**DeVos DONATIONS**

**Congressional and White House Runs**

Several GOP members of the Senate education committee who will be among the first eligible to officially consider and vote on DeVos' nomination also have received donations from Betsy and Dick DeVos Jr. over the years. These lawmakers include:

**Sen. Richard Burr of North Carolina**: Betsy DeVos gave Burr $5,400 for the 2016 election, according to Federal Election Commission records. (That represents the maximum allowable contribution from an individual directly to a candidate for federal office, given both a primary and a general election.) Dick DeVos Jr. also gave Burr $5,400 for 2016.

**Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana**: Betsy DeVos gave Cassidy $7,800 for the 2014 election. Dick DeVos Jr. also gave $7,800 for 2014. (In addition to primary and general elections, Cassidy participated in a run-off election against former Sen. Mary Landrieu that year.)

**Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska**: Betsy DeVos gave Murkowski $5,400 for the 2016 election. Dick DeVos Jr. also gave Murkowski $5,400 for 2016.

**Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina**: Betsy DeVos gave Scott $2,000 for the 2014 election, and $5,400 for the 2016 election. Dick DeVos Jr. also gave Scott $5,400 for 2016.

The 2016 results for the four senators above are from Jan. 1, 2015 through Oct. 19 of this year, according to the FEC.

In addition, Betsy DeVos gave Senate education committee member Mark Kirk of Illinois, another Republican, $5,400 for the 2016 election. Dick DeVos Jr. also gave Kirk $5,400 for 2016. Kirk lost his Senate re-election bid to Democratic Rep. Tammy Duckworth, however, and will therefore not vote on Betsy DeVos' nomination next year.

Other GOP senators to receive Betsy DeVos' campaign donations include Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Senate majority leader, as well as Iowa Sens. Joni Ernst and Charles Grassley, Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, and Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin.

In the **House of Representatives**, which does not vote on Cabinet appointments, GOP lawmakers on the education committee who received donations from the couple include:

**Rep. Mike Bishop of Michigan**: Betsy DeVos gave Bishop $2,600 for the 2014 election and $5,400 for the 2016 election. For 2014, Dick DeVos Jr. gave Bishop $5,200, and for 2016, he gave Bishop $5,400.

**Rep. Carlos Curbelo of Florida**: Betsy DeVos gave Curbelo $1,000 for the 2014 election.

**Rep. Luke Messer of Indiana**: In the 2012 election, Betsy DeVos gave $2,500 to Messer. A prominent school choice advocate in Congress, Messer has pushed unsuccessfully to make federal Title I funds for disadvantaged students "portable" to the public and private schools of families' choice. That is a roughly similar idea to Trump's $20 billion school choice plan.

**Rep. Tim Walberg of Michigan**: Over the 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016 elections, Betsy DeVos gave Walberg a total of $15,500. Dick DeVos Jr. gave Walberg $13,000 over those same election periods.

Betsy DeVos gave **Nevada Rep. Joe Heck** $5,400 for his Senate run in 2016. Dick DeVos Jr. gave Heck $3,700 over the 2012 and 2016 elections. Heck gave up his House seat this year to run for Nevada's open Senate seat, but lost. And **Alabama Rep. Martha Roby**, a critic of the Common Core State Standards who's not on the education committee, got $1,000 from Betsy DeVos in her 2010 campaign. (After Trump nominated her, DeVos said she is opposed to the common core.)

Betsy DeVos also donated $5,000 to the 2012 presidential campaign of former **Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney** and his running mate, current **Speaker of the House Paul Ryan of Wisconsin**. Dick DeVos Jr. also donated to 2012 presidential candidates **Newt Gingrich**, the former House speaker, and former **Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum**. Gingrich and Santorum got $2,500 each. In 2016, Betsy DeVos and her husband both donated to several other GOP presidential campaigns:

**Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush**: Betsy DeVos gave Bush $2,700. Dick DeVos Jr. gave Bush $5,400.

Former business executive **Carly Fiorina**: Betsy DeVos gave Fiorina $2,700. Dick DeVos Jr. gave Fiorina $5,400.

**Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal**: Betsy DeVos gave Jindal $2,700. Dick DeVos Jr. gave Jindal $2,700.

**Ohio Gov. John Kasich**: Betsy DeVos gave Kasich $2,700. Dick DeVos Jr. gave Kasich $5,400.

**Florida Sen. Marco Rubio**: Betsy DeVos gave Rubio $2,700. Dick DeVos Jr. gave Rubio $5,400.

**Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker**: Betsy DeVos gave Walker $2,700. Dick DeVos Jr. gave Walker $5,400.

**Giving to Governors:**

Betsy DeVos also donated to **Jindal's** campaigns for Louisiana governor in 2003, when he lost, and 2007, when he won. And **Kasich and Walker** also got donations from her during their runs for governor. Other current or incoming GOP governors whose campaigns received donations from Betsy DeVos and Dick DeVos Jr. in various election years include:

**Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey**: Betsy DeVos gave Ducey $1,000. Dick DeVos Jr. gave Ducey $2,000.

**Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam**: Each of them gave Haslam $5,000.

**Indiana Gov.-elect Eric Holcomb**: Betsy DeVos gave Holcomb $5,000. Dick DeVos Jr. gave Holcomb $10,000.

**New Mexico Gov. Susanna Martinez**: Betsy DeVos gave Martinez $1,000. Dick DeVos Jr. gave Martinez $4,000.

**North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory**: Betsy DeVos gave McCrory $4,000. Dick DeVos Jr. gave McCrory $9,100.

**Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner**: Betsy DeVos gave Rauner $1,000. Dick DeVos Jr. gave Rauner $6,000.

**Florida Gov. Rick Scott**: Betsy DeVos gave Scott $500. Dick DeVos Jr. gave Scott $1,000.

**Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder**: Betsy DeVos gave Snyder $6,800. Dick DeVos Jr. gave Snyder $17,000.

And there's at least one well-known former GOP state education chief on the list: **Ex-Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Bennett** got $5,000 from Betsy DeVos and $10,000 from Dick DeVos Jr. for his 2012 re-election bid, which Bennett lost to Democrat Glenda Ritz. And **Jeanne Allen**, the founder of the Center for Education Reform, got campaign donations totaling $2,000 from Betsy DeVos and Dick DeVos. Jr. in 2010 when she ran unsuccessfully for the Maryland House of Delegates as a Republican.

**Donations to PACs:**

**The Center for Responsive Politics**, which lists the husband and wife together in campaign contributions, listed Betsy and Dick DeVos Jr. as the 72nd-largest contributors to "outside spending groups" (PAC’s) in the 2016 campaign cycle. Together, they had donated nearly $1.6 million to such groups. And they're listed as the 65th-largest "overall top contributor" to political campaigns in the 2016 cycle.

Betsy DeVos gave a contribution of $100,000 to **American Crossroads**, a political-strategy group founded by **Karl Rove**, the former deputy chief of staff and senior adviser to President George W. Bush, in the 2016 cycle.

And Dick DeVos Jr. gave $25,000 in 2015 to **Right to Rise**, a "super PAC" aligned with **Jeb Bush's** unsuccessful bid for the presidency this year.

**Ballot Measures:**

Both Betsy and Dick DeVos Jr. gave major backing to **Protecting Michigan Taxpayers**, an unsuccessful push to repeal the state's "prevailing wage" law requiring union-scale wages and benefits to workers on state-funded projects, according to Crain's Detroit Business.

The proposed initiative did not make it onto the 2016 ballot. Betsy DeVos gave $125,000 to the proposed initiative, while Dick DeVos Jr. gave $625,000.

Dick DeVos Jr. also gave $100,000 to a successful 2008 ballot measure in Florida that defined marriage as the union of one man and one woman. And he funded **Citizens Protecting Michigan's Kids**, which opposed a successful 2008 Michigan ballot measure to legalize medical marijuana for seriously ill patients.

**All Children Matter:**

Betsy and Dick DeVos Jr. have also financed the **All Children Matter PAC**, which has financed campaigns related to education and other issues since 2003. (See this [2006 story](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2006/09/27/05politics.h26.html?_ga=1.144122229.1382791503.1477957787) about the group from former Politics K-12 blogger Michele McNeil.)

Over nine years since it was founded, the group gave $1.8 million to 581 candidates and party committees, the **National Institute on Money in State Politics** reported. In 2008, the state of Ohio fined **All Children Matter** $5.2 million for skirting campaign finance rules—the state found that the PAC improperly funneled the donations through Virginia, which had no campaign-contribution limits. **All Children Matter** has declined to pay that fine, the Columbus Dispatch reported recently.

Other elected officials who have received money from the PAC in recent years include:

**Indiana state Rep. Robert Behning** ($4,500), a Republican and the chairman of the Indiana House education committee;

**Former GOP Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels** ($35,000), who worked closely with former Indiana schools chief Tony Bennett;

**Louisiana state Rep. Walt Leger** ($500), a Democrat who in 2014 opposed Jindal's efforts to get rid of the Common Core State Standards, albeit seven years after the PAC's donation to his campaign;

**Former Democratic Georgia state Rep. Alisha Thomas Morgan** ($1,750), who received money from All Children Matter in 2010 in her campaign for state representative. Morgan ran for state schools chief in 2014 and also received campaign donations from StudentsFirst, the advocacy group founded by former District of Columbia schools chief Michelle Rhee, who like DeVos met with Trump after his election victory to discuss education policy;

**Andy Smarick** ($3,000), a resident fellow at the **American Enterprise Institute** and former deputy education commissioner in New Jersey, who ran unsuccessfully for the Maryland House of Delegates in 2006 as a Republican.

**Ethics and Rules:**

So what could Betsy DeVos do or not do in terms of campaign donations if she becomes education secretary?

As education secretary, DeVos would be allowed to donate money to candidates, but she would be prohibited from soliciting or discouraging donations to candidates, said Meredith McGehee, a strategic adviser at the Campaign Legal Center.

Then there are questions about her finances. Betsy DeVos is chair of the **Windquest Group**, a private investment-management firm she runs with Dick DeVos Jr. On its website, the group lists the **West Michigan Aviation Academy**, a public charter school, as part of its "portfolio." No other education-related assets are listed on the group's website.

DeVos would likely sit down with counsel at the Education Department to determine if she would need to divest herself of any personal financial holdings in the education field, or if she would need to build some kind of firewall between herself and education-related assets or institutions her husband controls, McGehee said.

As for the senators who may vote on her confirmation who have received donations from DeVos and her husband? There's nothing legally preventing them from voting on DeVos' nomination. That may not be an unusual situation, McGehee said, but it reveals something important about the current situation. Ethicsif they have any should be at the for front.

It looks awful. Obviously they have a conflict. You might hope for some senators to recuse themselves," McGehee said. "Dollars to doughnuts that's not going to happen. In an ideal world, that would be how it would work. I have very low expectations for that."