



WHO'S PULLING THE STRINGS?

FLORIDA FOR ALL EDUCATION FUND'S 2025 CORPORATE GREED REPORT

CORPORATE CEOS ARE DICTATING FLORIDIANS'
EVERYDAY LIVES FROM THE SHADOWS OF THE STATE
LEGISLATURE. WE WANTED TO KNOW WHO'S ACTUALLY
PULLING THE STRINGS ON OUR LAWMAKERS— SO WE
FOLLOWED THE MONEY.

FLORIDA
FOR **ALL**
EDUCATION FUND

FL 
STUDENT
POWER

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INTRODUCTION

Who We Are

Florida For All Education Fund is a coalition, an alignment vehicle, a grassroots supergroup of 6 statewide organizations and dozens more at the local level all that include Florida Rising Together, Florida Immigrant Coalition, Faith in Florida, Central Florida Jobs with Justice, Dream Defenders, and SEIU

Back in 2016, these organizations united around a shared vision: to reject the scarcity narrative, and build lasting collective power. As a result, we've been able to leverage the strength of our capacities, our membership, and our leadership to ultimately create an alignment space that orients our collective work.

Our coalition takes on an expansive range of issues including immigration, housing, climate justice, labor, healthcare, and the throughline that connects them is the billionaires and corporate CEOs who hoard our wealth and seek to control working people.

That is why our work at Florida For All Education Fund focuses on corporate and billionaire accountability. We recognize that budgets and taxes are policy areas touching every part of our work and are key to building the multi-racial solidarity we need to combat far-right attacks and build a Florida that works for all.

Where We're At

In January 2025, the world saw how all of Trump's big tech billionaire "broligarch" BFFs had front row seats at his inauguration - but there was one other thing that was front and center that day- and that was our

beautiful home state of Florida. For all the wrong reasons.

Trump is of course a resident of Florida, the state where he doesn't pay taxes. And with Marco Rubio as Secretary of State, Pam Bondi as Attorney General, and Dr. Oz running the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, Trump has made it clear that he has a type. Over a dozen of his cabinet picks were connected to Florida

We've seen how Trump surrounded himself with loyalists from our state who were ready to extract and expand dangerous policies that ultra-conservative think tanks have already tested here in Florida.

In the Fall of 2024, our sister organization Florida For All Action Fund released [an investigative report](#), *The Laboratory*, that found that, just in the last 4 years, there have been nearly 120 state-level bills filed in Florida with direct ties to masterminds behind Project 2025, with three-quarters of those bills signed into law by Gov. Ron DeSantis

The Laboratory report issued a clear warning: the corporate elites and the billionaires behind Project 2025 have used Florida as their laboratory to test their most dangerous ideas, and if we don't stop them here, these attacks will spread nationwide.

The Florida Legislature is a front line in the global fight against extractive corporations and right-wing billionaires. We have the opportunity to lead at the local and state level and show the country how to protect our freedoms.

