



BEHIND THE ANTI-WORKER AGENDA

Anti-Union Groups Spending Millions to Push Far-Right Agenda this Election

“Cash-flush groups work outside GOP to back conservatives”

– Los Angeles Times, 9/27/10

“Conservatives dominate campaign spending by interest groups”

– The Washington Post, 9/20/10

“Conservative Groups Plan to Spend Close to \$400 Million by November”

– The Washington Independent, 8/31/10

Everywhere you look, far-right, anti-union special interest groups are attempting to steamroll their way over working families. The same groups that have stonewalled the Employee Free Choice Act. The same groups who opposed raising the minimum wage. The same groups that have turned their backs on working families again and again.

The 2010 midterm elections are nearly upon us already and we have seen an unprecedented surge of activity by shadowy organizations that use hidden donors to undermine the progressive social agenda for which organized labor has always stood.

These organizations are spending tens of millions of dollars to enact an agenda that would set working families back by decades:

- Attacking collective bargaining rights and opposing the Employee Free Choice Act,
- Privatizing Social Security and Medicare,
- Enacting job-killing ‘free’ trade deals like NAFTA and CAFTA,
- Cutting taxes for millionaires while leaving the rest of us behind,
- And much, much more.

And if we don’t fight back to expose these organizations for what they are, they can succeed. That’s why American Rights at Work has prepared this report.

Contained in this guide are background materials on the following big money extremists who are trying to buy seats in Congress for their far-right allies:

American Crossroads: An organization founded by 'Bush's Brain' Karl Rove, American Crossroads is spending tens of millions of dollars to return us to the Bush economic policies that caused our current economic disaster. Rove is strongly anti-union and has worked to defeat the Employee Free Choice Act.

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Americans for Job Security: An insurance industry front group, Americans for Job Security was created to counter the influence of organized labor and is known “one of the nation’s most vicious campaign hit teams.” The group supports trade agreements that ship American jobs overseas and opposes the Employee Free Choice Act. [page 6]

Americans for Prosperity: Funded by the winner of the 2006 “Outsourcing Excellence Award” for its success in shipping American jobs to China, Americans for Prosperity was active in organizing opposition to the Employee Free Choice Act and even opposed the extension of unemployment benefits in the middle of our current recession. [page 8]

The Club for Growth: The Club for Growth is so far to the right that it has been criticized by John McCain as nothing more than the “bagman for the ultra rich.” The Club for Growth supports eliminating Medicare, privatizing Social Security, and calls the Employee Free Choice Act “an abomination.” [page 10]

FreedomWorks: Headed by extremist Dick Armey, who supports ‘phasing out’ Social Security and abolishing Medicare, FreedomWorks strongly opposes the Employee Free Choice Act and opposed Wall Street reform. [page 12]

U.S. Chamber of Commerce: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has moved in an even more extreme direction, with plans to spend \$50 million this election to push its anti-working family agenda. The Chamber strongly supports unfair trade deals like NAFTA and CAFTA, opposes the Employee Free Choice Act, opposes strong workplace safety laws, and even opposed paycheck equity. [page 14]

With these materials, we hope that you’ll spread the word about who these organizations *really* are, what they want and why their agenda is wrong for America.

AMERICAN CROSSROADS

The Return of Karl Rove and Bush's America

- ✓ Part of Karl Rove's strategy to funnel corporate money into campaigns
- ✓ Rove still pushing failed Bush economic policies, attacking organized labor
- ✓ Rove took part in anti-Employee Free Choice Act tour
- ✓ CEO Steven Law led U.S. Chamber against Employee Free Choice Act
- ✓ Funded ad attacking Harry Reid that was full of lies and distortions
- ✓ Targeting 11 Senate races nationwide
- ✓ Spent \$5.6 million so far in 2010
- ✓ Pretends to be a grassroots organization
- ✓ Leadership loaded with former RNC leaders
- ✓ Works in tandem with other GOP fundraising groups
- ✓ Chamber, American Crossroads aim to raise \$127 million from corporations
- ✓ Hopes to raise \$50-\$60 million in unlimited contributions this year
- ✓ Initial financing from oil and gas magnate
- ✓ Started associated 501(c)4 is raising million from anonymous donors

American Crossroads Part of Karl Rove's New Strategy

American Crossroads and its affiliate the American Action Network are part of [Karl Rove's strategy](#) to regain control of the Republican Party. Those groups, along with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, plan to funnel \$135 million in largely unregulated corporate donations to support candidates who are friends of big business and the wealthy.

