

FAIR ELECTION FUND REPORT

ARNOLD VENTURES' POLITICAL SPENDING TO ELECT DEMOCRATS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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3. VERA INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE
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The Fair Election Fund has found that Arnold Ventures is spending millions on shaping the national political scene. Arnold Ventures presents itself as a bipartisan philanthropic organization, but a closer look at where its money goes tells a different story. The Fair Election Fund has found that many of the organizations that Arnold Ventures funds are actively working to give Democrats a structural advantage in elections, undermining the very bipartisan credibility that Arnold Ventures claims. Arnold Ventures has funneled tens of millions of dollars into organizations that consistently promote Democratic candidates.

With the 2026 midterms approaching, election integrity advocates and voters have a right to understand who is funding the organizations shaping this election cycle. Arnold Ventures' financial footprint in politics is substantial, and the pattern of its giving consistently favors one side of the political aisle, at odds with its claims of bipartisanship.

The organizations profiled in this report have each received significant funding from Arnold Ventures. Each also has a documented record of electoral activity that overwhelmingly benefits Democratic candidates and causes. For an organization that publicly positions itself as bipartisan, the pattern of support is striking and raises legitimate questions about whether Arnold Ventures' philanthropic dollars are giving Democrats an unfair structural advantage in elections.

1. PLANNED PARENTHOOD ACTION FUND

OVER \$5 MILLION

Arnold Ventures has given over \$5 million to the political arm of Planned Parenthood known as the Planned Parenthood Action Fund. The group gives money exclusively to Democratic candidates and has endorsed dozens of Democrats in key Congressional races this year. Not surprisingly, the Action Fund has not endorsed a single Republican.

Planned Parenthood Action has specifically targeted key Senate races that could decide the balance of power in Washington. The Action Fund's first 2026 endorsements – Jon Ossoff, Roy Cooper, Chris Pappas, and Sherrod Brown – were strategically selected from toss-up states to help Democrats win the Senate and stop the Trump policy agenda.

Planned Parenthood Action Fund has also set its sights on helping Democrats take over the House of Representatives. In April 2026, it announced that it would spend \$1.5 million to go after five specific House Republicans. These House Members are located in swing districts that could swing the entire House and give Democrats the Speakership.

In June 2026, Planned Parenthood doubled down with an additional \$2 million fund to defeat House Republicans and take over Congress. Arnold Ventures gave directly to Planned Parenthood Action Fund, whose mission is to win the House for Democrats, which would be the first step to another impeachment of President Trump.

Laura and John Arnold		Home	Blog	Philosophy	Videos	Giving Pledge	Personal Giving
Personal Advocacy and Political Contributions*		Tweets from Laura and John					
December 2015 – December 2017		Tweets from @LJA_Foundation/tweets-from-laura-john					
\$5,000,000 – \$9,999,999							
Open Primaries Advocacy							
Planned Parenthood Action Fund, Inc.							
U.S. Justice Action Network							

(“PERSONAL ADVOCACY AND POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS*,” [ARNOLD VENTURES WEB ARCHIVE](#), ACCESSED 4/9/26)

\$100,000 - \$499,999
America Works USA
Americans Committeed for Progress, Inc.
Arizonans for Strong Leadership
Californians for Innovation PAC Ro Khanna (CA)
Common Sense Leadership for America
EdVoice Independent Expenditure Committee
FairVote Action Fund, Inc.
General Majority PAC
Georgians Together
Govern or Go Home
Great Schools Massachusetts
Healthier Colorado
Illinois Public Health Institute
Indirect Contributions – Soda Tax
Innovation Reform Action Project
No Labels
Opportunity for All Georgia Students, Inc.
Patients for Affordable Drugs Now
Philadelphians for a Fair Future
Planned Parenthood Texas Votes

Arnold Ventures also used its funding of Planned Parenthood to help Democrats at the state level. Arnold Ventures added more money to the Democratic effort to turn Texas Blue by giving more than \$100,000 in the form of a personal donation to Planned Parenthood Texas Votes, which “engages in electoral activity, legislative advocacy, grassroots organizing, and leadership development to promote and protect the mission of Planned Parenthood affiliates in Texas.” What this means in practice is Planned Parenthood Texas Votes uses its resources to elect Democrats across the state.

