



# Gina Raimondo's corruption

## Top-line numbers

Gina Raimondo approved more than **\$150 million in corporate handouts** to companies that gave her **more than \$400,000** in contributions

Backed by more than **\$3 million in dark money**

Bank-rolled by dirty industry and far-right donors

- Fossil fuel: nearly **\$500,000**
- Tobacco: more than **\$45,000**
- Opioid manufacturer: at least **\$7,000**
- Far-right conservatives: at least **\$20,000**

*Sources included below.*

## Detail

Approved more than **\$150 million in corporate handouts**<sup>1</sup> to companies that gave her **more than \$400,000**<sup>2</sup> in contributions

Under Governor Raimondo, there's an unwritten rule: if you want a government subsidy or tax incentive, you have to donate to her.

While Raimondo was Board Chair of the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, which decides what projects in Rhode Island will get tax giveaways from the state, Raimondo oversaw:

- More than \$27 million for seven Tax Increment Financing projects,<sup>3</sup> all of which are led by donors to Raimondo's 2018 gubernatorial campaign. In total, executives

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<sup>1</sup> Qualified Jobs: [Providence Journal](#), 11/27/17

Rebuild Rhode Island Tax Credits: [RI Commerce Corporation](#).

Tax Increment Financing Recipients: [RI Commerce Corporation](#).

<sup>2</sup> Contribution data publicly available on the [Campaign Finance Electronic Reporting & Tracking System](#) (ERTS).

See appendix for more detail.

<sup>3</sup> See appendix for more detail.



associated with the projects contributed more than \$130,000 in donations, often just days before or after winning the tax break.<sup>4</sup>

- Roughly \$130 million<sup>5</sup> in offered Qualified Jobs Incentive Tax Credits and Rebuild Rhode Island Tax Credits, receiving more than \$300,000<sup>6</sup> in donations from executives associated with the same companies.

Raimondo also received more than \$150,000 from Invenergy and firms representing Invenergy, which would explain why she's supporting the proposed fracked gas plant in Burrillville<sup>7</sup>

In total, Raimondo has received at least \$650,000 in pay-to-play contributions based on what has been documented in this report.

## Backed by more than **\$3 million in dark money**

Raimondo's political career has been bankrolled by special interests trying to buy elections and curry favor in the state house, including:

- Stacy Schusterman, CEO of offshore drilling giant Samson Energy Company and charter school backer, who used a Super PAC to [funnel \\$250,000 into ads](#) supporting Governor Raimondo's reelection campaign. In all, Schusterman and her family have given at least \$311,000<sup>8</sup> to Governor Raimondo and her PAC.
- American LeadHERship, a pro-Raimondo super PAC funded with \$647,993,<sup>9</sup> in large part by John Arnold, hedge fund billionaire and former Enron executive.
- Alliance For A Better Rhode Island, a pro-Gina PAC, which has spent or will spend at least \$2,310,690.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Contributors associated with two projects (D'Ambra Hotel and Hotel Belvedere) gave to the Raimondo campaign within one to three days immediately following the RI Commerce Board decision to provide the incentive to their projects.

<sup>5</sup> Qualified Jobs: [Providence Journal](#), 11/ 27/17, Rebuild Rhode Island Tax Credits: [RI Commerce Corporation](#).

<sup>6</sup> See appendix.

<sup>7</sup> See appendix.

<sup>8</sup> Schusterman first began giving to Raimondo in 2013, and in 2014 [gave \\$50,000 to a pro-Raimondo super PAC](#). Stacy Schusterman and her family have [given at least \\$11,000 to Gina Raimondo or her PAC since 2013](#).

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00546598/?cycle=2014>

<sup>10</sup> Alliance For A Better Rhode Island spent [nearly \\$900,000 in 2014](#) and received a [\\$1 million contribution](#) in support of Raimondo this July#. WomenFirst, another PAC, gave [nearly \\$350,000](#) to Alliance For A Better Rhode Island last week.



This doesn't even include support from John Arnold of then-Treasurer Raimondo's pension reform. Arnold spent up to \$500,000<sup>11</sup> to fund Raimondo's pension slashing efforts via EngageRI, which funded the effort with more than \$1 million. EngageRI refused to reveal its donors.

Bank-rolled by **nearly \$600,000** from the fossil fuel, tobacco, and opioid industries, and from far-right donors

Raimondo has never met a donation she didn't like. She takes money from the worst actors in politics, from tobacco and NRA lobbyists, to opioid makers and anti-LGBTQ zealots.

Fossil fuel industry: nearly **\$500,000**<sup>12</sup>

Raimondo has received nearly \$500,000 in campaign contributions from fossil fuel companies or lobbyists representing fossil fuel companies.

