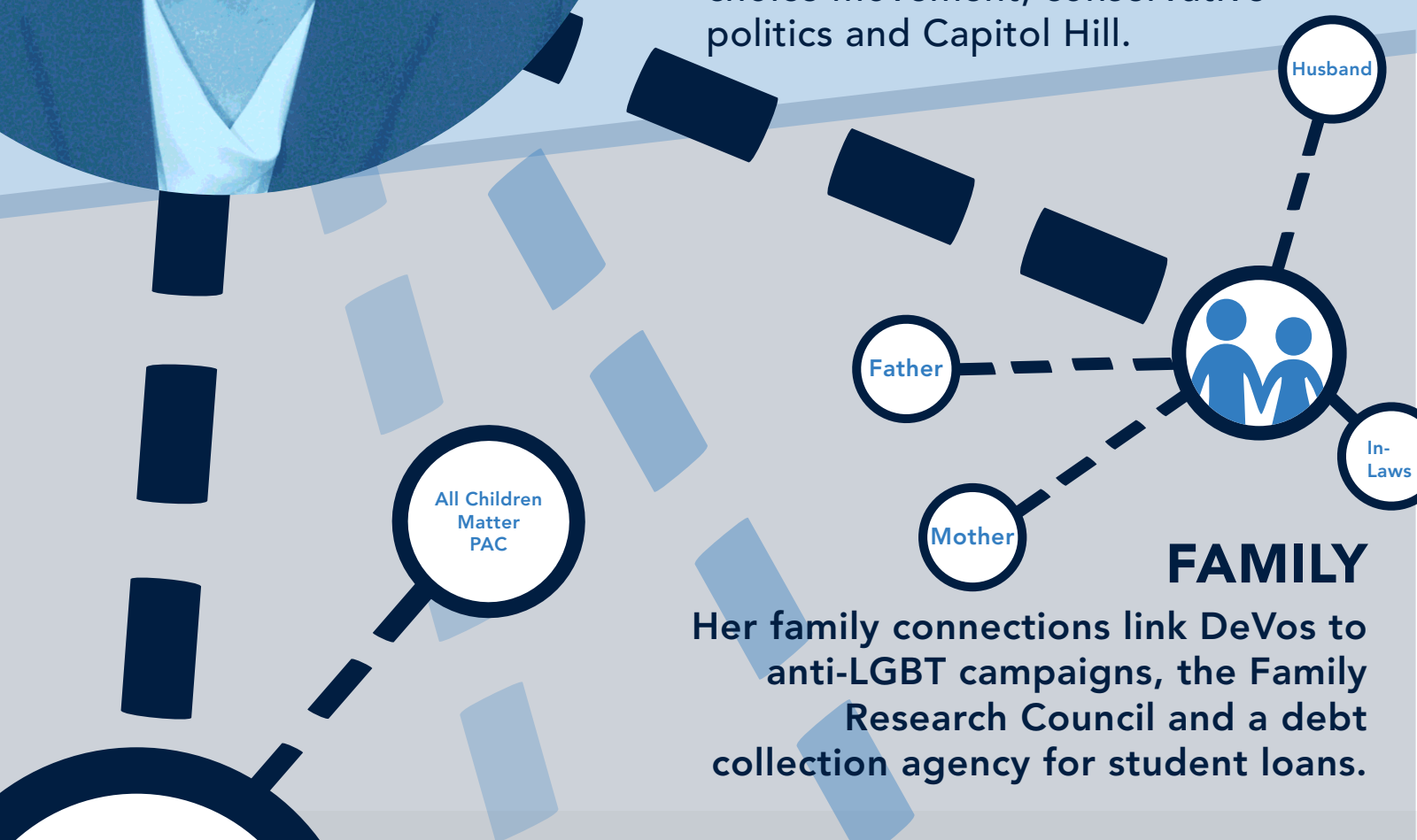


Connect The Dots: Betsy DeVos



The Many Connections of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos

U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos has a web of investments and connections that link her to the school choice movement, conservative politics and Capitol Hill.



FAMILY

Her family connections link DeVos to anti-LGBT campaigns, the Family Research Council and a debt collection agency for student loans.