(“PERSONAL ADVOCACY AND POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS*,” [ARNOLD VENTURES WEB ARCHIVE](#), ACCESSED 4/9/26)

2. CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS

OVER \$1.5 MILLION

The Center for American Progress (CAP) is an extremely liberal group that has been given more than \$1.5 million by Arnold Ventures over the past five years. CAP used those resources in part to promote Representative Katherine Clark (D-MA) and support her nationalized childcare policies. Rep. Clark has called President Trump a “traitor” and called for his impeachment.

2a. Center for American Progress Donations Went to Democrats

CAP’s bias toward Democratic candidates and opposition to the Trump agenda is evidenced by their political giving. According to data from OpenSecrets, the \$147,332 in political contributions made by CAP employees in 2024 all went to Democratic candidates.

3. VERA INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

OVER \$13 MILLION

The Vera Institute of Justice is a liberal organization that promotes Democratic candidates in elections across the country through its political arm, known as Vera Action. Vera Institute for Justice also received \$13 million from Arnold Ventures to fund its progressive causes.

Vera uses its resources in direct political action meant to elect Democrats, take the majority in Congress, and stop President Trump’s America First agenda. Vera Action Director Insha Rahman spoke to the DNC in summer 2025 to outline a strategy to win elections based on the topic: “How Democrats Can Fight and Win the Crime Debate.”

In May 2026, Vera launched a campaign with Dream.org to influence the midterm elections and combat public safety and crime legislation proposed by President Trump.

Vera Director Insha Rahman has continued to speak in June 2026 about ways Democrats can win the crime debate ahead of the midterms. Not only is Vera supporting Democrats in Congress, but they also pushed elected officials to fight Trump's law and order policies. Vera called on Democrats to restrict ICE amid the DHS funding shutdown, urging them not to "put real teeth" on those policies.

3a. Vera's Employees Back Democrats

Vera's bias toward Democratic candidates and opposition to the Trump agenda is evidenced by their political giving. According to OpenSecrets data, all \$14,000 in political donations from Vera employees in 2024 went to Democratic candidates.

4. BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

OVER \$5.7 MILLION

The supposedly non-partisan Brookings Institution has a track record of using its credibility to boost liberal policies and give Democrats a bully pulpit in Washington, D.C. Arnold Ventures has given Brookings more than \$5.7 million over the years to help it promote prominent Democrats and oppose Republican policies.

In June 2026, the Brookings Institution held an event featuring a speech by Florida U.S. Representative Maxwell Frost (D-FL). Brookings was promoting his legislation to create new federal transit grants. Rep. Frost previously filed articles of impeachment against Supreme Court Justices Alito and Thomas.

In May 2026, Senator Adam Schiff (D-CA) was the only elected official participating in a Brookings event on the rise of prediction markets. Rep. Schiff has already orchestrated a failed impeachment of President Trump.

In April 2026, Democratic Senator Jeff Merkley (R-OR) was once again the only elected member of Congress to take center stage at a Brookings event on predictive betting markets. Sen. Merkley is running for re-election this year.

4a. Brookings Institution Employees Give 100% to Democratic Candidates

Brookings' bias toward Democratic candidates and opposition to the Trump agenda is evidenced by their political giving. According to data from OpenSecrets, the \$243,585 in political contributions made by Brookings Institution employees in 2024 all went to Democratic candidates.

CONCLUSION

Arnold Ventures presents itself as non-partisan philanthropists. A basic review of where it spends its money shows that Arnold Ventures is a major backer of Democrats. Arnold Ventures has given over \$20 million to groups that are promoting Democrats and spending directly on campaigns that could result in the Democratic takeover of Congress and the impeachment of President Trump.