

Who's Funding AIPAC's Political Spending Barrage?

Here are the tech industry founders, Republican megadonors and others funding AIPAC and its closely-tied allies this election cycle.

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For decades after its founding in the 1950s, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, or AIPAC, declined to spend money directly on elections.

But that has changed dramatically in recent years, and this year the group is planning to spend a massive amount of money to support pro-Israel candidates and defeat those who have questioned the Israeli military's killing of more than 30,000 people in Gaza following the deadly October 7 Hamas attacks. [Politico](#) and other outlets have reported that it is prepared to spend \$100 million on ads and other political advocacy efforts ahead of the November elections to defeat progressive Democratic candidates.

Already, the group and its closely-tied allies and affiliates have spent about \$30 million in the 2024 cycle, with the bulk of the spending coming from AIPAC PAC, which operates as a conduit for AIPAC supporters to earmark funds to candidates' campaigns. AIPAC's super PAC, the United Democracy Project (UDP), has been spending millions on a California Democratic primary recently and is sitting on nearly \$42 million in cash. An allied super PAC called Democratic Majority for Israel PAC (DMFI PAC) has been spending on pro-President Biden text messages and has nearly \$3 million on hand. DMFI PAC, which functioned as AIPAC's primary outside spending operation until it founded its own super PAC in January 2022, is run by former AIPAC consultant Mark Mellman, and AIPAC has allowed its supporters to [credit](#) their contributions to DMFI towards their AIPAC contributions. The millions of dollars in outside spending [unleashed](#) by DMFI PAC in Democratic primaries in the 2022 cycle was [widely seen](#) as working in parallel with AIPAC's electoral aims.

Sludge analyzed the groups' Federal Election Commission filings to reveal the top donors to AIPAC and its closely-tied political spending groups so far this election cycle. The chart below totals money donated to AIPAC PAC, DMFI PAC, and UDP from January 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024.

Top Donors to AIPAC-Tied Political Groups

From January 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024.

Donor	Description	AIPAC PAC	DMFI PAC	UDP	Grand Total
Jan Koum	Founder of WhatsApp			\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Jonathon Jacobson	Founding member of HighSage Ventures	\$1,000		\$2,500,000	\$2,501,000
David Zalik	CEO of GreenSky	\$453,800		\$2,000,000	\$2,453,800
Bernard Marcus	Co-founder of Home Depot			\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Paul Singer	Founder of Elliott Management			\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Deborah Simon	Daughter of mall developer		\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
Haim Saban	CEO of Saban Capital Group			\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Helaine Lerner	New York City philanthropist			\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Paul Levy	Managing director of JLL Partners			\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Harriet Schleifer	Chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations	\$550,500		\$27,000	\$577,500
Michael Leffell	Founder of Portage Partners	\$39,900		\$500,000	\$539,900
Joseph Cayre	Founder of Midtown Equities	\$6,600		\$500,000	\$506,600
Gary Mark Lauder	Managing director of Lauder Partners	\$2,000	\$500,000		\$500,200

Arthur Winn	Founder of WinnCompanies			\$500,000	\$500,000
Kraft Group LLC	Kraft family holding company			\$500,000	\$500,000
Robert Friend	President of Howard Properties			\$500,000	\$500,000
Phil de Toldeo	President of Captal Group	\$90,700	\$50,000	\$350,000	\$490,700
Edward Levy Jr.	Chairman of Edw. C. Levy Co.	\$128,100		\$350,000	\$478,100
Helen Zalik	President of the Zalik Foundation	\$453,800			\$453,800
Democratic Majority for Israel	DMFI nonprofit affiliate		\$450,000		\$450,000
Victor Kohn	Equity portfolio manager at Capital Group Companies	\$85,700	\$5,000	\$350,000	\$440,700
Garry Rayant	San Francisco dentist	\$15,850		\$400,000	\$415,850
Kate Williamson	unknown			\$300,000	\$300,000
Norman Radow	CEO of RADCO	\$77,400		\$200,000	\$277,400
Eric Chern	Co-founder of Chicago Trading Company	\$45,200		\$225,000	\$270,200
David Sterling	CEO of SterlingRisk	\$70,000		\$200,000	\$270,000
Tony David	President of Linden Capital Partners	\$13,900		\$250,000	\$263,900
Martin Geller	Founder of Geller and Company	\$43,000		\$218,000	\$261,000
Kim Hartman	unknown	\$6,000		\$250,000	\$256,000
Eugene Fooksman	CEO of AltoPass	\$31,700		\$220,000	\$251,700
Steve Zelin	Partner at PJT Partners			\$250,000	\$250,000
Linda Rubin	Private investor			\$250,000	\$250,000
Marc Rowan	CEO of Apollo Global Management			\$250,000	\$250,000
Alex Rampell	General Partner at Andreessen Horowitz			\$250,000	\$250,000

Rodan Amnon	Former Chairman of Rodan + Fields	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$250,000
Rae Transportation LLC	unknown		\$250,000	\$250,000
David Messer	CEO of Freepoint Commodities		\$250,000	\$250,000
Paul Marciano	Co-founder of Guess Inc.		\$250,000	\$250,000
Eric Mindich	Founder of Eton Park Capital Management	\$250,000		\$250,000
Maurice Marciano	Co-founder of Guess Inc.		\$250,000	\$250,000
Robert Granieri	Co-founder of Jane Street Capitol		\$250,000	\$250,000
Robert Book	Chairman of Book Capital Enterprises		\$250,000	\$250,000

Table: SLUDGE | Source: Federal Election Commission | Get the data | Created with [Datwrpper](#)

The largest donor has been Jan Koum, the billionaire founder of WhatsApp, and the largest donor to the pro-Nikki Haley super PAC SFA Fund. Koum donated a total of \$5 million to UDP in September and October of last year.

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