5 million Republicans and 1 million voters who were not affiliated with any party.” [Tampa Bay Times, [02/16/21](#)]

**According To The Brennan Center For Justice, Florida’s SB 90 Is “Backlash” Against Record Vote By Mail Turnout In 2020.** “SB 90 is among more than 165 bills filed in 33 states by Republicans as ‘a backlash’ against 2020’s record VBM turnout that buoyed Democrat Joe Biden to victory over President Donald Trump, according to the left-leaning Brennan Center for Justice.” [Tampa Bay Times, [02/16/21](#)]

**The ACLU Of Florida Opposed SB 90, Claiming It Would “Severely Restrict Florida Voters’ Access To Vote-By-Mail.”** “SB 90 will severely restrict Florida voters’ access to vote-by-mail. Approximately 4.8 million voters in Florida cast their ballots by mail in 2020, in the highest turnout election we’ve had for decades. More than 1.5 million Floridians used a drop-box during the 2020 Election to safely, conveniently, and securely



return their ballot. SB 90 creates completely unnecessary and burdensome obstacles that will impact Floridians' ability to cast a ballot by mail in future elections." [ACLU Florida, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

## **The House Version Of The Bill Known As HB 7041 Originally Sought To Ban Handing Out Food And Water To Voters In Line At Polling Places, But**

**Florida's SB 90 And HB 7041 Are Companion Bills.** "Specifically the ads call for opposition of Florida's HB 1, which would strengthen government crackdowns on street protests, and SB 90, which is similar to Georgia's new voter reform laws, plus their cross-chamber companion bills, SB 484 and HB 7041, respectively." [Florida Politics, [04/09/21](#)]

**The Original Version Of HB 7041 Sought To Ban Handing Out Food And Water To People In Line At Polling Places.** "Florida lawmakers are considering a Republican-backed bill that would overhaul aspects of the state's election system, including prohibiting handing out food, water, or anything else to voters near a polling place. The bill, officially named HB 7041, primarily seeks to change parts of the state's vote-by-mail process, including requiring that vote-by-mail dropboxes be monitored 24/7 and limiting who is allowed to drop off a ballot on someone's behalf. The legislation would also allow the public to see steps of the signature verification process, used to ensure the legitimacy of a vote by mail ballot." [CBS12, [03/29/21](#)]

**An Amended Version Of HB 7041 No Longer Includes The Provision Banning Handing Out Food And Water To Voters.** "Florida lawmakers have backtracked on legislative language that threatened to ban giving voters food or drink while near a polling place, removing the ban from an amended version of an elections bill that was approved by a House committee on Thursday. The [original version of House bill 7041 forbade](#) 'giving or attempting to give any item' to a voter or 'interacting or attempting to interact' with a voter within 150 feet of a polling place. But an amended version of the bill, approved by the state House Appropriations Committee, [no longer includes either prohibition](#)." [NBC News, [04/08/21](#)]

## **Various Florida Officials Have Opposed SB 90, With The Vice President Of The Non-Partisan Florida Association Of Supervisors Of Elections Testifying That The Bill Will Lead To "Long Lines And Confusion."**

**The Florida State Agriculture Commissioner Claimed That SB 90 Would "Confuse And Disenfranchise Millions Of Voters" In A "Voter Suppression Scheme."** "Adding roadblocks to mail ballots and banning ballot drop boxes will confuse and disenfranchise millions of voters," said state Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried, a potential 2022 Democratic challenger, in a statement after the vote. 'It's clear that Florida Republicans' latest voter suppression scheme, which is opposed by county election officials, is designed to silence the collective voices of millions.'" [The Center Square, [03/10/21](#)]

**During A March 2021 Hearing On The Bill, Several Election Officials Testified Against SB 90.** "During Wednesday's hearing, several county election supervisors testified against the measure." [The Center Square, [03/10/21](#)]

- **Former Republican State Senator And Current Lake County Elections Supervisor Alan Hayes Opposed SB 90.** "Lake County Elections Supervisor Alan Hayes, a former Republican state senator, said if adopted, the restrictions would cost his office \$14-16 million in 2022." [The Center Square, [03/10/21](#)]
- **The Vice President Of The Non-Partisan Florida Association Of Supervisors Of Elections Said He Was "Vehemently" Opposed To SB 90 As It Would Lead To "Long Lines And Confusion."** "Leon County Elections Supervisor Mark Earley, vice president of the non-partisan Florida Association of Supervisors of Elections, said the group as 'vehemently' against SB 90. ;This bill appears to my perspective to be setting us up for another 2012, where we have chaos and long lines and confusion,' Burley said." [The Center Square, [03/10/21](#)]