Methodology

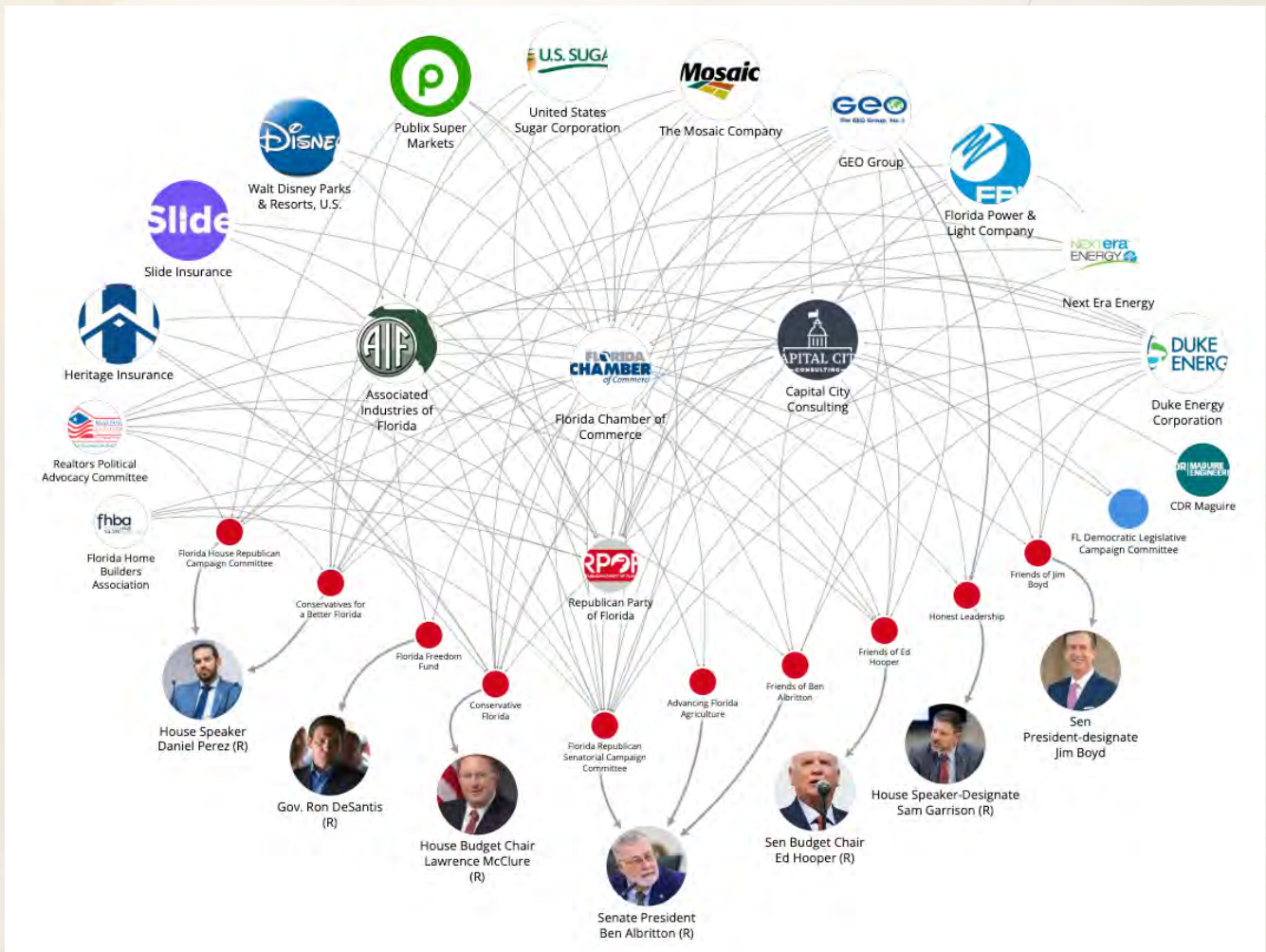
To determine how much money corporations have contributed to legislative leaders in Tallahassee, we compiled all campaign contributions \$5,000 and above between the last session, March 8th, 2024, to the start of this session, March 4th, 2025, to political committees controlled by Gov. Ron DeSantis (Florida Freedom Fund) and six key legislative leaders:

- 💰 Senate President Ben Albritton (Friends of Ben Albritton, Advancing Florida Agriculture)
- 💰 Senate Budget Chairman Ed Hooper (Friends of Ed Hooper)
- 💰 Senate President-designate Jim Boyd (Friends of Jim Boyd)
- 💰 House Speaker Daniel Perez (Conservatives for a Better Florida)
- 💰 House Budget Chairman Lawrence McClure (Conservative Florida)
- 💰 House Speaker-designate Sam Garrison (Honest Leadership)

We also looked at PACs associated with political parties such as the Florida House Republican Campaign Committee, Florida Republican Senatorial Campaign, Republican Party of Florida, Florida Democratic Party, and the Florida Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee. All figures cited in this report come from [that dataset](#).

WHO'S PULLING THE STRINGS?

Behind every major decision in Tallahassee, **there's an incestuous dark web of money, lobbyists, and corporate influence shaping the outcome.** Lawmakers aren't debating policy on its merits, because the most powerful voices in the room belong to corporations and the front groups, lobbying firms, and political committees they bankroll.



Little Sis Power Map: These corporations were the top donors to key decision makers in the state legislature ahead of Florida's 2025 Legislative Session.

From Associated Industries of Florida and the Florida Chamber of Commerce, to Big Sugar, Florida Power & Light, and the Realtors PAC, the state's largest industries pour millions into campaigns, ghostwrite legislation, and enjoy open-door access to political leaders. In return, lawmakers deliver tax breaks, regulatory rollbacks, and policies that protect corporate profits—even when they come at the direct expense of working families, renters, consumers, and our environment.

This section of the report maps out Florida's corporate influence machine. We'll show how:

- 💰 **Big Business front groups** like Associated Industries of Florida, the Florida Chamber of Commerce, and Capital City Consulting launder corporate agendas through polished lobbying shops.
- 💰 **Big Agriculture and extractive industries** like U.S. Sugar and Mosaic pollute our water and poison our politics while shielding themselves from accountability.
- 💰 **Insurance companies** like Heritage and Slide use campaign cash to block consumer protections while Floridians face unaffordable premiums.
- 💰 **Energy monopolies** like NextEra / Florida Power & Light and Duke spend lavishly to crush clean energy, raise rates, and silence opposition.
- 💰 **Housing lobbyists** like the Realtors PAC and Florida Home Builders Association bankroll policies that strip local renter protections and fuel runaway development.