FUNDING SCHOOL CHOICE

DeVos has led two leading school choice advocacy groups and has donated to several others, helping to expand charter and voucher programs in states.



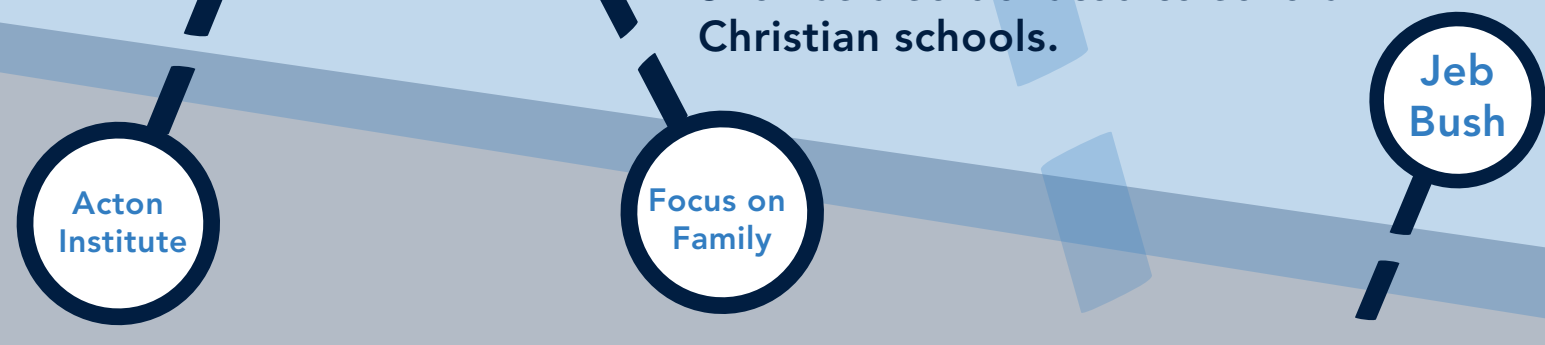
ELECTING CONGRESS

DeVos and her husband have donated \$957,000 to current GOP senators, including \$50,000 to members of the HELP committee.



SUPPORTING CONSERVATIVE CAUSES

DeVos has sat on the boards or has contributed to conservative organizations that have fought against marriage equality, collective bargaining rights and limits on campaign donations. She has also donated to several Christian schools.



BACKING PRESIDENTIAL BIDS

DeVos and her husband initially supported Jeb Bush for the GOP nomination, before switching to John Kasich.



To see the details behind the dots, download this interactive PDF and click on the dots to see the connections.

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- Dick DeVos, husband**
 - Ran unsuccessfully as a Republican for the governorship in Michigan
 - Former president of **Amway**, which his father co-founded
 - Joint investments include **Performant Financial Corp.**, a debt collection agency that collected federal student loans for the U.S. Education Department, and **KinderCare Learning Centers**.
 - Connected through holding companies to private, for-profit universities, including **Laureate Education** and **Delta Education Systems Inc.**
- Richard DeVos, father-in-law**
 - **Amway** cofounder worth \$5.1 billion
 - Owns the **Orlando Magic** NBA team and a minority share of the **Chicago Cubs**
 - Was finance chair of Republican National Committee in 1980s
- Elsa Prince Broekhuizen, mother**
 - Donated \$450,000 to a 2008 campaign that opposed same-sex marriages in California
 - DeVos sits on the board of the **Edgar & Elsa Prince Foundation**, major donor to groups including the **Heritage Foundation**, the **Education Freedom Fund**, and the **Alliance Defense Fund**.
- Edgar Prince, father**
 - Helped Gary Bauer create the **Family Research Council**, an influential conservative group

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- All Children Matter**
 - DeVos was the head of All Children Matter, a political committee that lobbies for school choice
- American Federation for Children**
 - She was the chairwoman of the American Federation for Children, an organization promoting school choice in a variety of forms. Its political action arm has been instrumental in broadening choice options in Indiana and other states.
- Michigan Voucher Program**
 - DeVos and her husband lobbied unsuccessfully for a voucher program in Michigan but successfully for limiting control over the state's charter schools.
- DeVos Made Donations to:**
 - Western Michigan Aviation Academy, a charter school she and her husband founded in Grand Rapids, Mich.
 - The Partnership for Educational Justice, school choice advocacy organization
 - Success Academy Charter Schools, NYC charter school chain run by Eva Moscovitz
 - GREAT Schools, Inc., nonprofit CMO
 - Alliance for School Choice
 - Institute for Justice, a nonprofit libertarian law firm that has funded school choice lawsuits across the country

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ELECTING CONGRESS

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Betsy DeVos and her husband are listed as the 65th largest contributors to political campaigns during the 2016 cycle, according to OpenSecrets.org.