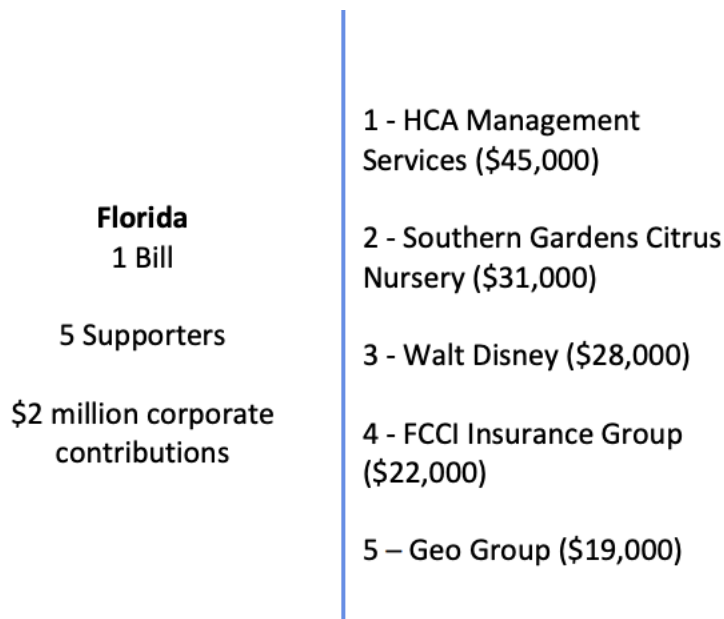
## **In April 2021, A Coalition Of Advocacy Organizations Is Banding Together To Place Newspaper Ads Urging Florida Corporations To Oppose SB 90.**

**A Coalition Of Social Justice Organizations Are “Placing Full-Page Ads In Newspapers” To Urge Florida’s Corporate Leaders To Opposed SB 90 And Its House Companion Bill HB 7041.** “A coalition of Black and progressive political action organizations are placing full-page ads in newspapers Sunday urging Florida’s corporate leaders to oppose Republicans’ anti-protest and voter-reform legislation [...] Specifically the ads call for opposition of Florida’s HB 1, which would strengthen government crackdowns on street protests, and SB 90, which is similar to Georgia’s new voter reform laws, plus their cross-chamber companion bills, SB 484 and HB 7041, respectively.” [Florida Politics, [04/09/21](#)]

**4 Of The Florida State Legislature’s Top 5 Corporate Donors—including HCA Management Services, Walt Disney, FCCI Insurance Group, And Geo Group—Have All Professed A Commitment To Equality And Diversity, With HCA Leadership Claiming To Be “United In The Public Outcry To Put An End To Systemic Racism” And Disney Proclaiming “We Believe Black Lives Matter.”**

## **The Top Five Contributors To Florida State Legislators Are HCA Management Services, Southern Gardens Citrus, Walt Disney, FCCI Insurance Group, And Geo Group.**

The Top 5 Contributors To Florida State Legislators Are HCA Management Services, Southern Gardens Citrus Nursery, Walt Disney, FCCI Insurance Group, And Geo Group.



[Public Citizen, [04/05/21](#)]

**HCA Healthcare, Which Recently Hired A Chief Diversity Officer And Created An “Executive Diversity Council,” Published A 2020 Statement In Which The Company’s Chief Diversity Officer Claimed To Be “United In The Public Outcry To Put An End To Systemic Racism” And “More Resolute Than Ever” In HCA’s Commitment To Diversity And Inclusion.**

**HCA Healthcare's Website Includes A "Diversity And Inclusion" Page Touting The 2020 Appointment Of A "Chief Diversity Officer" And Formation Of "An Executive Diversity Council."** "Excellence in healthcare starts with a foundation of inclusion, compassion and respect for our patients and each other. At HCA Healthcare, we foster a culture where everyone is welcome, has a voice and receives equal treatment, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, color, ancestry, citizenship, religion, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, medical condition, marital status, veteran status, or payment source or ability. Diversity makes teams, companies and communities stronger. We recently appointed a chief diversity officer and formed an executive diversity council to bolster our work in this important area." [HCA Healthcare, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**HCA Healthcare Claims It "Embrace[s] Diversity And Inclusion" In "Five Dimensions" Of Patients, Colleagues, Suppliers, Boards, And Communities.**

**Our efforts to embrace diversity and inclusion are comprehensive and multifaceted, aligned along five dimensions:**

- **Patients:** We are committed to providing all patients with equitable access to the highest quality culturally competent, patient-centered care. To do this, we focus on developing cultural competencies in our colleague base as well as increasing access to services for all who need them.
- **Colleagues:** We strive to foster an engaged and inclusive culture where colleagues can thrive. We are committed to strengthening the diversity of our talent pipeline at all levels and to accelerating the advancement of women and people of color in leadership.
- **Suppliers:** We intentionally engage with a diverse set of suppliers including small businesses owned and operated by women, people of color, veterans, and members of socially and economically disadvantaged groups.
- **Boards:** It is our priority to ensure our community boards and boards of trustees reflect the diverse communities we serve and include a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives.
- **Communities:** We continuously seek opportunities to cultivate and sustain community partnerships that deepen our understanding, broaden our reach and allow us to invest in healthier tomorrows for the communities we serve.

[HCA Healthcare, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**Following The Killing Of George Floyd, HCA Healthcare's Chief Diversity Officer Issued A Statement In June 2020 Claiming That She "Stand[s] United In The Public Outcry To Put An End To Systemic Racism."** I have felt heartbroken, frustrated, fearful and every emotion in between. I share the sentiments of our colleagues who are devastated and traumatized by the senseless killing of George Floyd and too many others, and stand united in the public outcry to put an end to systemic racism, injustice and inequality in our country.