Rove Still Pushing Bush's Failed Economic Policies, Attacking Organized Labor

Rove, who served as Deputy Chief of Staff under President George W. Bush, and was widely referred to as "Bush's Brain," continues to champion the economic interests of the rich and powerful over the interests and rights of working families.

For example, Rove [criticized](#) the extension of unemployment benefits, suggesting slashing the corporate tax rate would be a better idea. Rove supported making the Bush tax cuts permanent, a flat income tax, and lower taxes on dividends and capital gains. He also complained that the GOP should oppose "power grabs" by unions, because "labor bosses" make America less competitive.

Rove Went on Anti-Employee Free Choice Act Tour

In 2009, Rove traveled to [Milwaukee, St. Louis, and Peoria, IL](#), to speak to CEOs against the Employee Free Choice Act.

President and CEO Is Former Chamber Counsel, Led Chamber's Anti-Union Work

American Crossroads' President and CEO Steven J. Law [spent the last two years](#) as general counsel for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Prior to that, Law was chief of staff to Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.),

served as executive director of the National Republican Senatorial Committee under McConnell, and was also a deputy secretary at the Department of Labor during the George W. Bush administration.

At the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Law [wrote extensively](#) in opposition to the Employee Free Choice Act, falsely claiming that the legislation would “[deprive workers of the fundamental democratic protection of a secret ballot in deciding whether to join a union or not.](#)” And on unions in general, Law claimed that “[helping workers is the last thing they have on their minds.](#)”

Funded Anti-Reid Ad Full of Distortions, Lies

In June, the [Washington Post](#) reported that American Crossroads funded an ad attacking Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) for his support of the economic stimulus package passed by Congress in 2009. The ad ran less than a week after Sharron Angle won the Republican nomination to try and unseat Reid, who responded with an ad noting Angle’s support for the elimination of Social Security.

In traditional Karl Rove style, the attack ad on Reid contained little that was in accordance with reality. In an analysis of the ad reported by [Mother Jones](#), Jon Ralston, host of a local political program in Nevada, said that “the factual stretches and gross distortions here are egregious,” and gave the ad a grade of “D.” The ad was also criticized by [FactCheck.org](#), which said the ad distorted the truth on the amount of stimulus funding obtained by Nevada, and on the state’s unemployment rate.

Targeting 11 Senate Races Around the Country

As of June, American Crossroads had [targeted 11 Senate races](#) around the country. Five of those races involved GOP-held seats – in Ohio, Missouri, Florida, New Hampshire, and Kentucky. The other six races were attempts to pick up seats currently held by Democrats in Washington, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, Colorado, and Illinois.

Group Has Spent More than \$5.6 Million So Far in 2010

As of Sept. 30, 2010, American Crossroads has already [spent \\$5,603,121](#) attacking candidates that oppose its agenda.

Pretends to Be a Grassroots Organization

In American Crossroads’ initial [IRS filing](#), the group stated that “American Crossroads is established as an independent, national grassroots political organization whose mission is to speak out in support of conservative issues and candidates across America, and to undertake other activities consistent with Internal Revenue Code Section 527.”

Leadership Chock-Full of Former RNC Leaders

The organization is clearly a front for the Republican National Committee. The [UPI](#) reported that the organization will be run by Mike Duncan, a former RNC chairman, and Joanne Davidson, a former RNC co-chair. In addition, former RNC Chairman Ed Gillespie and Karl Rove are advisers to the organization.

Working in Tandem with Other GOP Fundraising Groups

The [National Journal](#) reported that in April, Rove held an event at his home that included not only American Crossroads officials, but also former Senator Norm Coleman and Fred Malek, who run the American Action Network, a new non-profit trying to raise \$25 million for pro-GOP advocacy ads. In addition, Bill Miller, the political director of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, was in attendance, and said his organization planned to raise \$50 million for issue ads this year.

The National Journal also noted that American Crossroads and American Action Network had moved into adjacent offices in Washington, D.C.

“Shadow RNC” Hopes to Raise \$50-\$60 Million this Year in Unlimited Contributions

American Crossroads is an attempt by [the GOP establishment](#) to respond to various conservative groups who have been alienated by RNC Chair Michael Steele, and who have threatened to bypass the RNC with their contributions. Their recruitment of former RNC bigwigs indicates the group is trying to present itself as a “competent, shadow version of the RNC.” Organized as a 527 committee under the IRS tax code, American Crossroads can collect unlimited [contributions, including from corporations](#).