It has been widely reported that Invenergy's Chicago-based chief executive Michael Polsky has given \$2,000 to Raimondo's re-election campaign since announcing the planned fracked gas plant. But Invenergy's lobbyists and law firm have given far more.

Adler Pollock & Sheehan, a law firm representing Invenergy,<sup>13</sup> gave Raimondo \$98,785<sup>14</sup> since the company proposed the fracked gas plant. Invenergy's outside law firm, Nixon Peabody,<sup>15</sup> gave \$50,573 to Raimondo's re-election campaign. In all Invenergy's executives, lawyers and lobbyists have given the Governor more than \$150,000 while the state considered whether to permit the company to build the plant.

Then there's the \$311,000 to Governor Raimondo and her PAC from Stacy Schusterman, CEO of Samson Energy (see above).

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<sup>11</sup> [RIPR](#), 12/12/12

<sup>12</sup> [Campaign Finance Electronic Reporting & Tracking System](#) and see Appendix.

<sup>13</sup> [RI Future](#), 9/16/17

<sup>14</sup> [RI SoS Lobby Tracker](#).

<sup>15</sup> [RI SoS Lobby Tracker](#).



Tobacco industry: more than **\$45,000**<sup>16</sup>

Over Raimondo's political career, firms registered to lobby in Rhode Island on behalf of the tobacco industry have given her \$45,000.<sup>17</sup>

Opioid industry: at least **\$7,000**

Jonathan Sackler of the billionaire Sackler family that created Oxycontin and fueled the opioid crisis has donated \$7,000 to Raimondo and her PAC.

Meanwhile, Rhode Island has been overwhelmed by the opioid crisis. It is in the top 10 states in the country for opioid deaths<sup>18</sup>.

Far-right conservatives: at least **\$22,000**

Board members of the Manhattan Institute, a conservative, Koch-funded think tank that advocates for anti-union policy and slashing pensions for public workers, have donated more than **\$20,000** to Gina Raimondo.

The donors from the institute have also given to anti-LGBTQ groups; funded Islamophobic think tanks that have helped shape Donald Trump's anti-Muslim policies; and have penned editorials denying climate change.<sup>19</sup>

Raimondo has also taken at least **\$2,350 from NRA lobbyist** William Murphy of the 2nd Amendment Coalition.

Unless otherwise noted, data accessed from the [RI SoS lobby tracking website](#) and the RI [Board of Elections candidate contributions website](#).

Received more than **\$300,000** from employees of lobbying firms registered to lobby in Rhode Island

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<sup>16</sup> [Campaign Finance Electronic Reporting & Tracking System](#)

<sup>17</sup> See Appendix for more information

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-summaries-by-state/rhode-island-opioid-summary>

<sup>19</sup> See appendix for more information.



Governor Raimondo has taken more than \$300,000 from employees of lobbying firms registered in Rhode Island, and more than \$400,000 from employees of the companies that most often hire those lobbyists.<sup>20</sup>

Unless otherwise noted, data accessed from the [RI SoS lobby tracking website](#) and the RI [Board of Elections candidate contributions website](#).

- Adler Pollock & Sheehan (\$98785)
- Nixon Peabody LLP (\$50573)
- Pannone Lopes Devereaux & O’Gara LLP (\$41550)
- Locke Lord LLP (\$30555)
- Advocacy Solutions (\$16000)
- F/S Capitol Consulting, LLC (\$12450)
- Mayforth Group (\$8100)
- Ernst & Young LLP (\$7250)
- Government Strategies, Inc (\$6325)
- The Bradford Group (\$5250)

The top 25 lobbying entities by name registered in 2018 whose employees have contributed the highest amounts to Raimondo are

1. Brown University (\$49712)
2. AECOM (\$21600)
3. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island (\$18375)
4. IGT and its affiliates (\$16260)
5. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. (\$16149)
6. National Grid (\$16035)
7. Pfizer Inc (\$15600)
8. McLaughlin & Moran, Inc. (\$12800)

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<sup>20</sup> Contribution data publicly available on the [Campaign Finance Electronic Reporting & Tracking System \(ERTS\)](#).



9. United Healthcare Services, Inc. (\$11795)
10. Care New England (\$10000)
11. Green LLC (\$10000)
12. Decotis Specialty Insurance (\$8125)
13. Bank of American Corporation (\$7975)
14. Verizon (\$7825)
15. Amica Insurance (\$7025)
16. Purdue Pharma (\$7000)
17. Electric Boat (\$5775)
18. Twin River Management Group, Inc. (\$5300)
19. Providence Performing Arts Center (\$5250)
20. City of Providence (\$5205)
21. Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC (\$5075)
22. Southcoast Hospital Group Inc (\$5075)
23. J.R. Vinagro Corp. (\$5000)
24. Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (\$4575)
25. University of Rhode Island (\$4545)

## Appendix

“Gave her **nearly \$500,000**<sup>21</sup> in contributions”

The following chart reflects the “nearly \$500,000” in contributions from corporate donors awarded or offered giveaways from the RI Commerce Corporation while Gina Raimondo was Chair, according to the [Campaign Finance Electronic Reporting & Tracking System](#) (ERTS).