- **The Message Also Stated "I Am Hopeful And More Resolute Than Ever Regarding HCA Healthcare's Commitment To Strengthen Our Diversity And Foster A Culture Of Inclusion."** It is clear to me that we have much work to do. Yet, in the midst of all of this, I am hopeful and more resolute than ever regarding HCA Healthcare's commitment to strengthen our diversity and foster a culture of inclusion. In fact, since January 1, 2020, HCA Healthcare has intentionally renewed and expanded its focus on diversity and inclusion by advancing our commitment to patients, colleagues, suppliers, boards and the communities we serve." [HCA Today Blog, [06/23/20](#)]

- HCA Chief Diversity Officer Sherri Neal: “We Have A Responsibility To Ensure Equity From The Inside Out And This Means Listening Especially Closely To Black Colleagues Who Are Experiencing Compounding Traumas At This Time.”

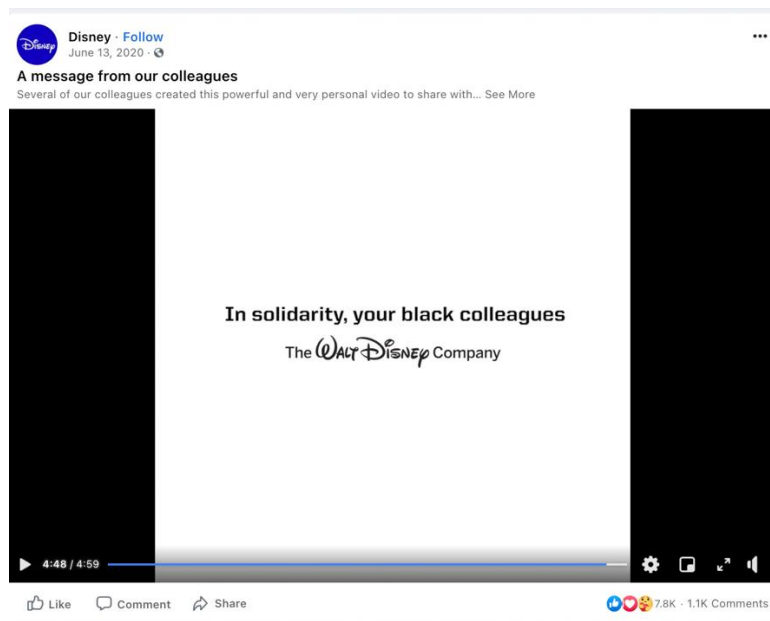
*“We have a responsibility to ensure equity from the inside out and this means listening especially closely to Black colleagues who are experiencing compounding traumas at this time.” – Sherri Neal, Chief Diversity Officer*

[HCA Today Blog, [06/23/20](#)]

## **In 2020, Disney Released A “Powerful” Video Message In Support Of Black Lives Matter, With The Company’s CEO Claiming It Was “Critical That We [...] Do Everything In Our Power To Ensure That Acts Of Racism And Violence Are Never Tolerated.”**

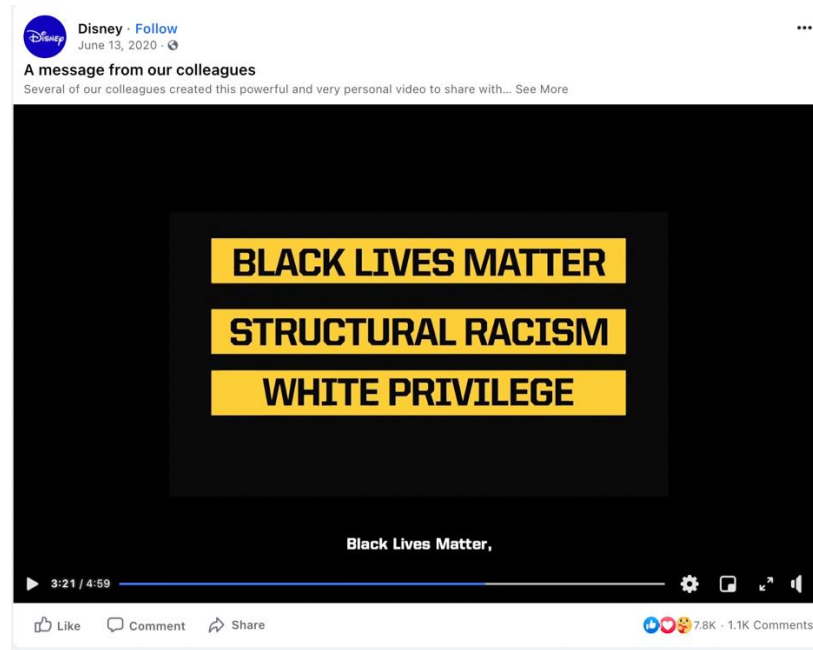
In 2020, Disney Released A “Powerful” Video In Support Of Black Lives Matter, Claiming “We Believe Black Lives Matter And That This Message Is One That Everyone Should Hear.” “Disney has created a powerful video entitled ‘A message from our colleagues’ in support of the [Black Lives Matter movement](#). Disney says, ‘Several of our colleagues created this powerful and very personal video to share with their fellow employees, highlighting the need for greater understanding, unity and action to address racial inequality in our country. We believe Black lives matter and that this message is one that everyone should hear. That’s why we’re sharing it with you.’” [WDW News Today, [06/13/20](#)]