Together, these industries form an interconnected network that bolsters corporate wealth by exploiting working people. The following pages expose who's really pulling the strings in the Florida Legislature—and how their grip is crushing everyday Floridians.

TAKE ACTION

The ultra wealthy are turning Florida into the model of corporate dictatorship that tech billionaires want to establish across the country. These corporations are responsible for making Florida unaffordable, polluting our state, and putting our communities at risk—yet our leaders keep cashing their checks and pushing their agendas.

Tell your legislators - support working people and REJECT campaign money from the corporate elite:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 💰 Associated Industries of Florida | 💰 The Mosaic Company |
| 💰 Chamber of Commerce | 💰 U.S Sugar Corporation |
| 💰 Capital City Consulting | 💰 Publix Supermarkets |
| 💰 Duke Energy | 💰 Walt Disney Parks and Resorts |
| 💰 Florida Power and Light and Next Era | 💰 Slide Insurance |
| 💰 GEO Group | 💰 Heritage Insurance |



**CLICK HERE TO
TAKE ACTION**

BIG BUSINESS AND THEIR FRONT GROUPS

Florida's political system is dominated by a well-funded network of corporate front groups that operate as the hidden hand of the state's biggest companies. These groups are polished lobbying machines built to serve corporate CEOs, not working Floridians.

You may have never heard of their names, but your state lawmakers know them well. They are a powerful force in Tallahassee, representing corporate giants like Publix, Disney, Mosaic, Florida Power & Light, U.S. Sugar, the GEO Group, and dozens more. They function as a collective shield, allowing big corporations to push their agenda behind vague trade association names and avoid public accountability while advancing policies that serve their bottom line at our expense.

Every year, these front groups work hand in hand with legislators to write the very laws that erode labor protections, weaken oversight, strip away local freedoms, slash taxes for big corporations, and deregulate their own industries—putting Floridians at risk.

They bankroll campaigns, flood the Capitol with their well-paid lobbyists, and enjoy open-door access to legislators while everyday Floridians who take time off work and make the long journey to Tallahassee to testify are rudely cut off or silenced. If a corporate lobbyist speaks against a bill in committee, you can be sure that by the next stop, industry-friendly language has been added.

The result is a steady stream of bills written not for the public good, but for corporate profit. This session we saw:

💰 **SB 832** (“**Mosaic Immunity**”) – a bill that would have shielded phosphate giant Mosaic from lawsuits after polluting Florida's land and water. Just four days before filing, Mosaic cut a \$10,000 check to the bill's sponsor, Sen. Danny Burgess.

💰 **HB 1205** (“**Attack on Citizen-Led Ballot Initiatives**”) – another corporate-backed attempt to rewrite the rules of democracy in their favor.

Associated Industries of Florida

Paid \$450,000 to key leaders of Florida's 2025 Legislative Session

Corporate Donor	Bills Supported On Record	Issue Area
 Brewster B. Bevis CEO	HB 1219	Bill Title: "Employment Agreements" <i>What it actually means:</i> Longer Non-Competes to Suppress Wages
	HB 565	Bill Title: "Regulation of Auxiliary Containers" <i>What it actually means:</i> Let the Sea Turtles Choke (Again)
	HB 585	Bill Title: "Former Phosphate Mining Lands" <i>What it actually means:</i> Lawsuit Shield for Toxic Corporations (Mosaic)

Major Funders

Alongside spending \$450,000 to secure influence over Florida's 2025 Legislative Session, Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) pulled in massive contributions during the 2024 election cycle from some of the state's biggest corporate players: **U.S. Sugar Corporation (\$400,000)**, **Publix (\$350,000)**, **TECO Energy (\$350,000)**, and **Duke Energy (\$125,000)**. These contributions ensured that AIF could continue acting as a clearinghouse for corporate cash and political influence in Tallahassee.

Ties

AIF's corporate connections run deep. **Sarah Fedorchuk**, a public affairs executive at phosphate giant **Mosaic**, currently sits on its board. During the 2025 session, AIF registered as a lobbyist for **SB 832**—dubbed the "Mosaic Immunity" bill—which would have shielded Mosaic from lawsuits after poisoning Florida's land and water and endangering public health. The timing revealed the pay-to-play nature of Florida politics: just four days before the bill was filed, Mosaic cut a **\$10,000 check** to its sponsor, **Sen. Danny Burgess**.

Pattern

For years, Mosaic and other major corporations have used AIF as their **political front group**—bankrolling lawmakers, advancing corporate-friendly laws, and insulating themselves from direct accountability. The formula is clear: corporations funnel money into AIF, AIF distributes it to political leaders, and in return, lawmakers deliver policies that put corporate profits above Floridians' health and safety.