DeVos contributed to the Koch brothers-backed **Freedom Partners Action Fund**. She also contributed to the super PAC started by Karl Rove, **American Crossroads**, which helped support tight Republican House and Senate races

Donations to Senate HELP Committee Members specifically (a collective \$50,000):

- Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC)
- Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL) *however he lost his re-election
- Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
- Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)
- Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC)

Donations to senators who considered DeVos' nomination (a collective \$957,950 according to recent CAP report):

*note some overlap with above list

- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
- Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO)
- Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC)
- Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)
- Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)
- Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT)
- Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO)
- Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)
- Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI)
- Sen. John McCain (R-AZ)
- Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
- Sen. David Perdue (R-GA)
- Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH)
- Sen. Mike Rounds (R-SD)
- Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)
- Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC)
- Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK)
- Sen. John Thune (R-SD)
- Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC)
- Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA)
- Sen. Todd Young (R-IN)

Donations to other congressional lawmakers over the years:

- Rep. Mike Bishop (R-MI)
- Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL)
- Rep. Luke Messer (R-IN)
- Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI)
- Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA)
- Rep. Joe Heck (R-NV)
- Rep. Martha Roby (R-AL)

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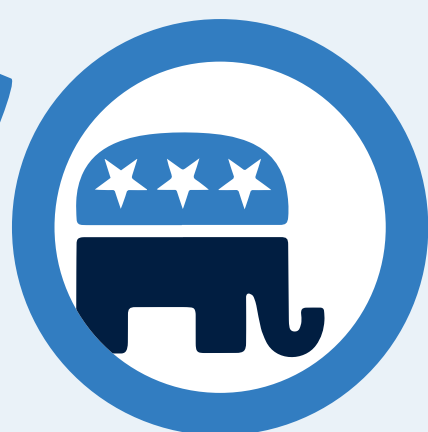
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- DeVos sat on the board of the **American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy**
- DeVos is former chair of **Michigan Republican Party**, and has donated over **\$9.5 million** to them over past 20 years.
- DeVos sat on the board of the **Foundation for Excellence in Education**, founded by Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush.
- DeVos previously served on the board of directors for the **Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty**.
- DeVos donated to **Focus on the Family**, a right-wing organization working to defeat marriage-equality amendments at the state level.
- DeVos has donated to the **Heritage Foundation**.
- DeVos donated to the **Center for Competitive Politics** and the **James Madison Center for Free Speech**, both of which work to remove legal restrictions on monetary contributions to political campaigns.
- **DeVos donated \$125,000 to Protecting Michigan Taxpayers**, a committee that successfully opposed a ballot initiative that would have enshrined collective bargaining rights in the state constitution.
- Between 1999 and 2014, DeVos and her husbanded **donated \$8.6 million to private religious schools** including:
 - \$2.4 million to Grand Rapids Christian High School Association
 - \$652,000 to the Ada Christian School
 - \$458,000 to Holland Christian Schools

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- DeVos donated over **\$4.4 million** to other super PACs supporting the White House bids of **Sens. Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz**, as well as businesswoman **Carly Fiorina**.
- DeVos' husband, Dick, **donated \$25,000 to Right to Rise a pro-Jeb Bush** super PAC during this election cycle
- DeVos donated to the 2012 presidential campaign of **Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney** and current **Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI)**
- Her husband donated to the 2012 presidential campaigns of **Newt Gingrich**, former House speaker, and Former Pennsylvania **Sen. Rick Santorum**
- They have jointly donated to the previous presidential campaigns of Former Florida Gov. **Jeb Bush**, former business executive **Carly Fiorina**, former Louisiana Governor **Bobby Jindal**, Ohio Governor **John Kasich**, Florida Senator **Marco Rubio**, Wisconsin Governor **Scott Walker**

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