**June 2020: Disney Released A Video Message From Black Disney Employees Regarding Racial Justice Issues.**



[Disney on Facebook, [06/13/20](#)]

**Disney’s Video Featured An Employee Asking Colleagues To “Do Some Research” About Black Lives Matter, Structural Racism, And White Privilege.**



[Disney on Facebook, [06/13/20](#)]

### Disney's Message Stated "Racism Is A Legacy That We All Inherited."



[Disney on Facebook, [06/13/20](#)]

**Disney Chief Executive In June 2020: "It Is Critical That We [...] Do Everything In Our Power To Ensure That Acts Of Racism And Violence Are Never Tolerated."** "The killing of George Floyd has forced our nation to once again confront the long history of injustice that black people in America have suffered, and it is critical that we stand together, speak out, and do everything in our power to ensure that acts of racism and violence are never tolerated," Bob Chapek, chief executive of Disney, said in a statement." [Fortune, [06/04/20](#)]

**Disney's "Stories Matter" Page States That It Is In The Process Of Reviewing Content That "Includes Negative Depictions" Of People Or Cultures.** "As part of our ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion, we are in the process of reviewing our library and adding advisories to content that includes negative

depictions or mistreatment of people or cultures. Rather than removing this content, we see an opportunity to spark conversation and open dialogue on history that affects us all. We also want to acknowledge that some communities have been erased or forgotten altogether, and we're committed to giving voice to their stories as well." [The Walt Disney Company, Stories Matter, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

## **FCCI Maintains A Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion Mission Statement, Which It Claims Is "Integral" To Its Promise Of Serving The Community,**

**FCCI's Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion Mission Statement Claims That Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion Is "Integral" To The Company's Promise To "Serve Others."**

# **OUR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION MISSION STATEMENT**

FCCI believes **YOU** are valuable. We embrace a community that is diverse in culture, abilities, expertise, orientation and experience. FCCI's passionate commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is integral to our [promise](#) to serve others, and strengthens our [culture](#) as we build relationships. At FCCI, we empower others to reach their full potential as we recognize that people are our greatest strength. This includes promoting an awareness that celebrates who people are in every interaction.

[FCCI, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

## **FCCI Claims To Have 5 Core Values, Including "Integrity" And "Service" To Its Communities.**

### **Loyalty:**

[We take ownership.](#)

We are all business owners of FCCI who treat the company as our own and behave with long-term success in mind.

### **Integrity:**

[We do the right thing.](#)

We do what we say we're going to do, hold ourselves and others accountable, and treat everyone with care and respect.

### **Vision:**

[We plan for the future.](#)

We have a clearly articulated vision and employ the best, most talented people to help our vision become a reality.

### **Excellence:**

[We lead by example.](#)

We provide the best coverages and services possible and provide our teammates with many opportunities to learn and develop.

### **Service:**

[We know if you succeed, we succeed.](#)

We build strong partnerships, listen to our customers, and constantly improve and give back to our communities.

[FCCI, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

## **The GEO Group, Which Has Posted On Facebook About Black History Month Events, Claims On Its Website To Be "Embracing Diversity And Inclusion" And Committed To Employees' Rights To Be "Free From Discrimination."**

**March 2021: GEO Group Posted On Facebook About Its "Reentry Centers" Celebrating Black History Month Through Events Emphasizing "Triumph Over Struggle."**



The Pennsylvania non-residential reentry centers run by GEO Reentry celebrated Black History Month through events and activities that emphasized the idea of triumph over struggle. <https://www.georeentry.com/pennsylvania-non-residential.../>

GEOREENTRY.COM

#### Pennsylvania GEO centers celebrate Black History Month

Staff members and participants at GEO's Pennsylvania non-residential reentry centers c...

👍 1

[Geo Group on Facebook, [03/31/21](#)]

## GEO Group Claims To Be “Embracing Diversity & Inclusion.” **Embracing Diversity & Inclusion**



At GEO, we believe that diversity in our workforce and the inclusion of a variety of views, perspectives, and backgrounds are integral parts of our company's success. This unique mixture in the workforce provides unlimited ideas, increases productivity and innovative solutions for our clients and those we serve.

We believe that work is more than a place you go every day. It is a place of professional growth, exploration, creativity, and interpersonal relationships. It is about being inspired and motivated to achieve extraordinary things. We want our people to take pride in their work and in maintaining a safe and secure environment. After all, it is the combined talents, skills, knowledge, experience and expertise of every one of our employees that makes us who we are.

Our employees around the globe live and work in the communities we call home. In this geographically diverse environment, we learn from each other and share those lessons within and outside our communities.

The inclusion of all employees makes our teams more effective, enhances communication among other people of different backgrounds and experiences, and creates an atmosphere that benefits from the talents and capabilities of our diverse workforce. Inclusion through recruiting, hiring, developing, training and promoting employees of all genders, races, religions, ages, sexual orientations, and physical abilities is essential to our success.

The result of our desire to be diverse and inclusive creates a company culture that is ever more collaborative. Our employees are increasingly more enthusiastic about their work because they are sharing ideas across departments and divisions in inspiring new ways.

