
**America for Sale:
A Report on Billionaires Buying the
2012 Election**



**U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.)
Washington, DC**

Billionaires buying the 2012 elections have a combined \$146 billion in wealth, more than the bottom 42.5% of American households – nearly 50 million families.

- So far this year, 26 billionaires have donated more than \$61 million to super PACs, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. And, that's only what has been publically disclosed.
- This \$61 million does not include about \$100 million that Sheldon Adelson has said that he is willing to spend to defeat President Obama; or the \$400 million that the Koch brothers have pledged to spend during the 2012 election season.
- These 26 billionaires have a combined net worth of \$146 billion, which is more than the bottom 42.5 percent of American households (equal to nearly 50 million families in the United States).

(Sources: Federal Reserve's Survey of Consumer Finances published in June 2012; and the Forbes billionaire list of April 2012. Sylvia A. Allegretto, an economist at the University of California, Berkeley helped us gather the data from the Federal Reserve study to come up with these statistics.)

Here is a list of the billionaires:

1. Sheldon Adelson, owner of the Las Vegas Sands Casino, is worth nearly \$25 billion, making him the 14th wealthiest person in the world and the 7th richest person in America.

While median family income plummeted by nearly 40% from 2007-2010, Mr. Adelson has experienced a nearly eightfold increase in his wealth over the past three years (from \$3.4 billion to \$24.9 billion).

Forbes recently reported that Adelson is willing to spend a "limitless" amount of money or [more than \\$100 million](#) to help defeat President Obama in November.

While \$100 million sounds like a lot, it equals [the same percentage](#) of Adelson's wealth that [\\$300 to \\$400](#) does for the typical middle class family (with a net worth of about \$77,000).

Sheldon Adelson owns more wealth than the bottom 40.2% of American households or 47.2 million American families.

2. The Kochs (David, Charles, and William) are worth a combined \$54 billion, according to Forbes. They have pledged to spend about \$400 million during the 2012 election season.
3. Jim Walton is worth \$23.7 billion. He has donated \$300,000 to super PACs in 2012.
4. Harold Simmons is worth \$9 billion. He has donated \$15.2 million to super PACs this year.
5. Peter Thiel is worth \$1.5 billion. He has donated \$6.7 million to Super PACs this year.

6. Jerrold Perenchio is worth \$2.3 billion. He has donated \$2.6 million to super PACs this year.
7. Kenneth Griffin is worth \$3 billion and he has given \$2.08 million to super PACs in 2012.
8. James Simons is worth \$10.7 billion and he has given \$1.5 million to super Pacs this year.
9. Julian Robertson is worth \$2.5 billion and he has given \$1.25 million to super PACs this year.
10. Robert Rowling is worth \$4.8 billion and he has given \$1.1 million to super PACs.
11. John Paulson, the hedge fund manager who made his fortune betting that the sub-prime mortgage market would collapse, is worth \$12.5 billion. He has donated \$1 million to super PACs.
12. Richard and J.W. Marriott are worth a combined \$3.1 billion and they have donated \$2 million to super PACs this year.
13. James Davis is worth \$1.9 billion and he has given \$1 million to super PACs this year.
14. Harold Hamm is worth \$11 billion and he has given \$985,000 to super PACs this year.
15. Kenny Trout is worth more than \$1.2 billion and he has given \$900,000 to super PACs this year.
16. Louis Bacon is worth \$1.4 billion and he has given \$500,000 to super PACs this year.
17. Bruce Kovner is worth \$4.5 billion and he has given \$500,000 to super PACs this year.
18. Warren Stephens is worth \$2.7 billion and he has given \$500,000 to super PACs this year.
19. David Tepper is worth \$5.1 billion and he has given \$375,000 to super PACs this year.
20. Samuel Zell is worth \$4.9 billion and he has given \$270,000 to super PACs this year.
21. Leslie Wexner is worth \$4.3 billion and he has given \$250,000 to super PACs this year.
22. Charles Schwab is worth \$3.5 billion and he has given \$250,000 to super PACs this year.
23. Kelcy Warren is worth \$2.3 billion and he has given \$250,000 to super PACs this year.