

## Conservative Megadonors, Including Former Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, Funneled Nearly \$1.4 Million To The Claremont Institute In 2020, A Group Closely Tied To Efforts To Overturn The 2020 Election And The Capitol Riot

### SUMMARY:

The Claremont Institute, a controversial right-wing think tank, recently gained infamy for the role of its leadership in promoting the “Stop The Steal” campaign. John Eastman, a member of Claremont’s Board of [Directors](#) and a [Senior Fellow](#), presented a [six point plan](#) to overturn the election to the Trump administration on [January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021](#). Eastman then spoke at the [January 6<sup>th</sup> rally](#) preceding the Capitol Riot, claiming that the election was stolen from Donald Trump. Despite his close involvement in Trump’s efforts to overturn the election, Claremont has [stood behind](#) Eastman even as he [became a pariah in most circles](#).

Claremont’s ties to the insurrection go deeper than Eastman— Claremont Senior Fellow Michael Anton helped promote the “stop the steal” campaign in an [article titled](#) “Game on for the Coup.” Additionally, Charlie Kirk, leader of Turning Point USA Action, a [key planner](#) of the [January 6<sup>th</sup> rally](#), was named a 2021 Claremont Fellow.

While Claremont’s leadership was [busy attempting](#) to undermine American Democracy, it received **\$1.38 Million** in funding from notable conservative megadonors:

- **The Dick And Betsy DeVos Family Foundation, \$640,000:** The [charitable foundation](#) of former Trump Administration [Education Secretary](#) Betsy DeVos was a major funder of Claremont In 2020. While DeVos [notably stepped](#) down from the Trump Administration after the Capitol Riot, the Foundation’s 2020 990s show that she was funding insurrection supporters while serving as Education Secretary.
- **Sarah Scaife Foundation, \$450,000:** The Pennsylvania based [conservative nonprofit](#) known for its prolific funding of the right gave Claremont \$450,000 in 2020.
- **Donors Trust + Donors Capital Fund, \$196,500:** Conservative slush funds, Donors Trust and Donors Capital Fund, which have been called the “[dark money ATM of the right](#),” gave Claremont \$196,500 in 2020.
- **The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, \$100,000:** The [charitable foundation](#) of the conservative Bradley family gave Claremont \$100,000 in 2020. The Wisconsin based right-wing group was a prominent financier and player in efforts to [overturn the election and pass voter suppression legislation in its wake](#). Cleta Mitchell, a Bradley Foundation board member, [was a participant](#) in Trump’s infamous [phone call](#) where he demanded Georgia election officials “find” enough votes for him to win the state.
- **Charles Koch Foundation, \$1,692:** The foundation of [infamous billionaire and right-wing megadonor](#) Charles Koch also gave Claremont a donation in 2020.

**2020: Conservative Megadonors Gave The Claremont Institute \$1.38 Million.**

**In 2020, The Dick And Betsy DeVos Family Foundation Gave The Claremont Institute Grants Totaling \$6400,000.**

**The Dick And Betsy DeVos Family Foundation Gave The Claremont Institute Two Grants Totaling \$6400,000 Grant In 2020.**

CLAREMONT INST FOR THE STUDY OF STATESMANSHIP & POLIT PHILOSOPHY 1317 W. FOOTHILL BLVS UPLAND, CA 91786	NONE	PC	UNRESTRICTED GRANT TO GENERAL FUND	400,000.
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[Dick And Betsy DeVos Foundation IRS Form 990, Page 12, 2020]

CLAREMONT INST FOR THE STUDY OF STATESMANSHIP & POLIT PHILOSOPHY 1317 W. FOOTHILL BLVD. SUITE 120 UPLAND, CA 91786	NONE	PC	UNRESTRICTED GRANT TO GENERAL FUND	240,000.
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[Dick And Betsy DeVos Foundation IRS Form 990, Page 16, 2020]

**The Sarah Scaife Foundation Gave The Claremont Institute \$450,000 In 2020.**

**Formerly Called The Allegheny Foundation, The Sarah Scaife Foundation Is A Right-Wing Donor Group Founded By The Late Richard Mellon Scaife.** “Long overshadowed by founder Richard Mellon Scaife’s national, ideological philanthropy, the 60-year-old Allegheny Foundation had \$67.2 million in assets, and made \$2.1 million in mostly local grants in the year before his death. Based Downtown and considered a minor player in Pittsburgh charity, it would annually give to some three dozen human services, arts, educational, preservationist and conservative groups.” [Post-Gazette, [1/15/17](#)]