The conservative [Washington Times](#) reported that “Republicans see [American Crossroads] as an alternative campaign finance committee,” and also stated the group aimed to raise \$60 million, which the Times said was what the RNC “should have had” by this time.

American Crossroads, Chamber Aiming to Raise a Combined \$127 Million

Republican fundraisers are pushing corporations to contribute to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and American Crossroads. Together, the two groups and their affiliate, the American Action Network, have pledged to raise [\\$127 million](#) to elect GOP candidates in 2010.

Initial Financing from Oil and Gas Magnate

According to [Politico](#), American Crossroads’ largest initial contribution came from Trevor Rees-Jones, president of Chief Oil and Gas, who gave \$1 million to the group.

Spin-off American Crossroads GPS Raising Millions from Anonymous Donors

According to [Politico](#), American Crossroads GPS, a spin-off from American Crossroads, was formed as a 501(c)(4), a nonprofit that does not have to disclose its donors. “I wouldn’t want to discount the value of confidentiality to some donors,” said American Crossroads President Steven Law. As of June 2010, the spin-off group had raised [\\$5.1 million](#) of its own. In a concept paper for American Crossroads GPS obtained by [Politico](#), the organization expects to spend \$5 million on research, \$18 million on issue advocacy, \$5 million on mailing lists, and \$15 million on “targeted grassroots advocacy.”

Americans for Job Security

“Sham Front Group” is “One of the Nation’s Most Vicious Campaign Hit Teams”

- ✓ Founded by American Insurance Association
- ✓ GOP front group created to counter organized labor
- ✓ Spent \$7.7 million so far in 2010
- ✓ Secretive group refuses to disclose donors
- ✓ A “sham front group... masquerading as a non-profit”
- ✓ Appears to be breaking the law with its political attack ads
- ✓ “Attack dogs,” “One of the nation’s most vicious campaign hit teams”
- ✓ “Has gained a reputation for false advertising”
- ✓ Supports “free trade”

Founded by American Insurance Association

In a 2000 article in [Newsweek](#), former Americans for Job Security (AJS) president Michael Depke admitted the group was originally founded with \$2 million in seed money from the American Insurance Association and the American Forest and Paper Association.

GOP Front Group Created to Counter Organized Labor

According to the [Center for Responsive Politics](#), AJS is “a pro-Republican, pro-business organization... established to directly counter labor's influence.” [Washington Monthly](#) reported that “...AJS collects soft money from traditionally pro-Republican interests and spends it to defeat Democrats—but without facing any of the scrutiny the 527s do.”

Group Has Spent More than \$7.7 Million So Far in 2010

As of September 30, 2010 Americans for Job Security has already [spent \\$7.7 million](#) attacking candidates that oppose its agenda.

Secretive Group that Refuses to Disclose Its Donors

AJS doesn’t have to disclose its members or their donations to the group, and even admits it on its website, which states that AJS “does not disclose or discuss its membership.” Not only does it not disclose its membership, it’s not even clear where the organization’s offices, if any, are located. A [Washington Post](#) blog noted that the organization appears to be run out of a PO Box at a UPS Store in Alexandria, VA.

“A Sham Front Group... Masquerading as a Non-Profit”

According to [Public Citizen](#), “Americans for Job Security is a sham front group that would be better called Corporations Influencing Elections. This group is masquerading as a non-profit to conceal its funders and the scope of its electioneering activities.”

Appears to Be Breaking the Law Concerning Political Activity

According to the Americans for Job Security [website](#), the group was established in 1997 as a 501(c)(6) business league, and is “the only independent, bi-partisan, pro-business issue advocacy organization in

America.” While business leagues are not allowed to directly support or oppose a particular candidate, they can engage in political activity related to issue advocacy. However, the [IRS](#) states that such activity by a business league is only allowed “so long as that is not its primary activity.” The Americans for Job Security [website](#), however, makes it clear that political activity is, in fact, its primary activity. It boasts that the group has raised over \$40 million in membership dues, and has spent more than 95 percent of that total on direct issue advocacy, including 85 TV spots, 65 radio spots, 6.5 million pieces of direct mail, and 6.5 million telephone calls.

“Attack Dogs,” “One of the Nation’s Most Vicious Campaign Hit Teams”

The [Texas Observer](#) referred to AJS as “attack dogs” and “one of the nation’s most vicious campaign hit teams, a secret outfit whose reach spreads all over the American political system.” They said the organization “specializes in attempted assassination of political careers under the guise of issue education.”