Florida Chamber Of Commerce

Paid \$452,000 to key leaders of Florida's 2025 Legislative Session

Corporate Donor	Bills Supported On Record	Issue Area
 Mark Wilson CEO	HB 1219	Bill Title: "Employment Agreements" <i>What it actually means:</i> Longer Non-Competes to Suppress Wages
	HB 1225	Bill Title: "Employment of Minors" <i>What it actually means:</i> Child Labor
	HB 585	Bill Title: "Former Phosphate Mining Lands" <i>What it actually means:</i> Lawsuit Shield for Toxic Corporations (Mosaic)
	HB 1205	Bill Title: "Initiative Petitions for Constitutional Amendments" <i>What it actually means:</i> "Pay To Have Say" - Attack On Citizen-Led Ballot Initiatives

Major Funders

The Chamber's political muscle comes from some of the biggest corporations operating in Florida. [Tax records](#) show its board includes executives from **Publix** and **Walt Disney World**, while its [political operations](#) are heavily bankrolled by **U.S. Sugar**, **Florida Power & Light**, and **Mosaic**. Ahead of the 2025 session, the Chamber funneled **\$452,000** to key legislative leaders through a maze of political committees, making it one of the largest campaign contributors in the state.

Ties

The Chamber is a textbook example of corporations hiding behind trade associations. **Disney**, in particular, is known for keeping its fingerprints off controversial legislation. As journalist **Jason Garcia** has [reported](#) for years, "Disney has a tendency to work through the Chamber of Commerce or AIF ... to cloak their involvement in the process." By operating through the Chamber, Disney and other corporations avoid public backlash while still securing the policies they want.

 Pattern

The Chamber brands itself as the “**voice of small business**,” but its board and funders tell a different story. With leaders like **Rena Langley** (Disney’s Senior Vice President of Communications and Public Affairs) [on the Chamber’s board](#) and [longstanding](#) members like Publix, the Chamber functions as a shield for Florida’s largest corporate players. Its playbook is simple: **funnel corporate cash into the Capitol, cloak controversial agendas under the guise of small business, and erode labor and community protections in the process.**

“The best way to think about a group like the Florida Chamber of Commerce is as a brand laundering organization. They exist so that when a company like Publix or Disney—who have consumer-facing brands they don’t want tied to controversial policies—want a corporate tax cut, they send the Chamber to lobby for it. That way, there’s no public backlash, and you don’t know who to hold responsible.”

Jason Garcia

Reporter, *Seeking Rents*

Capital City Consulting

Paid \$462,500 to key leaders of Florida's 2025 Legislative Session

Corporate Donor	Bills Supported On Record	Issue Area
 Nick Iarossi and Ron LaFace CEOs	HB 1219	Bill Title: "Employment Agreements" <i>What it actually means:</i> Longer Non-Competes to Suppress Wages
	HB 1205	Bill Title: "Initiative Petitions for Constitutional Amendments" <i>What it actually means:</i> "Pay To Have Say" - Attack On Citizen-Led Ballot Initiatives
	HB 1381	Bill Title: "Elections" <i>What it actually means:</i> Reduce Early Voting Options and Restrict Student IDs
	HB 123	Bill Title: "Education" <i>What it actually means:</i> Reduced Community Input and Local Accountability In School Governance

\$ Major Funders

Capital City Consulting (CCC) is one of the most lucrative lobbying firms in Tallahassee, [collecting \\$4.05 million](#) for legislative lobbying in just the first quarter of 2025. Its client roster [reveals](#) the overlap between corporate front groups and direct corporate players:

- \$ **Associated Industries of Florida (AIF):** \$199,000 (legislative), \$63,000 (executive)
- \$ **CDR Maguire:** \$53,000 (legislative), \$53,000 (executive)
- \$ **Lennar Homes:** \$53,000 (legislative)
- \$ **The GEO Group:** \$72,000 (executive)
- \$ **Florida Power & Light** has also been a major client in recent years.

🔗 Ties

Founded by former political insiders Ron LaFace Jr. and Nick Iarossi and with close connections to past governors Jeb Bush and Rick Scott, CCC is a textbook example of the revolving door between government and corporate lobbying. Its contracts also show a

revolving door between front groups (like AIF) and direct corporate clients (like GEO Group), reinforcing how tightly this influence machine is interwoven.

Pattern

By simultaneously representing front groups and their member corporations, CCC **ensures that lawmakers hear the same corporate talking points from multiple angles.** Whether it's AIF pushing a “business-friendly” agenda or GEO Group lobbying for detention contracts, CCC is the common denominator. This structure allows corporations to **amplify their influence** in Tallahassee, making CCC one of the most effective—and dangerous—power brokers in the Capitol.