**The Sarah Scaife Foundation Gave The Claremont Institute \$450,000 In 2020.**

CLAREMONT INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF STATESMANSHIP & POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY 1317 W. FOOTHILL BLVD., SUITE 120 UPLAND, CA 91786	NONE	PC	GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT	450,000.
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[Sarah Scaife Foundation IRS Form 990, Page 20, 2020]

**Conservative Slush Funds Donors Trust And Donors Capital Fund Gave The Claremont Institute \$196,500 In 2020.**

**Donors Trust And Its Associated Foundation, Donors Capital Trust, Have Been Called The “Dark Money ATM Of The Right.”** “Yet unlike its nearest counterpart on the progressive side, the Tides Foundation, a bogeyman of Glenn Beck and Bill O’Reilly, Donors Trust has mostly avoided any real scrutiny. It is the dark-money ATM of the right. Founded in 1999, Donors Trust (and an affiliated group, Donors Capital Fund) has raised north of \$500 million and doled out \$400 million to more than 1,000 conservative and libertarian groups, according to Whitney Ball, the group’s CEO.” [Mother Jones, [2/05/13](#)]

**Donors Trust Is Notable For its Close Connection To The Koch Brothers.** “That’s the news in the latest IRS filing from Donors Trust—a conservative, Koch-aligned nonprofit which does not need to reveal the names of its donors and has been called the ‘dark money ATM of the right.’” [Daily Beast, [11/22/21](#)]

**Donors Trust Gave The Claremont Institute \$156,500 In 2020.**

Claremont Institute 1317 West Foothill Boulevard Suite Upland, CA 91786	95-3443202	501(c)(3)	156,500.	0.	N/A	N/A	for general operations
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[Donors Trust IRS Form 990 Year 2020, Page 36]

**Donors Capital Fund The Claremont Institute \$40,000 In 2020.**

Claremont Institute	95-3443202	7		X	40,000.	0.
Campus Crusade For Christ Inc.	95-6006173	7		X	3,000.	0.

[Donors Capital Fund IRS Form 990 Year 2020, Page 21]

**The Lynde And Harry Bradley Foundation Gave The Claremont Institute \$100,000 In 2020.**

**The Lynde And Harry Bradley Foundation Is A Right-Wing Group That Has Used Its Financial Resources To Support Efforts To Overturn The 2020 Election And Pass Voter Suppression Laws Nationwide.** “New Yorker writer Jane Mayer, the author of the book Dark Money, has once again done great reporting to show how Milwaukee’s Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation is perhaps the biggest funder of groups trying to undermine America’s elections by spreading the Big Lie that President Joe Biden wasn’t legally elected. [...] Mayer calculates that since 2012 the \$850 million foundation has spent some \$18 million on groups tied to voter suppression legislation, and most recently on stoking false fears of a stolen election. It has been a generous funder of a list of groups working to promote the Big Lie” [Urban Milwaukee, [8/03/21](#)]

**One Of The Bradley Foundation’s Board Members, Clela Mitchell, Participated In Trump’s Infamous Phone Call To The Georgia Secretary Of State Where He Demanded The Official To “Find” Enough Votes For Him To Win The State.** “Mitchell, a longtime Washington D.C. lawyer, worked with President Donald Trump to argue that he won the 2020 election and participated in the infamous phone call to the Georgia Secretary of State where Trump pushed the official to “find” enough voters to overturn Biden’s win in that state.” [Urban Milwaukee, [8/03/21](#)]

**The Lynde And Harry Bradley Foundation Gave The Claremont Institute \$100,000 In 2020.**

RALEIGH, NC, 27609 CLAREMONT INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF STATESMANSHIP AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY 1317 WEST FOOTHILL BOULEVARD, SUITE 120 UPLAND, CA, 91786		PC		TO SUPPORT GENERAL OPERATIONS	100,000
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[The Lynde And Harry Bradley Foundation IRS Form 990, Page 412]

**The Charles Koch Foundation Gave The Claremont Institute \$1,692 In 2020.**

## The Charles Koch Foundation Gave The Claremont Institute \$1,692 In 2020.

THE CLAREMONT INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF STATESMAN NONE  
1317 W FOOTHILL BLVD, SUITE 120 PC  
UPLAND, CA 91786

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

1,692.