“A Reputation for False Advertising”

According to the [Washington Examiner](#), “Americans for Job Security has gained a reputation for false advertising.”

- In 2010, AJS sponsored an ad stating that Republican gubernatorial candidate Pete Hoekstra refused to sign a pledge not to raise taxes, which he had already done. Subsequently, as reported by the [Grand Rapids Press](#), three television stations in the state agreed to pull the ad.
- In May 2010, [Politico](#) reported that Americans for Job Security had spent \$1.5 million on ads targeting Bill Halter, who was in a primary fight with Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.). One of the [ads](#) featured apparent residents of Bangalore, India, speaking in heavy accents thanking Halter for exporting jobs to their country. The ad was denounced as racist by not only Halter, but also by Lincoln, who said the ad was “offensive and doesn’t belong in Arkansas,” according to [Arkansas News.com](#). And according to Arkansasbusiness.com, “[it’s a stretch](#) to say the firm [Halter worked for] shipped American jobs overseas.”
- The [Nashua Telegraph](#) criticized AJS for its ads against Jeanne Shaheen, noting that the group claimed she supported an income tax as governor, when “she was largely responsible for defeating the idea.”
- In November 2008, AJS paid for [an ad](#) opposing the Employee Free Choice Act. The ad falsely claimed the bill would take away a worker’s right to a secret ballot.

Supports “Free Trade”

According to the [AJS web site](#), the organization supports “free markets and free trade,” and “will continue to fight to open new markets for American entrepreneurs.”

Americans for Prosperity

Front Group for Company Shipping American Jobs to China

- ✓ Planning to spend \$45 million in 50 House seats, 6 Senate seats
- ✓ A history of false, misleading attack ads that were taken off the air
- ✓ Founded and funded by oil billionaire David Koch of Koch Industries
- ✓ Koch subsidiary received award for shipping U.S. jobs to China
- ✓ Another Koch subsidiary on Lou Dobbs' "Exporting America" list
- ✓ Koch Industries fined a record \$30 million for 300 oil spills
- ✓ Subsidiary paid \$1.7 million in penalties for 680 environmental violations
- ✓ A prominent leader of the Tea Party
- ✓ Opposes Employee Free Choice Act, organized events in opposition
- ✓ Supports privatizing Social Security
- ✓ Opposed extension of unemployment benefits
- ✓ Opposed paid sick leave

Planning to Spend \$45 Million in 50 House Seats, Six Senate Seats

Americans for Prosperity has announced that it will spend [\\$45 million](#) in the 2010 election cycle, targeting 50 House races and 6 Senate races.

A History of False and Misleading Attack Ads that Were Taken Off the Air

Americans for Prosperity has a record of running attack ads so false and misleading that television [stations refused to air them](#). Factcheck.org cited the group's attack ads on healthcare reform for their "[sheer number of falsehoods](#)," while Politifact gave another ad its "[Pants on Fire](#)" award for blatant lies. [Ralston Flash, 6/15/10]

Founded and Funded by Oil Billionaire David Koch of Koch Industries

Americans for Prosperity was founded by oil baron David Koch and continues to be run and funded by [Koch Industries](#), the nation's largest privately-held energy company. Koch and his brother, Charles G. Koch, are two of the wealthiest men in America. They run the Koch Family Foundations, one of the largest single sources of funding for conservative organizations in the country.

Koch Industries Subsidiary Received "Outsourcing Excellence Award"

Koch Industries [subsidiary Invista](#) received the "[Outsourcing Excellence Award](#)" in 2006 for its success in shipping [American jobs to China](#).

Another Koch Industries Subsidiary is on Lou Dobbs' "Exporting America" List

Another Koch Industries subsidiary, [Georgia-Pacific](#), made Lou Dobbs' "[Exporting America](#)" list, reserved for "companies either sending American jobs overseas, or choosing to employ cheap overseas labor, instead of American workers."

Koch Industries Fined a Record \$30 Million for Over 300 Oil Spills

In 2000, Koch Industries was forced to pay a [\\$30 million fine](#) – the largest civil fine ever imposed on a company under any federal environmental law – to resolve claims related to more than 300 oil spills from its pipelines and oil facilities in six states.

Koch Subsidiary Invista Cited More than 680 Times for Environmental Rules

In 2009, *The New York Times* reported that Koch Industries subsidiary Invista would pay \$1.7 million in civil penalties because of [680 violations](#) of rules related to air and water pollution, hazardous waste, and emergency planning.