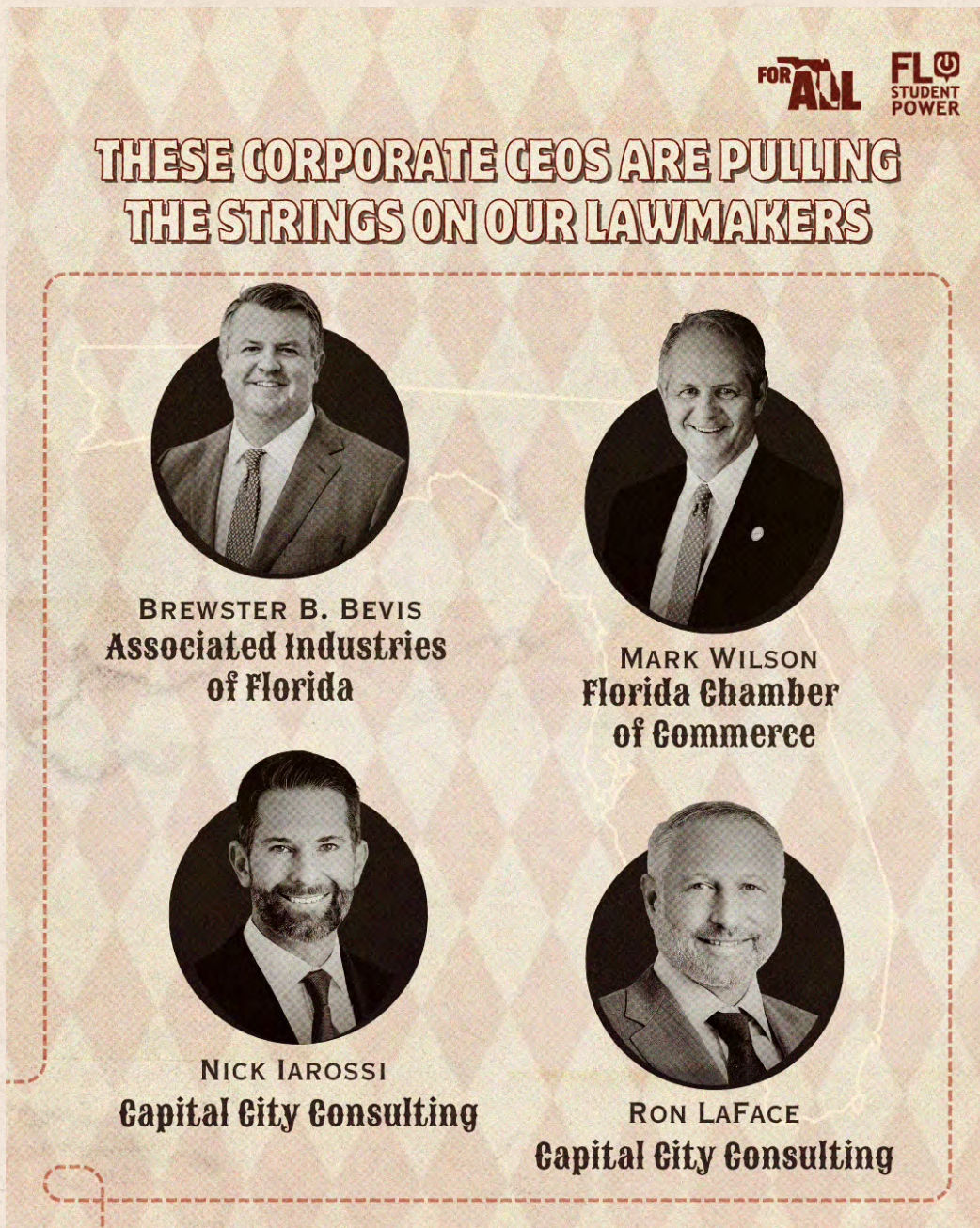
The Bigger Picture

Taken together, AIF, the Chamber, and CCC form the backbone of Florida's corporate influence machine. They act as intermediaries that allow companies like Disney, Publix, Mosaic, and U.S. Sugar to bankroll campaigns, ghostwrite laws, and lobby for deregulation—all while shielding their brands from public scrutiny. This seamless coordination between corporate funders, front groups, and lobbying firms ensures that the interests of Florida's wealthiest corporations dominate the political agenda, while working people are left out of the process entirely.

This brand laundering operation allows corporations to hide their fingerprints **while gutting protections for workers, our environment, and our democracy.**

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STUDENT POWER

THESE CORPORATE CEOS ARE PULLING THE STRINGS ON OUR LAWMAKERS



BREWSTER B. BEVIS
Associated Industries of Florida

MARK WILSON
Florida Chamber of Commerce

NICK IAROSSI
Capital City Consulting

RON LAFACE
Capital City Consulting

BIG AGRICULTURE AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY

Few industries have left as deep a scar on Florida's politics—and its environment—as Big Sugar and phosphate mining. These corporations have mastered the art of influence in Tallahassee, protecting their profits by funding both parties, hiring high-powered lobbyists, and cutting backroom deals that shield them from accountability. The result is decades of political scandals, environmental destruction, and a legislature that too often works for polluters instead of Floridians.