[Geo Group, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

## GEO Group’s Website Features A Section Respecting The Basic Rights Of Employees To Be “Free From Discrimination.”

### ✓ **Respect for the Basic Rights of Our Workforce**

The GEO Group expects that we treat each other with mutual respect. The company respects the rights of our employees to work in an environment that is free from discrimination or harassment, and offers equal employment opportunities without respect to race, sex, color, national origin, creed, religion, pregnancy, age, disability, military/veteran status, sexual orientation, genetic information, marital status or any other legally protected status.

[Geo Group, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**State Sen. Dennis Baxley (R-12), The Main Sponsor Of Florida’s SB 90, Has Taken \$13,000 From Walt Disney And HCA Management.**

**Florida State Sen. Dennis Baxley Has Accepted \$13,000 From Walt Disney And HCA Management.**

**State Sen. Dennis Baxley Has Taken \$13,000 From Walt Disney And HCA Management.**

**2 – Sen. Dennis Baxley (R) (\$383,529)**

- Walt Disney (\$7,000)
- HCA Management Services (\$6,000)
- Southern Gardens Citrus Nursery (\$4,000)
- Duke Energy (\$4,000)
- Teco Energy (\$4,000)

[Public Citizen, [04/05/21](#)]

**State Sen. Baxley Is The Main Sponsor Of SB 90.**

**State Sen. Baxley Sponsored SB 90.** [LegiScan, Florida Senate Bill 90, accessed [04/09/21](#)]

**In A Senate Ethics And Elections Commission Vote, State Sen. Baxley Voted For SB 90.** [Florida State Senate, Committee Vote Record, SB 90, Voted [02/16/21](#)]

**After State Sen. Baxley Claimed That Abortion Led To “Long Range Impacts To Society” Due To Europeans Being “Replaced By” Immigrants, Planned Parenthood Accused Baxley Of “Proudly Parrot[ing] White Supremacist” Rhetoric.**

**Sen. Baxley Claimed There Are “Long Range Impacts To Your Society” When Europeans Choose Abortion Because Population Is “Being Replaced” By Immigrants Who “Don’t Wish To Assimilate.”**

“When you get a birth rate less than 2 percent, that society is disappearing,” he said of Western Europe. “And it’s being replaced by folks that come behind them and immigrate, don’t wish to assimilate into that society and they do believe in having children. So you see that there are long range impacts to your society when the answer is to exterminate.” [WLRN, [05/19/19](#)]

**Planned Parenthood Claimed Baxley “Stands Out For His Racist” Rhetoric And “Proudly Parrots White Supremacist ‘Replacement Theory.’”** “Even in this climate of rampant hate speech coming from elected officials, State Senator Dennis Baxley stands out for his racist and anti-abortion rhetoric. He proudly parrots white supremacist ‘replacement theory’ that has been linked to recent hate crimes including mass shootings. He’s supporting Senate Bill 404, forced parental consent for abortions, for this same reason.” [Planned Parenthood, [11/07/19](#)]

**In 2019, State Sen. Baxley Was The Only Member Of The Senate Education Committee To Vote Against Renaming A Florida State University Building Named After B.K. Roberts, A Late Florida Supreme Court Justice Who Supported Segregation.**

**State Senator Baxley Was The Only Member Of The Senate Education Committee To Vote Against Renaming A Florida State University Building Named After B.K. Roberts, A Florida Supreme Court Justice Who Wrote A Pro-Segregation Opinion.** “Just one lawmaker on the Senate Education Committee voted against a bill that would allow [Florida State University](#) to rename its main law school building. Republican Dennis Baxley of Ocala told fellow lawmakers on Tuesday that he could not support legislation ([SPB 7076](#)) repealing the state designation that created B.K. Roberts Hall. It was named after a late state Supreme Court Justice who helped found the law school at FSU but also wrote a pro-segregation opinion, going against the U.S. Supreme Court. ‘This is a road that I hate to see us go down,’ Baxley told fellow lawmakers. ‘None of us lived in the time of those who came before us.’” [Florida Politics, [03/12/19](#)]

**State Sen. Douglas Broxson (R-1), Who Voted For SB 90 In Committee, Has Taken \$64,000 From HCA Management Services, FCCI Insurance Group, Walt Disney, And GEO Group.**

**State Sen. Broxson Has Accepted \$64,000 From HCA, FCCI Insurance, Walt Disney, And GEO Group.**

State Sen. Douglas Broxson Has Taken \$64,000 From HCA Management Services, FCCI Insurance Group, Walt Disney, And GEO Group.

**1 – Sen. Douglas Broxson (R) (\$997,400)**

- HCA Management Services (\$24,000)
- Southern Gardens Citrus Nursery (\$18,000)
- FCCI Insurance Group (\$18,000)
- Walt Disney (\$12,000)
- Geo Group (\$10,000)

[Public Citizen, [04/05/21](#)]

**State Sen. Broxson Voted For SB 90 In Committee.**

In A Senate Ethics And Elections Commission Vote, State Sen. Broxon Voted For SB 90. [Florida State Senate, Committee Vote Record, SB 90, Voted [02/16/21](#)]

**State Sen. Jennifer Bradley (R-5), Who Voted For SB 90 In Committee, Has Taken \$14,000 From HCA Management Services, GEO Group, And Walt Disney.**

**State Sen. Jennifer Bradley Has Accepted \$14,000 From HCA, GEO Group, And Walt Disney.**

State Sen. Jennifer Bradley Has Taken \$14,000 From HCA Management Services, Geo Group, And Walt Disney.