A Prominent Leader of the Tea Party

Americans for Prosperity is [one of the leaders](#) and funders of the Tea Party movement, providing or contributing talking points, support for rallies, and [training sessions](#).

Opposes Employee Free Choice Act

Americans for Prosperity [opposes](#) the Employee Free Choice Act, [falsely](#) claiming that it would “deny working Americans the right to a secret ballot in union elections.” The group sponsored a 2009 “[Save My Ballot](#)” tour in opposition to the Employee Free Choice Act, which made stops in North Carolina, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Supports Privatizing Social Security

Americans for Prosperity [supports privatizing Social Security](#), calling for a system of private accounts that would result in [enormous cuts in guaranteed benefits](#).

Opposed Extension of Unemployment Benefits

In June 2008, Americans for Prosperity opposed legislation to extend unemployment benefits, claiming that “extending unemployment payments in a time of economic uncertainty... would provide a perverse incentive for [unemployed workers to avoid aggressively seeking new jobs](#) and returning to the ranks of productive taxpayers.”

Opposed Paid Sick Leave

Americans for Prosperity praised the group Ohioans to Protect Jobs [for their opposition](#) to the “Healthy Families Act,” which would have ensured that middle class workers have the opportunity to earn paid sick days.

THE CLUB FOR GROWTH

“Bagmen for the Ultra Rich,” the “Club for Greed”

- ✓ Funded by a who’s-who of the extreme right
- ✓ Spent \$3.7 Million so far in 2010
- ✓ Launched \$1.5 million ad campaign targeting five Senate seats
- ✓ A long history of false and misleading attack ads
- ✓ Too extreme for McCain, Huckabee, and even Rove
- ✓ Opposes Employee Free Choice Act, calls it “an abomination”
- ✓ Supports privatizing Social Security
- ✓ Opposes Medicare
- ✓ Opposes pay equity laws, claimed women don’t do jobs as well as men
- ✓ Supports CAFTA, “trade freedom”
- ✓ Opposed raising the minimum wage
- ✓ Supports tax cuts for the wealthy
- ✓ Doubletalk on budget deficits

Funded by a Who’s-Who of the Extreme Right

The Club for Growth’s donors [have included](#) “some of the conservative movement’s biggest names”—Richard Mellon Scaife, former House majority leader Tom DeLay, and columnist Brent Bozell, as well as businessmen like pharmaceutical executive Dan Searle, cosmetics executive Ronald H. Lauder, and financiers Charles Schwab and Richard Gilder. Conservative economists Arthur Laffer and Lawrence Kudlow advise on policy.

Group Has Spent \$3.7 Million So Far in 2010

As of Sept. 30, 2010, Club for Growth has [spent \\$3,661,780](#) attacking candidates who oppose its agenda.

Launched Five-State, \$1.5 Million Ad Campaign Targeting Senate Races

The Club for Growth recently [launched](#) a \$1.5 million television ad campaign targeting five Senate seats in Pennsylvania, Florida, Wisconsin, Colorado, and Nevada.

A Long History of False and Misleading Attacks

The Club for Growth has a long history of running false, misleading attacks, including:

- In 2009, [Politifact](#) criticized the Club for Growth for airing a TV ad about health care that was deemed “misleading” and “false.”
- In 2007, the Ohio Ethics Commission ruled that the Club for Growth [had made false statements](#) about Ohio congressional candidate Bob Latta.
- In 2006, Factcheck.org criticized a [misleading Club for Growth ad](#) attacking Sen. Lincoln Chafee.
- In 2006, Comcast and KOAA/Channels 5&30 in Colorado [pulled a Club for Growth ad](#) attacking two Republican candidates in the 5th Congressional District after one campaign argued it was untruthful.
- In 2005 Factcheck.org criticized a Club for Growth ad attacking Senator John McCain with [half-truths and misleading claims](#).

Republicans Have Routinely Trashed Far-Right Club for Growth

The Club for Growth is so extreme that Republicans have been highly critical of the organization. John McCain has called Club for Growth a “bagman for the ultra rich,” former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee called them “the Club for Greed,” and Karl Rove called the group’s attack ads “stupid” and “counterproductive.” [[The Washington Post](#), 1/17/03, [Fox News Sunday](#), 8/28/07, [The New York Times](#), 8/10/03]

Opposes & Distorts Employee Free Choice Act, Calls it “An Abomination”

The Club for Growth is strongly opposed to the Employee Free Choice Act, which it calls “[an abomination](#).” The group incorrectly claims the bill will “strip workers of their right to a secret ballot election,” and make workers “susceptible to intimidation and coercion on the part of union leaders.”