[Charles Koch Foundation IRS Form 990 Year 2020, Page 52]

**The Claremont Institute's Leaders And Fellows Were Closely Tied To Efforts To Overturn The Election And The Capitol Riot, Notably Through Its Board Member John Eastman—Who Presented The Trump Administration With A Six Point Plan To Overturn The Election On January 4<sup>th</sup> 2021.**

**The Claremont Institute's Senior Fellow And Board Member John Eastman Presented Trump And Pence With A Six Point Plan To Overturn The Election On January 4<sup>th</sup> 2021, Appeared At The January 6<sup>th</sup> Rally To Claim The Election Was Stolen, And Developed Racist Conspiracy Theories About Kamala Harris.**

**John Eastman Is A Senior Fellow At The Claremont Institute.** [Claremont Institute, [Accessed 12/09/21](#)]

**Eastman Is Also A Board Member At The Claremont Institute.** “But one place where he is still welcome is the Claremont Institute. Eastman is a senior fellow at the four-decade-old conservative think tank; a member of its board of directors; and the founding director of its Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence, a shingle under which he sporadically files lawsuits and amicus briefs.” [The Bulwark, [7/13/21](#)]

**On January 4, 2021, Eastman Met With Trump And Pence To Propose A Six Step Plan To Overturn The 2020 Election.** “An attorney who worked with former President Trump's legal team tried to convince then-Vice President Mike Pence that he could overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election and provided him with a six-step plan, according to a new book from journalists Bob Woodward and Robert Costa. CNN, citing a memo initially obtained by the book's authors, reported that attorney John Eastman first proposed the plan to Pence on Jan. 4 in the Oval Office with Trump. The memo called for throwing out the election results in seven states under the false claim that those states had used alternate electors.” [The Hill, [9/21/21](#)]

**Eastman Appeared At The Rally Preceding The Capitol Riot On January 6<sup>th</sup> To Claim That Election Officials Stole The 2020 Election From Trump.** “In the days before the Jan. 6 insurrection, Eastman was an influential advisor to Trump as the outgoing president schemed to hold onto power; on the day of the Capitol riot, Eastman appeared at the rally with Trump, where he accused election officials of stealing the election.” [MSNBC, [10/17/21](#)]

**After Eastman's Actions Around The 2020 Election, He Became A Pariah In Most Circles—But Claremont Has Firmly Stood Behind Him.** “But even as Eastman has become a legal pariah, Claremont remains solidly behind him. Just last week, the institute put out a widely derided statement denying that Eastman had actually urged Pence to overturn the election (even though his memo clearly did just that.)” [MSNBC, [10/17/21](#)]

**Eastman Came Under Fire In 2020 For Writing A Newsweek Column That Promoted The Racist Conspiracy That Kamala Harris Was Not Eligible To Serve As President Of The US As The Child Of Immigrants.** “For support, he alluded to a Newsweek opinion column written by John Eastman, whom the president described as ‘very highly qualified.’ [...] Eastman's

Newsweek article rehashes an argument he has made for years: that American-born children of immigrants only acquire birthright citizenship if their parents were lawful permanent residents at the time of birth. According to Eastman, the children of immigrants who entered the U.S. without authorization, or on a temporary permit, are not American citizens.” [Slate, [8/14/20](#)]

### **Claremont Institute Senior Fellow Michael Anton, Promoted The “Stop The Steal” Campaign**

*Claremont Senior Fellow Michael Anton Helped Promote The “Stop The Steal” Campaign.*

**Claremont Senior Fellow Michael Anton Helped Promote The “Stop The Steal” Campaign.** “Now a Claremont senior fellow and a lecturer at Hillsdale’s Kirby Center in Washington, D.C., Anton helped to propagate Trump’s ‘stop the steal” campaign last year” [The Bulwark, [7/13/21](#)]

**On November 4th, 2020, Anton Wrote A Piece Promoting The “Stop The Steal” Campaign Calling For Court Challenges, Rallies, And Grassroots Campaigns To Ensure Trump Won The 2020 Election Because He Felt It Impossible That Biden Won Legitimately.**