**3 – Sen. Jennifer Bradley (R) (\$302,950)**

- HCA Management Services (\$6,000)
- Geo Group (\$4,000)
- Real Property Probate & Trust Law (\$4,000)
- Walt Disney (\$4,000)
- Southern Gardens Citrus Nursery (\$3,000)

[Public Citizen, [04/05/21](#)]

**State Sen. Jennifer Bradley Voted For SB 90 In Committee.**

In A Senate Ethics And Elections Commission Vote, State Sen. Bradley Voted For SB 90. [Florida State Senate, Committee Vote Record, SB 90, Voted [02/16/21](#)]

## **State Sen. George Gainer (R-2), Who Voted For SB 90 In Committee, Has Taken \$11,000 From HCA And Walt Disney.**

State Sen. Georgia Gainer Has Taken \$11,000 From HCA Management Services And Walt Disney.

### **4 – Sen. George Gainer (R) (\$282,345)**

- HCA Management Services (\$6,000)
- Southern Gardens Citrus Nursery (\$6,000)
- Walt Disney (\$5,000)
- Gulf Power (\$3,000)
- AT&T (\$2,500)

[Public Citizen, [04/05/21](#)]

## **State Sen. George Gainer Voted For SB 90 In Committee.**

In A Senate Ethics And Elections Commission Vote, State Sen. Gainer Voted For SB 90. [Florida State Senate, Committee Vote Record, SB 90, Voted [02/16/21](#)]

## **In 2017, The Same Year That A Motorist Killed A Protester In A Hate Crime In Charlottesville, State Sen. George Gainer Introduced Legislation To Release Motorists From Liability If They Unintentionally Hit Or Even Kill Protesters And Demonstrators, Leading To Accusations Of Racism.**

August 2017: A Motorist In Charlottesville, Virginia Ran Into A Group Of Protesters Who Were Protesting A White Nationalist Rally, Killing One Person And Injuring “Dozens.” “[The driver who plowed his car](#) into a group of counterprotesters at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017, killing one and injuring dozens, was sentenced Friday to life in prison on federal hate crime charges. James Alex Fields Jr. [pleaded guilty to 29 of 30](#) hate crime charges in March in a plea deal to avoid the death penalty for murdering civil rights activist Heather Heyer and injuring more than 30 others when he intentionally mowed them down with his car on a one-way street on Aug. 12, 2017.” [NBC, [06/28/19](#)]

2017: State Sen. Gainer Introduced Legislation To “Release Drivers From Liability If They Unintentionally Injure Or Kill Protesters.” State Sen. Gainer A Panhandle senator called it ‘frankly lazy reporting’ to link one of his failed bills from the 2017 legislative session with the deadly clashes in Charlottesville [...] Gainer’s proposal would have released drivers from liability if they unintentionally injure or kill protesters or demonstrators who go into roads. The measure would also have made it a crime for people to obstruct traffic during protests or demonstrations if they failed to acquire permits. [NFW Daily News, [08/17/17](#)]

Critics Responded To Gainer’s Legislation By Accusing Gainer Of Being “Racist.” “Immediately the replies were cutting, calling him a ‘racist’ and charging that there was ‘blood on your hands.’ [NFW Daily News, [08/17/17](#)]

## **State Sen. Ileana Garcia (R-37), Who Has Taken \$3,000 From HCA, Voted For SB 90 In Committee And Claimed The Bill Would “Re-Engage Voter Confidence.”**

## **State Sen. Ileana Garcia Has Taken \$3,000 From HCA Management Services.**

State Sen. Garcia Has Taken \$3,000 From HCA Management Services.

**5 – Sen. Ileana Garcia (R) (\$62,475)**

- HCA Management Services (\$3,000)
- Sunshine Dade Investments (\$2,000)
- Ramba Consulting (\$2,000)
- KCB Restaurant Holdings (\$1,000)
- Securenet Solutions Group (\$1,000)

[Public Citizen, [04/05/21](#)]

**State Sen. Ileana Garcia, Who Voted For SB 90 In Committee And Called The Bill An Opportunity To “Re-Engage Voter Confidence,” Was Elected By A Margin Of 32 Votes After A Republican Illegally Funded A Third Party Candidate With The Same Last Name As Her Opponent.**

**Republican State Sen. Ileana Garcia Defeated Her Opponent José Javier Rodríguez By 32 Votes After Non-Party Affiliated Candidate Alex Rodriguez Garnered 6,400 Votes.** “Republican Sen. Ileana Garcia defeated former Sen. José Javier Rodríguez by just 32 votes of the nearly 216,000 votes cast. Non-party affiliated candidate Alex Rodriguez, who shares a last name with the former Democratic Senator, courted close to 6,400 votes.” [Florida Politics, [03/19/21](#)]

