



**NPR Gives Its Private Donors
What They Pay For**

1. CLIMATE CRISIS



The Rockefeller Foundation donates \$500,000

Donor objective: Combatting the Climate Crisis

*"[T]he climate crisis threatens people around the world..."*¹

Donation purpose: *"Toward the costs of building reporting capacity for covering energy, environmental and climate change news in order to improve public knowledge and understanding, provide public accountability and help communities take action to protect the planet."*²



THE UNEXPECTED LINKS BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE, STUDENT DEBT AND LOWER LIFETIME EARNINGS

"As severe floods, wildfires and hurricanes become more frequent due to climate change, economists and sociologists are beginning to study the effects of those disasters on people who are in financially and socially formative college years."

THERE'S A NEW 'CLIMATE REALITY CHECK' TEST — THESE 3 OSCAR-NOMINATED FEATURES PASSED

"The test is, does climate change exist in the world of your story? And if so, does a character know it?"

NPR Coverage^{6 7}



Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation donates \$4 million

Donor objective: Fast Tracking the Green Transition via Global Development

*"Every country needs to undertake urgent and significant development and growth transitions to adapt to the consequences of ongoing climate change, and to fast track the move to a green economy."*³

Donation purpose: *"To support NPR's ongoing coverage of global health and development issues and data infrastructure."*⁴



FROM 'GENDER APARTHEID' TO 'CLIMATE MOBILITY,' HERE ARE BUZZWORDS TO WATCH THIS YEAR

"2024 is set to be a historically consequential election year . . . The results could fundamentally affect the rights of minorities, humanitarian aid funding, progress or backsliding on climate change and the risk of political violence. In his end-of-year letter, Bill Gates said that the 2024 elections will be 'a turning point for both health and climate.'"

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2. ELECTIONS



Carnegie Corporation of New York donates \$1 million

Donor objective: Fortifying Elections

*"With barriers to voting on the rise (e.g., complex voter registration requirements and cutbacks in early voting), large-scale efforts to protect voting rights and encourage voter engagement at the federal and state levels are of critical importance."*⁸

Donation purpose: "General support"⁹

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REPUBLICANS AIM TO STOP NONCITIZEN VOTING IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS. IT'S ALREADY ILLEGAL

"Numerous studies have also confirmed that [noncitizen voting] almost never happens, but as more conservative voters say immigration is a key issue for them, it's become clearer that election misinformation in 2024 will center on the topic as well."¹¹ Speaker of the House Mike Johnson has "also pushed the unfounded idea that the Biden administration is allowing migrants to cross the southern border for political gain."

WHY THE FIGHT TO COUNTER FALSE ELECTION CLAIMS MAY BE HARDER IN 2024

"As Nina Jankowicz sees it, the opening salvo came in the spring of 2022, when a right-wing campaign quickly snuffed out a Department of Homeland Security initiative called the Disinformation Governance Board . . . [T]he government, platforms and researchers say [Republicans'] lawsuit and investigation unfairly mischaracterize their communications."

3. IMMIGRATION



Catena Foundation donates \$600,000

Donor objective: Advocating for Liberal Immigration Policy

*"The foundation... has stated it has a focus on giving to... left-of-center nonprofits in western states."*¹¹

Donation purpose: "Immigration - NPR and TX public radio immigration coverage."¹²

NPR Coverage^{13 14}



THE HUMAN COST OF THE U.S. BORDER POLICY

"Brooks County, Texas is a barren scrub brush desert that U.S. immigration policy takes advantage of to raise the death toll for migrants."

AN UNPRECEDENTED YEAR IN IMMIGRATION, AND IN ANTI-IMMIGRATION RHETORIC

"While Republican candidate promises to crack down on immigration are nothing new, the rhetoric has been unprecedented."