“the American Mind published a new Anton piece, entitled “Game on for the Coup.” Anton admits in this article that he isn’t sure what is really going on—“The thing could (but will never) be proved”—but he’s confident enough to lay out a game plan that he calls “Stop the Steal,” reusing a name that Roger Stone gave to his shady pro-Trump group in 2016. Against the Biden coup, Anton, borrowing from an article at Revolver.News (a new right-wing info site), recommends that Trumpists organize court challenges, rallies, disputes about electors, and a massive grassroots campaign in support of the president. By this point, Anton found the idea of a legitimate Biden victory implausible, partly because no one could possibly believe Biden could win” [The Bulwark, [7/13/21](#)]

### **The Claremont Institute Has Also Been Affiliated With People Who Promoted “Stop The Steal” And Were Involved In January 6<sup>th</sup>.**

*Charlie Kirk, Whose Group Turning Point USA Helped Organize The Rally That Preceded The Capitol Riot, Was Named A 2021 Claremont Institute Lincoln Fellow*

**Charlie Kirk, The Head Of Turning Point USA, Was Named A 2021 Claremont Institute Lincoln Fellow.** “Charlie Kirk is the founder and president of Turning Point USA, the largest and fastest growing conservative youth activist organization in the country with over 250,000 student members, over 450 full and part-time staff, and a presence on over 2,000 high school and college campuses nationwide.” [Claremont Institute, [Accessed 12/09/21](#)]

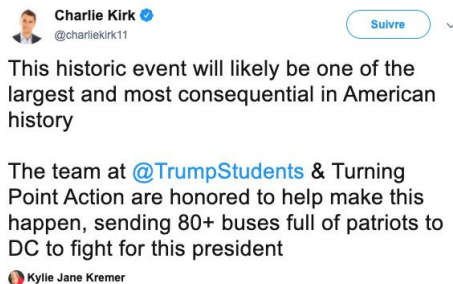
**Turning Point Action, An Arm Of Turning Point USA Led By Kirk, Was Listed As An Organizer Of January 6th’s Washington DC Rally Which Led To The Capitol Riot.** “Charlie Kirk, a firebrand conservative activist and staunch supporter of President Donald Trump, is preparing to unveil a nonprofit that will allow his organization to campaign against Democrats during the 2020 election season. CNBC discovered Kirk’s new organization, called Turning Point Action, after reviewing an embedded donor link that shows the soon-to-be-finalized group targeting Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn.” [CNBC, [5/20/19](#)]



[Documented, [1/11/21](#)]

**Turning Point USA Is A Conservative Group Which Seeks To Organize College Aged Conservatives.** “In 2012, Kirk founded Turning Point USA, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit grassroots organization that encourages conservative college students to rally for causes such as free market policies. The Internal Revenue Service prohibits 501(c)(3)s to participate, either directly or indirectly, in political campaigns.” [CNBC, [5/20/19](#)]

**Turning Point USA And Turning Point Action Founder Charlie Kirk Proudly Promoted The More Than 80 Buses They Organized To Bring Supporters To The Rally.**



17:43 - 4 Janv. 2021

[Twitter Archive, [1/04/21](#)]

*Jack Posobiec, Who Has Collaborated With Neo-Nazis, Promoted “Pizzagate” And Stop The Steal, Was A 2019 Claremont Institute Lincoln Fellow*

**Jack Posobiec Was A 2019 Claremont Institute Lincoln Fellow.** “An indication of where things stand today: In 2019, Claremont welcomed as a Lincoln Fellow the conspiracist and ‘king of fake news’ Jack Michael Posobiec III.” [The Bulwark, [7/13/21](#)]

**Posobiec Is A MAGA Promoter And Neo-Nazi Collaborator Who Participated In Stop The Steal Events.** “It was the second day of the “Stop the Steal” demonstrations in Harrisburg, all organized by far-right operative and influencer Scott Presler, who does not live in Pennsylvania. Presler, who used to work for the anti-Muslim hate group Act for America, directed the 60 or so die-hard Trump supporters in a series of chants — ‘Audit the vote!’— and had them pose for group photos [...] A short time later, the crowd stood silently behind Presler as he raised his phone and appeared to conduct a video interview with Jack Posobiec, the neo-Nazi collaborator and prominent MAGA propagandist. ‘Awesome, thank you One America News,’ Presler said at the end of the interview, referring to the far-right network for which Posobiec works. [[HuffPost](#), 11/06/20]

