

How the Koch Brothers Helped Scott Walker

Written by Wisconsin Democracy Campaign

Tuesday, 12 May 2015 08:54 - Last Updated Tuesday, 12 May 2015 09:24



Instrumental to Walker's success was controlling the state legislature and keeping the state supreme court in conservative hands. If you add it all together, you get a figure of \$8,767,000.

MADISON - Conservatively, the Koch Brothers spent more than \$5.6 million in support of Scott Walker from 2010 through 2014. The number the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign arrives at is \$5,639,000.

But instrumental to Walker's success was controlling the state legislature and keeping the state supreme court in conservative hands. In 2010, Koch Industries PAC spent \$8,000 on GOP legislative candidates in Wisconsin (and \$1,000 on Dems). In 2012, the Koch PAC spent \$6,000 on GOP legislative candidates. And in 2014, the Koch PAC spent \$9,500 on GOP legislative candidates. The Koch Brothers, via Americans for Prosperity, spent \$420,000 on the state senate. And another group with Koch ties spent \$1.7 million on the Senate recalls and \$985,000 on the supreme court race. The total for the Koch spending on the state supreme court and state senate races comes to: \$3,128,000.

If you add all this together, you get a figure of \$8,767,000.

Outline of Koch's Support

Direct contributions from Koch Industries PAC to Walker's campaign: \$43,000 in 2010.

Expenditures on ads and mailings in support of Walker's policies in early 2011, shortly after Walker "dropped the bomb" on public sector unions: \$380,000 via Americans for Prosperity.

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Expenditures on ads in favor of Walker during the recall: \$4.1 million (\$3.7 million via Americans for Prosperity, plus \$400,000 via Coalition for American Values Action.)

Expenditures on ads in favor of Walker in 2014: \$1,116,000 via Americans for Prosperity.

Direct contributions from Koch Industries PAC to GOP legislative candidates in Wis in 2010 \$8,000. (Note that Koch PAC also gave \$1,000 to Dems.)

Direct contributions from Koch PAC in 2012 to GOP legislative candidates: \$6,000.

Direct contributions from Koch PAC in 2014 to GOP legislative candidates: \$9,500.

Expenditures on ads and mailings to help Republican state senators repel recalls and thereby help keep the state senate in Republican hands: \$420,000 via Americans for Prosperity, which was founded by the Koch Brothers, and \$1.7 million via Citizens for a Strong America.

Expenditures on ads supporting Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice David Prosser's reelection, which kept the court in conservative hands: \$985,000, via Citizens for a Strong America, which has Koch ties.

The Breakdown

--In 2010, Koch Industries PAC gave \$43,000 directly to Scott Walker's election campaign.

(One contribution of \$15,000 on July 9, 2010, and another of \$28,000 on Sept. 29, 2010.)

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--In 2010, the Koch PAC gave \$8,000 to GOP legislative candidates (and \$1,000 to Dems).

--In March 2011, Americans for Prosperity, which was founded by David and Charles Koch, spent \$380,000 on television ads in defense of Walker's attack on public employee unions. (<http://www.wisdc.org/afp2011.php>)

--In the spring of 2011, Citizens for a Strong America, which is in the same building as Americans for Prosperity and whose website was registered to John Connors, who used to be national director of Students for Prosperity, an arm of Americans for Prosperity, spent \$985,000 on ads supporting state supreme court justice David Prosser in his race against challenger JoAnne Kloppenburg. (<http://www.wisdc.org/csa11supreme.php>)

--In the summer of 2011, Citizens for a strong America spent \$1.7 million on 3 TV ads in favor of Republican state senators facing recall. (<http://www.wisdc.org/csa11.php>)

--Later in 2011, Americans for Prosperity spent an additional \$420,000 to help Republican state senators repel their recall challengers. (<http://www.wisdc.org/afp2011.php>)

--In late 2011 and early 2012, Americans for Prosperity spent \$3.7 million on ads and mailings against the Walker recall and supporting his policies. <http://www.wisdc.org/afp2012.php>

--In 2012, shortly before the June 5 recall elections, the Coalition for American Values Action--which gets most of its money from the Center to Protect Patient Rights, a group controlled by the Koch Brothers—spent \$400,080 on ads against the Walker recall. (<http://www.wisdc.org/ind12-1100054.php>,
<http://www.wisdc.org/index.php?module=wisdc.websiteforms&cmd=pacspending&year=2012&election=recall&pac=1100054>)

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--In May 2014, Americans for Prosperity sponsored a statewide TV ad boasting about Walker's policies, without mentioning his name, to the tune of \$866,000. They followed that up with five mailings at approximately \$50,000 each for a total of \$1,116,000. (<http://www.wisdc.org/afp2014.php>)

--In 2014, Koch PAC gave \$9,500 to GOP legislative candidates (along with 10k each to successful AG candidate Brad Schimel and Lt. Gov Kleefisch.)