Floridians across the political spectrum are fed up. After years of toxic algae blooms fueled by sugar runoff in the Everglades, and radioactive waste from Mosaic's phosphate mining polluting Tampa Bay, voters have demanded change. Politicians often try to brand themselves as "sugar-free" reformers, but behind the slogans, the influence of Big Agriculture and extractive industries still dominates the Capitol.

The Mosaic Company

Paid \$167,400 to key leaders of Florida's 2025 Legislative Session

Corporate Donor	Bills Supported On Record	Issue Area
  Bruce Bodine CEO	HB 585	Bill Title: "Former Phosphate Mining Lands" What it actually means: Lawsuit Shield for Toxic Corporations (Mosaic)

\$ Major Funders

Mosaic is one of Florida's most entrenched political spenders. In 2025 alone, the company contributed **\$167,400** to key legislative leaders. Its money flows steadily into campaign coffers, ensuring it maintains influence over both lawmakers and front groups.

🔗 Ties

Mosaic's reach extends well beyond campaign checks. Its executives sit on the **board of the Associated Industries of Florida (AIF)**, where they are in position to shape the group's agenda and use AIF as a shield to advance their own interests. Mosaic was also the driving force behind **SB 832**, a brazen corporate-protection bill that would have granted the company sweeping immunity from lawsuits over pollution. Testimony revealed that Mosaic cut a **\$10,000 check** to the bill's sponsor, **Sen. Danny Burgess**, just four days before the legislation was filed.

Pattern

Mosaic's pattern of action is clear: bankroll politicians, embed itself in front groups, and push laws that protect its bottom line while polluting Florida's land and water. Even when SB 832 failed, the process exposed the **pay-to-play politics** that define Tallahassee.

U.S. Sugar Corporation

Paid \$300,000* to key leaders of Florida's 2025 Legislative Session

Major Funders

U.S. Sugar is one of the largest political donors in Florida, spending \$300,000 during the 2025 session alone. Alongside Florida Crystals, it has poured millions into elections for decades, securing its position as one of the most politically powerful industries in the state.

Ties

Sugar executives maintain deep influence through **front groups like the Florida Chamber of Commerce**, which lobby under the guise of “small business” advocacy while protecting Big Sugar's interests. These corporations bankroll both parties, ensuring they remain untouchable no matter which political faction holds power. Their runoff has fueled **toxic algae blooms** that devastate tourism, fishing businesses, and public health—yet their influence shields them from real accountability.

Pattern

As investigative journalist Jason Garcia explains:

“There is kind of like an elite inner circle of corporations that really dominate elections and policy making, and whenever they want something, they tend to get it. And those companies would be the state's two big sugar companies, U.S. Sugar and Florida Crystals, along with Florida Power & Light, Duke Energy, TECO, Florida Blue, Disney, Publix, and Mosaic.”

U.S. Sugar's long-standing strategy is to use massive political spending to entrench its power, pollute Florida's environment, and avoid consequences—all while cloaking itself behind business-friendly messaging.

The Bigger Picture

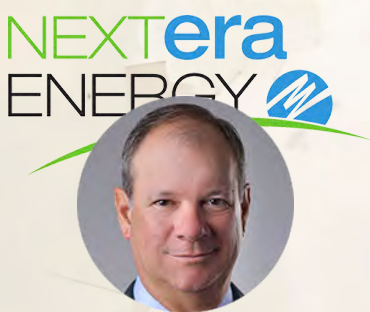
Mosaic and Big Sugar are masters of the long game. They have spent decades buying out politicians in the swamp of Tallahassee, investing millions to buy influence, rewrite regulations, and bury accountability. **The Florida State Legislature likes to bury corporate accountability just as much as Mosaic likes to bury radioactive waste.** Meanwhile, Florida's communities pay the price in potentially polluted drinking water, collapsed fisheries, and taxpayer-funded cleanups. The lesson is clear: when polluting industries get their way, everyday Floridians suffer the consequences.

ENERGY

You would be hard-pressed to find an industry with a dirtier political rap sheet than Florida’s utility giants. At the top of that list is Florida Power & Light (FPL), one of the most infamously powerful and corrupt corporations in the state. Behind closed doors, Democrats and Republicans alike will admit they don’t want to risk crossing FPL’s lobbyists. In Tallahassee, the message is clear: defy them and pay the price.

Next Era and Florida Power & Light

Paid \$447,300 to key leaders of Florida's 2025 Legislative Session

Corporate Donor	Bills Supported On Record	Issue Area
 Armando Pimentel CEO	HB 1137	Bill Title: "Utility Service Restrictions" What it actually means: Force Local Governments To Allow Natural Gas Hookups

In 2020, that price was exposed for the whole state to see. FPL, through its parent company NextEra, was directly linked to the notorious “ghost candidate” scheme, where a sham candidate sharing the last name of an FPL critic was planted on the ballot. The scheme siphoned just enough votes to unseat the incumbent senator who had taken on FPL, flipping the race by only 32 votes. The consulting firm behind the scam, Matrix, was tied straight back to FPL—leading to the resignation of FPL’s CEO, Eric Silagy.