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<sup>21</sup> [Campaign Finance Electronic Reporting & Tracking System](#) and see Appendix..



<b>Corporation or Lobbyist</b>	<b>Donation</b>
Advertising Ventures	\$10,250.00
General Dynamics	\$12,325.00
CVS PAC	\$8,000.00
CVS	\$47,185.00
Citizens Bank	\$38,740.00
American Wire	\$7,000.00
Nixon Peabody (Represents CVS)	\$50,573.00
Alderson Pollock (Represents General Dynamic)	\$98,785.00
Locke Lord LLP (Represents CVS)	\$30,555.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$300,000+</b>

The following chart reflects the “more than \$27.3 million for seven Tax Increment Financing projects” and corresponding donations amounting to more than \$130,000.

<b>Project Recipient</b>	<b>Corporate recipient</b>	<b>Incentive value</b>	<b>Contribution total to GR</b>
Residence Inn	TPG 100 Sabin Hotel, LLC	Up to \$7.4M	\$44,850.00
D'Ambra Hotel	D'Ambra Construction	Up to \$5.3M	\$7,200.00
Hotel Beatrice	30 Kennedy Partners, LLC	Up to \$4.25M	\$21,750.00
Hammetts Wharf	Hammetts Wharf LLC	Up to \$3.5M	\$7,399.00
Exchange Street Hotel	Joint venture between First Bristol Corporation and Parcel Twelve Partners, LLC	Up to \$3.0M	\$43,450.00
South Kingstown Hotel	Southern Rhode Island Hospitality, LLC	Up to \$1.8M	\$3,000.00
Bristol Belvedere	SAT Development, LLC	Up to \$1.76M	\$12,000



<b>Total</b>		<b>\$27 million</b>	<b>\$130,000+</b>
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Sources:

- Contributions: [Campaign Finance Electronic Reporting & Tracking System](#) (ERTS)
- Tax Increment Financing Recipients: [Commerce Corporation](#).

Fossil fuel funding: nearly \$500,000

The following chart is a breakdown of known contributions to Gina Raimondo associated with the fossil fuel industry:

<b>Company</b>	<b>Contribution total to GR</b>
Invenergy (including firms representing Invenergy)	\$151,358
Loews	\$16,000
Douglas Oil	\$2,100
Hungarian Horizon Energy	\$2,000
Energy Management	\$1,800
Stacy Schusterman and Family	\$311,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$484,258</b>

Source: [Campaign Finance Electronic Reporting & Tracking System](#) (ERTS)

Tobacco industry: more than \$45,000 in contributions





- Pannone, Lopes Devereaux and O’Gara LLC employees have given \$42,350 in contributions to Gina Raimondo. Pannone receives \$17,499/month from Altria Client Services, the parent company of Philip Morris, and its affiliates in 2018.
- Leonard Lopes (The Victor Group) has given \$3500. The Victor Group receives \$5000/month from Altria Client Services and its affiliates in 2018.

Sources:

- Contributions: [Campaign Finance Electronic Reporting & Tracking System](#) (ERTS)
- Lobbying: RI [Secretary of State Lobby Tracker](#)

### Opioid industry: at least \$7,000

The following donations were made by Jonathan Sackler of the billionaire Sackler family that created Oxycontin and fueled the opioid crisis.

Recipient	Donor	Organization	Receipt date	Amount
GINA PAC (FRMLY HOPE NOW PAC)	Sackler, Jonathan	Purdue Pharma	03/20/2013	\$1,000.00
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Sackler, Jonathan	Purdue Pharma	12/31/2009	\$1,000.00
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Sackler, Jonathan	Purdue Pharma	12/08/2015	\$1,000.00
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Sackler, Jonathan	Purdue Pharma	09/14/2011	\$1,000.00
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Sackler, Jonathan	Purdue Pharma	07/01/2012	\$1,000.00
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Sackler, Jonathan	Purdue Pharma	06/22/2014	\$1,000.00
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Sackler, Jonathan	Purdue Pharma	03/20/2013	\$1,000.00
TOTAL				\$7,000.00

Source: [Campaign Finance Electronic Reporting & Tracking System](#) (ERTS)



Far-right conservatives: at least \$20,000

The following Manhattan Institute Board members have donated to Gina Raimondo or her PAC.