4. DEI

MacArthur
Foundation

MacArthur Foundation donates \$500,000

Donor objective: Promoting DEI and Ending Philanthropy's Complicity in Anti-Blackness "[W]e ensure that our decisions and actions are rooted in the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion..."^{15 16}

Donation purpose "In support of NPR's Race and Identity beat and Podcasts: Code Switch and Throughline."¹⁷

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO 'INHERIT WHITENESS'?

"When Baynard Woods left his hometown of South Carolina as an adult, he thought he'd escaped the South's legacy as well. But after a few experiences and an unexpected discovery about his family history, he realized just how **deep the mythology of whiteness in his life really was.**"

WTF DOES RACE HAVE TO DO WITH TAXES?

"You and I would not be talking had I not written the book 'The Whiteness Of Wealth.' ... And my cause was transforming the national conversation on tax policy so that you could never think about **taxes again divorced from systemic racism.** Or, as I say, tax policy is a civil rights issue."



Jacob & Valeria Langeloth Foundation donates \$100,000

Donor objective: Our Criminal Justice System is Inherently Racist

"Race, gender, economics, and legal status should not be barriers to full equity."¹⁸

"We look for programs that seek to change the inherent nature and role of the current justice system."¹⁹

Donation purpose: "NPR and its network of Member Stations will report on criminal justice and reform efforts at state and federal levels. Social and racial justice issues will continue to thread NPR's coverage throughout to inform the public about the realities of the nation's criminal justice system."²⁰

NPR Coverage^{23 24}

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THE LATEST MASS SHOOTING IN FLORIDA WAS RACIST. WHAT ROLE DO STATE POLITICS PLAY?

"A big part of the conversation now is what role state politics play in crimes like this. Florida Republican Governor Ron DeSantis has loosened gun laws in recent years and put restrictions on how race is taught in public schools."

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HOW RACISM BECAME A MARKETING TOOL FOR COUNTRY MUSIC

NPR re Jason Aldean's crime-critiquing "Try That in A Small Town": "Is that what it takes to be a successful country artist today: racism? ... Is racism what it takes for country music to go number one? ... I wanted to know **how country music became this symbol of racism.**"



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation donates \$2.75M

Donor objective: Racism as a Public Health Issue “RWJF is taking steps to focus on one of the biggest barriers to health in America: structural racism.”²⁵

“Health should be a right not a privilege... the racial reckoning of 2020 made that clear.”²⁶

Donation purpose: “NPR will bridge the gap between personal, public and community health—especially the social determinants of health—and address the fundamental inequities of health and healthcare in America.”²⁹

NPR Coverage^{30 31}



IN THE WORLD OF **MEDICINE, RACE-BASED** DIAGNOSES ARE STILL VERY REAL

“We’ve probably said it a hundred times on Code Switch—biological race is not a real thing. So **why is race still used to help diagnose certain conditions**, like keloids or cystic fibrosis?”



FOLLOWING IN HER MOM’S FOOTSTEPS, A DOCTOR FIGHTS TO MAKE **MEDICINE MORE INCLUSIVE**

“So often you would read a textbook and it would say that the risk factor for diabetes or the risk factor for high blood pressure is race. **Race cannot be a risk factor because it’s a social construct.** . . . I think that SCOTUS’s [affirmative action] decision is going to have a long-term impact on Black health.”



Melville Charitable Trust donates \$250,000

Donor objective: Shifting Opinion Toward Anti-Racist Housing Policy

“The Trust invests in research, messaging, narrative change and accountability journalism that shift public perceptions about the root causes of housing instability, and advance equitable housing opportunities for Black, Indigenous and Latino/a/x people with extremely low incomes.”²⁷

Donation purpose: “[I]n support of national coverage of issues related to poverty and homelessness,” the “root cause[s]” of which include “Racist housing, zoning, and land use policies.”²⁸

NPR Coverage³²



HOUSING SECRETARY MARCIA FUDGE IS CONFRONTING A **‘RACIST’ SYSTEM**

“[Secretary Fudge] joins Here & Now’s Deepa Fernandes to discuss how she is focusing on **housing through a lens of racial equity.**”

Endnotes

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