Supports Privatizing Social Security

The group lists “[Social Security reform with personal retirement accounts](#)” as one of its top policy goals.

Opposes Medicare

Club for Growth founder Stephen Moore claimed in 2003 that “Every American taxpayer knows full well the fiscally catastrophic impact of programs like Medicare, Medicaid and other blank-check income redistribution programs.” [[The Detroit News](#), 7/21/03]

Opposes Pay Equity Laws, Claimed Women Don’t Do Jobs as Well as Men

In 2000, Club for Growth founder Stephen Moore wrote an editorial in opposition to gender pay equity. Moore claimed that women “don’t do the job as well as men – and certainly they don’t do it better.” [[The Washington Times](#), 6/16/00]

Supports CAFTA, “Trade Freedom”

While trade agreements like NAFTA and CAFTA are outsourcing American jobs, the Club for Growth [claims](#) that “Trade freedom is essential to prosperity, and expanding free markets as much as possible enhances that prosperity.” In 2005, Club for Growth called votes against CAFTA “[bad for the country](#).”

Opposed Increasing the Minimum Wage

In 2007 – 10 years after the last increase in the minimum wage – the Club for Growth [opposed increasing the minimum wage](#), citing a Heritage Foundation report claiming that “high minimum wages only harm unskilled, low-wage workers.”

Supports Tax Cuts for the Rich

The Club for Growth supports [tax cuts for the very wealthy](#), including the extension of George W. Bush’s tax cuts for the rich. In addition, the Club supports lowering or even eliminating all corporate income taxes, capital gains taxes, and dividend taxes.

Doubletalk on Deficits

The Club for Growth wants to have it both ways on the federal budget deficit. Founder Stephen Moore downplayed the significance of budget deficits in 2004, saying “It’s a tax cut party, thanks to people like Grover Norquist and the Club for Growth.” Yet the group’s [web site](#) claims “The federal government is spending too much, running large deficits, and heading toward a financial crisis.” [[The New Yorker](#), 9/6/04]

FreedomWorks

Tea Party Extremists Funded by Insurance & Oil Industries

- ✓ Headed by right-wing extremist Dick Armey
- ✓ Prominent organizer of the Tea Party movement
- ✓ Major funders include insurance, tobacco, and the right-wing Scaife family
- ✓ Targeting races around the country
- ✓ Opposes Employee Free Choice Act
- ✓ Close ties to oil company that was fined \$30 million for repeated spills
- ✓ Claims government “should do nothing” to deal with BP oil disaster
- ✓ Supports privatizing Social Security
- ✓ Opposed Wall Street reform, opposes Wall Street regulation
- ✓ Supports “free trade,” claims those who don’t oppose capitalism
- ✓ Armey wants to abolish Medicare
- ✓ Armey wants to abolish the minimum wage, FreedomWorks opposed hike
- ✓ George W. Bush is a big fan of FreedomWorks
- ✓ Sleazy deal with insurance company netted group big money

FreedomWorks Headed by Right-Wing Extremist Dick Armey

FreedomWorks is a Washington, DC-based organization headed by former House Majority Leader Richard Armey (R-TX). Armey has argued for the abolition of Social Security, Medicare, and the minimum wage. His organization [claims](#) to fight “for lower taxes, less government and more economic freedom for all Americans.” [Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 3/09/02; Chicago Tribune, 7/11/95; Chicago Tribune, 12/28/95]

A Prominent Organizer of the Tea Party

FreedomWorks is one of the [most prominent organizers](#) of the Tea Party movement, and has aligned itself [more closely with the Tea Party](#) movement than any other preexisting conservative organization.

Major Funders Include Insurance, Tobacco and Right-Wing Scaife Family

According to [the Washington Post](#), FreedomWorks’ major financial backers have included MetLife, Philip Morris, and foundations controlled by the arch-conservative Scaife family.

Targeting Races Around the Country

In January, FreedomWorks released its [list of targets for the 2010 election cycle](#), including Senate races in Florida, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky. In the House, FreedomWorks plans campaign action in Alabama’s 1st, Arkansas’ 2nd, Florida’s 8th, and Ohio’s 15th districts. The group is also monitoring 55 other races around the country, in which it has not yet endorsed a candidate but may get involved.

Opposes Employee Free Choice Act

FreedomWorks [falsely claims](#) that the Employee Free Choice Act “is a top down system which does away with secret ballots.”