**An Investigation Revealed That Non-Party Affiliated Candidate Alex Rodriguez Was “Propped Up” By Republican Former Senator Frank Artiles, Who Was Charged For Illegally Funding Rodriguez.** “Florida Democrats want a new election in Senate District 37 after former GOP Sen. Frank Artiles was charged with illegally funding a third-party candidate to help Republicans win the seat in November [...] Investigators say Rodriguez, the third-party candidate, was propped up by money from Artiles. Both individuals are now facing charges, though the attorney for Rodriguez says he’s cooperating with authorities and was taken advantage of by Artiles. Florida Democratic Party (FDP) Chair Manny A. Diaz is calling for Garcia to resign her seat after the 2021 Legislative Session and face a Special Election to decide the race without any potential foul play.” [Florida Politics, [03/19/21](#)]

**In A Senate Ethics And Elections Commission Vote, State Sen. Garcia Voted For SB 90.** [Florida State Senate, Committee Vote Record, SB 90, Voted [02/16/21](#)]

**State Sen. Ileana Garcia Stated That SB 90 Was A “Wonderful Opportunity To Refresh” And “Re-Engage Voter Confidence.”** “‘I think this is a wonderful opportunity to refresh,’ said Sen. Ileana Garcia, a Miami Republican, who voted with Republican Sens. Doug Broxson, Jennifer Bradley and George Gainer in support of the bill. She won her election over former Sen. Jose Javier Rodriguez in a recount by 34 votes. ‘It’s a wonderful opportunity to reset, reengage voter confidence. If it’s working now, maybe it can work a little better.’ [Tampa Bay Times, [02/16/21](#)]

**Florida State Sen. Majority Leader Debbie Mayfield (R-17), Who Has Accepted \$35,000 From Walt Disney And HCA, Voted For SB 90 In Committee And Claimed That SB 90 Would Help Florida Mail-In Voters “Submit The Most Up To Date Information” With “Fewer Chances Of Fraud.”**

**Florida State Senate Majority Leader Debbie Mayfield Has Taken \$35,000 From Walt Disney And HCA Management Services.**

**State Sen. Debbie Mayfield Has Accepted \$35,000 From Walt Disney And HCA Management Services.**



State Sen. Deborah Mayfield's Top 5 Contributors	
Contributor	Amount
Deborah Mayfield	\$290,061
Walt Disney	\$24,000
Southern Gardens Citrus Nursery	\$17,000
HCA Management Services	\$11,000
AT&T	\$10,500

[National Institute on Money in Politics, accessed [04/12/21](#)]

### **State Sen. Mayfield Voted For SB 90 In Committee And Claimed SB 90 “Ensures Those Wishing To Vote-By-Mail Submit The Most Up To Date Information” With “Fewer Chances Of Fraud.”**

**In A Governmental Oversight And Accountability Committee Vote, State Sen. Mayfield Voted For SB 90.**

[Florida State Senate, Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee, voted [03/10/21](#)]

**State Senator Majority Leader Debbie Mayfield Claimed That SB 90 “Ensures Those Wishing To Vote-By-Mail In Florida Submit The Most Up To Date Information” With “Fewer Chances Of Fraud.”** “Florida leads the nation in election reforms because the Florida Legislature has taken a proactive approach to address any election issues. Senate Bill 90 ensures those wishing to vote-by-mail in Florida submit the most up to date information in a timely, secure fashion to allow for a fair election with fewer chances for fraud. It is critical that we safeguard against abuse and continue to maintain the integrity of our free and fair elections – a cornerstone of our nation’s democracy.” [First Coast News, [04/05/21](#)]

### **State Sen. Kelli Stargel (R-22), Who Has Accepted \$35,000 From Walt Disney And HCA, Voted For SB 90 In Committee.**

### **State Sen. Kelli Stargel Has Taken \$35,000 From Walt Disney And HCA Management Services.**

**State Sen. Stargel Has Taken \$35,000 From Walt Disney And HCA Management Services.**

State Sen. Kelli Stargel's Top Contributors	
Contributor	Amount
Florida Republican Senate Campaign Committee	\$290,061
Walt Disney	\$24,000
Southern Gardens Citrus Nursery	\$17,000
Florida Organization of Agents	\$11,000
Florida Chamber of Commerce	\$10,500
HCA Management Services	\$11,000

[National Institute on Money in Politics, accessed [04/12/21](#)]

### **State Sen. Kelli Stargel Voted For SB 90 In Committee.**

**In A Governmental Oversight And Accountability Committee Vote, State Sen. Stargel Voted For SB 90.**

[Florida State Senate, Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee, voted [03/10/21](#)]

**State Sen. And Florida Republican Party Chairman Joe Gruters (R-23), Who Has Accepted \$25,000 From Walt Disney And HCA Management Services, Voted For SB 90, Has Failed To Recognize President Biden's Win As Legitimate, And Serves As The Chair Of The RNC's "Voter Integrity" Committee.**

### **State Sen. Gruters Has Accepted \$25,000 From Walt Disney And HCA Management Services.**

**State Sen. Gruters Has Accepted \$25,000 From Walt Disney And HCA Management Services.**

State Sen. Joe Gruter's Top Contributors	
Contributor	Amount
Florida Republican Senate Campaign Committee	\$75,961
Walt Disney	\$17,000
Joe Gruters Campaign Committee	\$9,629
Southern Gardens Citrus Nursery	\$8,500
HCA Management Services	\$8,000