This was no one-off. FPL and NextEra have poured millions into lobbying, dark-money campaigns, and candidate recruitment schemes allowing it to silence critics, block consumer protections, and cement their monopoly. They’ve fought tooth and nail to weaken rooftop solar, delay clean energy investments, and protect fossil fuel profits—all while Floridians pay some of the highest utility bills in the country.

Duke Energy

Paid \$670,000 to key leaders of Florida's 2025 Legislative Session

Duke Energy may not grab as many headlines, but like FPL, but it has used massive campaign donations, aggressive lobbying, and legislative influence to stifle competition and keep rates high. Duke has consistently opposed local clean energy initiatives, spending big to block

renewable energy measures while raising rates on working families. Just like FPL, they bankroll lawmakers who toe the line and punish those who dare to stand up for consumers.

The Bigger Picture

Together, FPL/NextEra, Duke, and other utilities like TECO have built a political machine that allows them to maintain monopoly control, fight against renewable energy, and push utility rate hikes onto struggling Floridians. These companies fund aligned candidates, flood campaigns with dark money, and write the very legislation that is supposed to hold them accountable. And when voters pass reforms—like measures supporting clean energy or demanding accountability—the utilities send their lobbyists to Tallahassee to gut, delay, or repeal them.

This session, FPL lobbied heavily for **HB 1137**, a bill that expanded state preemptions to block local governments from adopting clean energy requirements. The bill stripped cities and counties of the power to set higher standards for renewable energy, keeping decision-making in the hands of Tallahassee politicians and utility lobbyists. This is just the latest example of FPL using its influence to kneecap local democracy and stall progress toward a cleaner, more affordable energy future.

The result of their influence is staggering: Floridians are paying some of the highest utility bills in the nation, all while living in a state battered by climate change and choking on pollution from dirty energy. Instead of leading a just transition to renewable power, the utilities have used their political muscle to stall progress and protect their profits.

As one longtime Tallahassee insider put it: *“No corporation has a tighter grip on Florida politics than the utilities. If you cross them, they’ll come for you—and most lawmakers know it.”*

These energy monopolies are fighting to raise your bills, block clean energy, and silence the will of the voters. Florida’s families are left powerless—while the utilities keep the lights on for their own profits.

HOUSING

One of the most powerful and profitable lobbies in Florida politics comes from developers, realtors, and corporate landlords. A staggering portion of the [Florida Legislature has direct ties to this industry](#), with many lawmakers themselves doubling as landlords or developers. It shows. When it comes to housing policy, the Legislature has repeatedly sided with the interests of developers and real estate investors over the rights of tenants and working families.

This past session, the landlord lobby doubled down. Legislators passed a bill allowing landlords to evict tenants via email (HB 615), a cruel modernization that makes it even easier to displace families. Another bill (HB 535) stripped due process protections from renters living in hotels, leaving some of Florida's most vulnerable households exposed to sudden eviction. And yet another proposal, heavily backed by developer interests, sought to eliminate local governments' power to manage urban development boundaries, paving the way for unchecked suburban sprawl and massive profits for developers.

Few issues hit Floridians more directly than property insurance. Across the state, families are being crushed by skyrocketing premiums, yet the legislature has repeatedly failed to deliver meaningful relief. Even after multiple special sessions called by Governor DeSantis, lawmakers have done little to protect homeowners. Instead, they've worked to protect the profits of the insurance industry, passing bill after bill to shield insurers from lawsuits, cap their payouts, and weaken consumer protections.

This past session, the legislature once again refused to pass any real solutions to address Florida's property insurance crisis. **Instead, property insurance companies poured money into legislative campaigns to keep lawmakers from regulating their industry, ensuring that relief for families remains out of reach.**

The reason for this inaction is no mystery: Florida's political leadership is deeply entangled with the very insurance companies they are supposed to regulate. The insurance lobby is one of the most powerful forces in Tallahassee, with major players like Heritage Insurance and Slide Insurance funneling money into campaign coffers and employing armies of lobbyists to bend the rules in their favor. When push comes to shove, legislators side with insurers, not homeowners.

Florida Home Builders Association

Paid \$55,819 to key leaders of Florida's 2025 Legislative Session

The Florida Home Builders Association is a major force in the Legislature, using campaign contributions to shape housing and zoning policy in favor of developers. During the 2025 Legislative Session, the association contributed \$55,819 to leaders of the state legislature. Backed by these payments, lawmakers have consistently prioritized developer profits over community needs—supporting bills that limit local control over development boundaries, expand suburban sprawl, and reduce tenant protections.