Close Ties to the Oil Company Fined \$30 Million for Repeated Oil Spills

FreedomWorks has close ties to the oil industry, including Koch Industries. According to the New York Times, FreedomWorks is a “[Koch-backed enterprise](#).” In 2000, Koch Industries was forced to pay [\\$30 million in fines](#) – then the largest civil fine ever imposed on a company – to resolve claims related to more than 300 oil spills from its pipelines and oil facilities in six states.

FreedomWorks on BP Oil Disaster: “The Government Should Do Nothing.”

FreedomWorks claims that the “[the government should do nothing](#)” to prevent future oil spills like the BP disaster, and agreed with Congressman Joe Barton (R-TX) that the \$20 million escrow fund “[is indeed a shakedown](#).”

Supports Privatizing Social Security; Arme y Wants to Phase It Out

FreedomWorks is a strong supporter of [privatizing Social Security](#), which would [cut guaranteed benefits](#). In fact, in 2002, Arme y said “I think we're going to have to bite the bullet on Social Security and phase it out over a period of time.” [[Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#), 3/09/02]

Arme y Wants to Abolish Medicare

FreedomWorks Chairman Dick Arme y calls for abolishing Medicare, claiming that Medicare is “[a program I would have no part of in a free world](#).” [[Chicago Tribune](#), 7/11/95]

Opposed Wall Street Reform, Prefers to Let “Free-Market Mechanisms” Rule

Freedom Works opposed the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, and actually appears to oppose any regulation of Wall Street, claiming that we should allow “[free-market mechanisms](#) to set the right incentives for banks to make prudent lending decisions.”

Supports “Free Trade,” Claims Those That Don’t Oppose Capitalism

According to FreedomWorks, “[Free trade benefits America](#), but there remains strong political opposition to our freedom. Companies that aren't competitive will seek protection from the government. Other opponents of trade are simply against capitalism.”

Arme y Wants to Abolish the Minimum Wage, FreedomWorks Opposed Increase

In 1995, the Chicago Tribune reported that “House Majority Leader Dick Arme y (R-Texas) has said he would like to abolish the minimum wage altogether.” Freedom Works [claims](#) that increasing the minimum wage “will cause many people to lose their jobs.” [[Chicago Tribune](#), 12/28/95]

George W. Bush is a Fan

George W. Bush is a [big fan of Freedom Works](#), saying “Folks, you've got to get to know this organization ... They have been doing a great job all over the country educating people.”

Sleazy Deal with Insurance Company Netted Group Hundreds of Thousands

Republican insurance tycoon J. Patrick Rooney reached an agreement with FreedomWorks that resulted in the organization netting more than \$638,000 and 16,000 new members – many of whom had no idea they were joining an arch-conservative group when they bought an insurance policy. Rooney proposed the deal to FreedomWorks – then called Citizens for a Sound Economy – under which high-deductible insurance policies and tax-free savings plans were offered at a group discount for buyers who joined FreedomWorks.

THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Standing with Wall Street, Not Main Street

- ✓ Planning to spend \$50 million to defeat Democrats in 2010
- ✓ Spent \$6.9 million so far in 2010
- ✓ Spends \$800,000 a day on lobbying
- ✓ False attack ads pulled off the air in Pennsylvania
- ✓ Supported Wall Street bailout
- ✓ Opposed crackdown on Wall Street
- ✓ Opposes crackdown on BP
- ✓ Opposes regulations on mining companies like Massey Energy
- ✓ Opposes workplace safety regulations
- ✓ Pro-NAFTA, Pro-CAFTA
- ✓ Anti-union
- ✓ Supports privatizing Social Security
- ✓ Opposed increasing minimum wage, equal pay for women and minorities
- ✓ Opposed Family Medical Leave Act
- ✓ Opposed Americans with Disabilities Act

Planning to Spend \$50 Million Elections in 2010

According to the [Washington Post](#), “The Chamber plans to spend at least \$50 million on political races and related activities this year, a 40 percent increase from 2008.” That’s [more than twice](#) the cash holdings of the Republican National Committee and the National Republican Congressional Committee combined.

Group Has Spent \$6.9 Million So Far in 2010

As of Sept. 30, 2010, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has already [spent \\$6,925,037](#) attacking candidates that oppose its agenda.

Spends \$800,000 a Day Lobbying

According to the [Washington Post](#), the U.S. Chamber of Commerce was spending “nearly \$800,000 a day rallying opposition to Democratic proposals in Congress.” All told, the organization spent more money on lobbying and political activities in 2009 than either the Democratic National Committee or the Republican National Committee. Chamber president Tom Donohue [travels in a chauffeured Lincoln](#) and a leased jet. His salary of \$3.7 million makes him the sixth highest paid lobbyist in the country.