[National Institute on Money in Politics, accessed [04/12/21](#)]

### **State Sen. Gruters Voted For SB 90 In Committee.**

**In A Governmental Oversight And Accountability Committee Vote, State Sen. Gruters Voted For SB 90.**

[Florida State Senate, Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee, voted [03/10/21](#)]

### **State Sen. Gruters Is The Chair Of The Republican National Committee's "Election Integrity" Committee And Has Declined To Recognize President Biden's Win As Legitimate Despite No Evidence Of Widespread Voter Fraud.**

**State Sen. Gruters Chairs The Republican National Committee's "Election Integrity" Committee.** The Republican National Committee (RNC) on Wednesday announced that it is forming a new Committee on Election Integrity that will advocate for 'election transparency.' The RNC said the panel will be chaired by Florida Republican Party Chairman Joe Gruters and co-chaired by Ashley MacLeay, a national committeewoman from the District of Columbia. The committee overall will consist of 12 men and 12 women from 21 states and the District of Columbia." [The Hill, [02/17/21](#)]

**State Sen. Gruters "Declined To Characterize Mr. Biden's Victory As Legitimate" And Claimed "There Are A Lot Of People Who Have A Lot Of Questions About The 2020 Race."** "'No matter where I go as chairman of the Republican Party of Florida, it's basically the only thing everybody is talking about among the base,' Mr. Gruters said. Like nearly all of the Republicans involved in the party's voter integrity efforts, Mr. Gruters declined to characterize Mr. Biden's victory as legitimate, despite there being [no evidence of widespread fraud](#) and [multiple state audits](#) reaffirming the results. 'There are a lot of people who have a lot of questions about the 2020 race.'" [New York Times, [04/07/21](#)]

### **State Sen. Gruters Has Been Accused Of Racism For Posting A Sign Of "Faces Criminal Illegals Deported From Sarasota County" Outside Of His Office.**

**While Pushing For An "Anti-Sanctuary City" Bill Gruters Posted A Sign With The Title "Faces Of Criminal Illegals Deported From Sarasota County" Outside Of His Office, Prompting Accusations Of Racism.** "Florida Republican Party chair and Sarasota State Sen. Joe Gruters, a man who looks like a racist

groundhog, sure hates him some immigrants. He's currently pushing SB 168, an anti-'sanctuary' bill that forces Florida towns to cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, even though every town in Florida *already does this* [...]He has a hideously racist sign outside his office that purports to show the 'Faces of Criminal Illegals Deported from Sarasota County.' According to a video posted online yesterday by activist Thomas Kennedy, Gruters apparently saw no issue with keeping this abominable sign up while a child begged him not to pass a bill that would hurt his family." [Miami New Times, [04/04/19](#)]

### A Video Posted On Twitter Pictured A Seven Year Old Child Sharing His Story With Gruters In Front Of Gruters' "Faces Of Illegal Aliens" Sign.



**State Rep. Blaise Ingoglia (R-35), Who Has Accepted \$30,500 From HCA And Walt Disney, Is The Main Sponsor Of HB 7041 And Led The Failed Effort To Ban Handing Out Water And Food To Voters Waiting In Line At Florida Polls.**

### State Rep. Blaise Ingoglia Has Accepted \$30,500 From HCA Management Services And Walt Disney.

State Rep. Blaise Ingoglia Has Accepted \$30,500 From HCA Management Services And Walt Disney.

State Rep. Blaise Ingoglia's Top Contributors	
Contributor	Amount
Florida Republican Party	\$127,782
HCA Management Services	\$16,000
Walt Disney	\$14,500
Southern Gardens Citrus Nursery	\$12,500

Blaise Ingoglia	\$8,997
-----------------	---------

[National Institute on Money in Politics, accessed [04/12/21](#)]

## **State Rep. Blaise Ingoglia Is The Main Sponsor Of HB 7041, Having Led The Failed Effort To Ban Handing Out Water To Florida Voters In Line At The Polls.**

**State Rep Blaise Ingoglia Is The Main Sponsor Of HB 7041.** [Legiscan, Florida State Legislature, House Bill 7041, accessed [04/12/21](#)]

**The Original Version Of HB 7041 Which Ingoglia Introduced Sought To Ban Handing Out Water And Food To Voters In Line At The Polls.** “State Rep. Blaise Ingoglia of Spring Hill filed [House Bill 7041](#) last week that, among other provisions, would require solicitors to stay 150 feet away from voters waiting to cast their ballots, amending the current law requiring a 50-foot setback.” [Patch.com, [03/31/21](#)]

**Ingoglia Defended His Provision Banning Handing Out Water, Claiming It Was “Meant To Stop People From Bothering Voters Waiting In Line.”** “When asked the question (in a committee hearing): ‘Does this mean giving out food or water?’ I answered, ‘Yes – that would be solicitation,’ Ingoglia said. ‘Suddenly, that’s the headline.’ He said the real headline should be: ‘Florida Republicans Protect Voters In Line To Vote From Unwanted Solicitation.’ ‘There is nothing preventing people from handing out water or food beyond the 150-foot boundary. It’s a no-solicitation provision meant to stop people from bothering voters waiting in line.’ [Patch.com, [03/31/21](#)]