**Posobiec Has Collaborated And Promoted The Work Of Neo-Fascists, Pro-Hitler Commentators, White Nationalists, And Anti-Semites That Has Benefitted The Trumpsphere’s Rise To Power.** “Far-right commentator Jack Posobiec is a current host on One America News Network (OANN), an information network widely known to distort facts and which has been embraced by President Trump. This investigation has found that Posobiec — a Trump favorite — has collaborated with white supremacists, neo-fascists and antisemites for years, while producing propaganda that Trump and his inner circle have publicly celebrated.” [Souther Poverty Law Center, [Accessed 7/01/21](#)]

**Posobiec Was One Of The Most Prominent Promoters Of Pizzagate, A Qanon Predecessor That Alleged That Hillary Clinton Was Running A Child Sex Dungeon Out Of A DC Pizza Shop.** “This isn’t the first time Posobiec, a former naval intelligence officer, has played a lead role in promoting hoaxes. He was one of the most prominent promoters of the Pizzagate conspiracy theory, that held that the Washington D.C. pizzeria Comet Ping Pong was really a front for a child sex dungeon run by Hillary Clinton. He even went to the restaurant to find out ‘what’s really going on’ there.” [Daily Beast, 6/03/20]

### **The Claremont Institute Has Affiliated With And Supported Those Connected To White Supremacists And Extremist Groups.**

**The Claremont Institute Provided Cover And Supported With Darren Beattie, A Trump Speechwriter Who Was Fired After It Was Revealed He Spoke At A Conference Alongside White Supremacists.** “First off, the Claremont Institute has knowingly provided cover to, and made common cause with, an alleged white supremacist named Darren J. Beattie. [...] He was a speechwriter in the Trump White House but was fired in August 2018 for having spoken at a conference in 2016 alongside white supremacists. This caused a stir at the Claremont Institute, since, according to reporting at the time, Beattie appealed to the organization’s listserv for help [...] he American Mind nevertheless published an article by Beattie in January 2019. More recently, Beattie founded the website Revolver. News, which, as we have seen, influenced Anton.” [The Bulwark, [7/13/21](#)]

- **During The Capitol Riot, Beattie Sent Out A Stream Of Tweets Directed At Black Conservatives Leaders Telling Them They Now Had To "Learn Their Place" And 'Take A Knee To MAGA.'** “Beattie is a former White House staffer who had been fired for consorting with white supremacists. As the attack on the Capitol unfolded on Jan. 6, Beattie sent out a stream of tweets directed at various African Americans — including Sen. Tim Scott, S.C., and Kay Cole James, the president of the conservative Heritage Foundation — telling them they now had to ‘learn their place’ and ‘take a knee to MAGA.’” [MSNBC, [10/17/21](#)]

**The Claremont Institute Named Eight Sheriffs As “Fellows” In 2021, Six Of Whom Were Tied To An Anti-Government Extremist Group.** “The coursework, Claremont says, is fairly anodyne—lectures on Locke, the Federalist Papers, and English legal history—but the Institute’s choice of students is far more radical. Of the eight fellows announced this week, six have some affiliation with the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (CSPOA), an organization labeled as an anti-government extremist group by the Anti-Defamation League and the Southern Poverty Law Center for its endorsement of the idea that sheriffs can pick and choose which laws to enforce based on their own personal beliefs about what the Constitution allows.” [The Daily Beast, [11/22/21](#)]

**The Group, Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, Tells Its Members To Only Enforce Laws And Some Of Claremont’s Fellows Vowed Not To Enforce Pandemic Restrictions, Vaccine Mandates, And Gun Laws.** “In that spirit, members of Claremont’s first crop of sheriff fellows have vowed not to enforce pandemic restrictions, vaccine mandates, gun laws, and basically any laws they disagree with. For far-right groups like the Claremont Institute, those efforts to sidestep the rule of law and the will of democratically elected governments are a feature, not a bug.” [The Daily Beast, [11/22/21](#)]

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