False Ads Pulled Off the Air in Pennsylvania

The Chamber of Commerce doesn’t let facts get in the way of their attacks. In Pennsylvania, TV stations refused to air one of the Chamber’s attack ads against Congressman Joe Sestak because “[the ad is false.](#)”

Pro-Wall Street Bailout...

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce strongly supported the \$700 billion Wall Street bailout, and according to [Politico](#), even sent “a threatening e-mail” to Members of Congress who opposed it. “Extraordinary government intervention is essential to restoring confidence and ensuring credit availability,” said the Chamber Vice President for Government Affairs in 2008. “Stabilizing the financial system and preventing a systemic collapse of our capital markets must be the federal government’s top priority.” [Bruce Josten, Letter to Congress on the Financial Markets, 9/24/08]

... But Opposed Crackdown on Wall Street

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce [worked to defeat](#) legislation to reform Wall Street after the 2008 crash sent the economy into a tailspin. The Chamber ran [TV ads](#) attacking the sweeping financial reform bill that President Obama signed into law in 2010.

Opposes Increased Regulation of Oil Companies Like BP

According to [Politico](#), U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Tom Donohue has warned against putting too many regulations in place in the wake of the British Petroleum oil spill, saying there may not be enough information yet to make immediate, sweeping policy changes.

Opposes Stronger Workplace Safety Laws

In 2009, [Tyson Foods and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#) were accused of actively fighting workplace safety measures that could have prevented the tragic death of a Tyson Foods worker. A U.S. District Court in Arkansas ruled that Tyson Foods Inc. must pay a \$500,000 fine – the maximum allowed under the law – for “willfully” violating workplace safety regulations that led to the 2003 death of Jason Kelley, a maintenance worker at its River Valley Animal Foods plant in Texarkana. Mr. Kelley was killed by toxic fumes emitted from a machine he was repairing.

Despite an identical accident in 2002, Tyson Foods did not put safety measures in place to make sure it didn’t happen again. And because they didn’t have a union, the company’s workers were not able to hold their employer accountable for failing to enforce these federally mandated worker safety protections. “Groups like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that opposed the original Occupational Safety and Workplace Act and are now fighting legislation that would enable allowing more workers to choose to form a union. They’re opposing workplace safety,” said Rev. Steve Copley.

Pro-NAFTA, Pro-CAFTA

According to [Politico](#), “U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Tom Donohue has a clear message for Big Labor: Stop getting in the way of U.S. trade expansion and costing the country jobs.”

As the U.S. Chamber of Commerce states on its [website](#), the organization “remains the staunchest advocate of the benefits of the NAFTA, recognizing the importance of the agreement to the welfare of our most important trade relationships.” In 2005, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce also [supported the expansion of NAFTA](#), the Central America Free Trade Agreement.

U.S. Chamber Spent \$50 Million to Block Legislation to Make it Easier for Workers to Join Unions

In 2009, the National Journal reported that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business groups spent \$50 million opposing the Employee Free Choice Act in 2008. The same year, the Chamber pledged an additional \$10 million to defeat the legislation. [[National Journal](#), 2/14/09; [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#), 2/15/09]

Supports Privatizing Social Security

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce [website](#), the organization supported President Bush's Social Security privatization plan. The [Chamber says](#) that it "strongly supports Social Security reform that allows younger workers to invest a portion of their tax contributions in individually managed accounts."

Opposes Increasing the Minimum Wage

In 2007 – 10 years after the last increase in the minimum wage - the U.S. Chamber of Commerce opposed increasing the minimum wage, claiming that "Even this modest increase will hurt free enterprise." [U.S. Chamber of Commerce [radio actuality](#), 7/27/07]

Opposed Family Medical Leave Act

The Chamber opposed the Family Medical Leave Act back in 1991, claiming, "We think most Americans don't want the federal government to be their personnel administrators." ["Alternative Parental Leave Bill," [Washington Post](#), 5/15/91]

Opposed Equal Pay Legislation

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce [worked to defeat](#) the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows victims of pay discrimination to effectively challenge unequal pay.

Opposed Americans with Disabilities Act

When the Americans with Disabilities Act was debated in 1989, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce opposed it, saying, "Small businesses simply do not have the money in the bank." ["Disabled-Rights Bill Praised and Feared," [Newsday](#), 9/9/89]