Chairman-Emeritus Roger Hertog:

Organization	Donor	Employer	Type	Amount	Receipt Date	Deposit Date	
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Hertog, Roger	Hertog Foundation	Individual	\$1,000.00	11/17/2017		<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Hertog, Susan	Freelance Author and Journalist	Individual	\$1,000.00	11/17/2017		<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>
GINA PAC (FRMLY HOPE NOW PAC)	Hertog, Susan	Self-Employed Writer	Individual	\$1,000.00	11/17/2017		<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>
GINA PAC (FRMLY HOPE NOW PAC)	Hertog, Roger	Retired	Individual	\$1,000.00	11/17/2017		<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Hertog, Susan	Freelance Author and Journalist	Individual	\$1,000.00	06/30/2013	06/30/2013	<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Hertog, Roger	Hertog Foundation	Individual	\$1,000.00	05/15/2014	05/15/2014	<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Hertog, Susan	Freelance Author and Journalist	Individual	\$1,000.00	05/15/2014	05/15/2014	<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Hertog, Roger	Hertog Foundation	Individual	\$1,000.00	03/07/2013	03/07/2013	<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>
GINA PAC (FRMLY HOPE NOW PAC)	Hertog, Roger	Retired	Individual	\$1,000.00	03/07/2013	03/07/2013	<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Hertog, Roger	Hertog Foundation	Individual	\$1,000.00	01/02/2018		<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Hertog, Susan	Freelance Author and Journalist	Individual	\$1,000.00	01/02/2018		<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>
GINA PAC (FRMLY HOPE NOW PAC)	Hertog, Roger	Retired	Individual	\$1,000.00	01/02/2018		<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>
GINA PAC (FRMLY HOPE NOW PAC)	Hertog, Susan	Self-Employed Writer	Individual	\$1,000.00	01/02/2018		<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>

Hertog is also a major funder of the Center for Security Policy and the Middle East Forum, which are key parts of the network [creating Donald Trump's Islamophobic domestic security policy](#).

Total: \$13,000

Board of Trustees member Ravenel Curry:

Organization	Donor	Employer	Type	Amount	Receipt Date	Deposit Date	
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Curry, Ravenel Boykin	Eagle Capital	Individual	\$1,000.00	12/19/2013		<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Curry, Ravenel Boykin	Eagle Capital	Individual	\$1,000.00	09/16/2010	09/16/2010	<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Curry, Ravenel Boykin	Eagle Capital	Individual	\$1,000.00	06/18/2014		<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Curry, Ravenel Boykin	Eagle Capital	Individual	\$1,000.00	06/08/2016		<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Curry, Ravenel Boykin	Eagle Capital	Individual	\$1,000.00	04/05/2012	04/05/2012	<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>
DANIEL J MCKEE	Curry IV, Ravenel Boykin	Eagle Capitol Management LLC	Individual	\$500.00	03/30/2013	03/30/2013	<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Curry, Ravenel Boykin	Eagle Capital	Individual	\$1,000.00	03/04/2018		<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>

Curry's Eagle Capital Management is on the American Federation of Teacher's "Investment Watch List" for its connection to groups advocating for moving defined benefit pension plans into hedge funds such as Eagle Capital Management.

\$6,500



Board of Trustees member Sean Fieler:

GINA M. RAIMONDO	Fieler, Sean	Equinox Partners, LP	Individual	\$1,000.00	03/29/2010	03/29/2010	<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>
GINA M. RAIMONDO	Fieler, Ana C.	University of Pennsylvania	Individual	\$1,000.00	03/29/2010	03/29/2010	<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>

Sean Fieler runs the hedge fund Equinox Partners, and he is known as a hard-right conservative thinker and donor. He has promoted and funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars to numerous anti-LGBTQ, anti-choice organizations.<sup>22</sup>

Donations from Sean and Ana Fieler: \$2,000

Board of Trustees member Thomas Smith:

GINA M. RAIMONDO	Smith, Thomas	Prescott Investors	Individual	\$1,000.00	09/29/2014		<a href="#">ShowDetails...</a>
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Smith is the head of Prescott Investors and a conservative pundit. Last year, in the American Spectator, he wrote an essay entitled “[Confessions of a Climate Change ‘Denier’](#),” in which he cast doubt on the science behind climate change.<sup>23</sup>

Total: \$1,000

Source: [Campaign Finance Electronic Reporting & Tracking System](#) (ERTS)

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<sup>22</sup><https://www.insidephilanthropy.com/home/2015/10/16/sean-fieler-philanthropy-the-hedge-funder-who-promotes-cons.html>

<sup>23</sup> <https://spectator.org/confessions-of-a-climate-change-denier/>