Realtors PAC

Paid \$145,240 to key leaders of Florida's 2025 Legislative Session

Realtors PAC represents the state's largest real estate interests and has long leveraged its political clout to influence policy. In the first quarter of 2025, the PAC contributed \$145,240 to key leaders in the Florida Legislature. These contributions have fueled preemption laws that ban rent control, restrict local tenant protections, and generally ensure the housing market serves investors rather than working families. Recent session wins include bills that make evictions via email legal and strip due process protections from tenants in hotels—measures that directly benefit corporate landlords.

Heritage Insurance

Paid \$157,500 to key leaders of Florida's 2025 Legislative Session

Heritage has long been one of the most politically connected insurance companies in the state, benefiting from legislation that limits consumer recourse while protecting corporate profits. Its executives and lobbyists have built close ties with legislative leadership, ensuring that reforms pushed in Tallahassee tend to favor insurers over Floridians struggling to keep their homes insured.

Slide Insurance

Paid \$160,000 to key leaders of Florida's 2025 Legislative Session

Slide, one of the fastest-growing property insurers in Florida, has also leveraged political connections to expand its influence. The company has acquired thousands of policies from failed insurers and benefited from regulatory decisions that allow it to dominate the market while passing risk onto homeowners. Slide's growth is no accident—it is the product of a political system designed to prioritize insurer stability and profitability over affordability for families.

Corruption In Plain Sight

The property insurance market in Florida is so lucrative that lawmakers themselves have looked for ways to cash in. During the height of the insurance crisis, Sen. Joe Gruters—one of Donald Trump's top allies in Florida—circulated a pitch to fellow senators [to start their own insurance company](#) and profit directly from the pain of their constituents. At a moment when families across the state were facing foreclosure or being forced from their homes due to unaffordable premiums, legislative leaders were openly conspiring about turning that suffering into a personal payday. This reveals just how unseriously lawmakers are taking this crisis—and how closely aligned they are with the corporate interests driving it.

The Bigger Picture

Florida's insurance and housing crises are not accidents of nature or market forces. They are the predictable results of political choices. In the insurance market, lawmakers have let companies like Heritage and Slide write the rules, stripping away consumer protections while preserving their ability to rake in massive profits. Homeowners face soaring premiums, fewer options, and no real champions in Tallahassee. Instead of protecting families from drowning in unaffordable bills, the Legislature throws insurers a life raft while letting Floridians sink.

The same pattern plays out in housing. Over the past decade, developers, realtors, and corporate landlords have used their financial power to bend policy in their favor. Preemption laws, bans on rent control, and restrictions on tenant protections have stripped local governments of the tools to shield renters. Campaign contributions from groups like Realtors PAC and the Florida Apartment Association ensure lawmakers put property profits over people. The result is skyrocketing rents, unchecked suburban sprawl, and a system that works for investors rather than for Floridians fighting to keep a roof over their heads.

You'll notice that no bills were supported on record during the legislative session but the donations given speak volumes. You could say they're the ones pulling the strings with political bribes.

CONCLUSION: A VISION FOR FLORIDA

The Florida Legislature has become a front-line in a global struggle: a battleground where multinational corporations, extractive industries, and powerful right-wing donors wield outsized influence over our democracy, our economy, and our culture. As we've seen throughout this report—from the lobbying power of Big Business and front groups, to the regulatory capture of Big Agriculture, the insurance industry, energy monopolies, and the housing lobby—the state's policies are designed to protect the profits of the few while leaving working Floridians behind.

But it doesn't have to be this way. Our economy can be more than a machine for extraction and exclusion. It can be a system that drives justice, builds wealth for everyday people, and strengthens communities. How we design our economy is up to us—and our elected officials have the power to make different decisions. Across the country, other states are showing that it is possible to prioritize workers, families, and the public good over corporate profits.

“If we didn't have that huge, oversized corporate influence, we would have more of a focus on respect for individuals. We would have respect for liberty. We would have more respect for women's rights, civil rights... we would have concern for the environment, and we would probably have a focus on continuing democracy.”

Pamela Burch Fort

President, *The Commerce Group*

Without corporate influence, lawmakers would have to think for themselves, returning to their stated principles rather than blindly protecting powerful industries. Local governments would be strengthened, debates would center on policy merits rather than fear of donor backlash, and the legislature would stop enacting protectionist measures—whether for Big Agriculture, utilities like NextEra/FPL and Duke, or corporate landlords and developers. The values of working Floridians could finally be reflected in the laws that govern them.

Throughout history, worker solidarity has shown us what is possible: across race, gender, and national origin, people have come together to build economies that actually serve the majority, not the elite. Today, that history guides us and reminds us that we are the heroes we have been waiting for.

This vision is clear: an economy and a government that prioritize justice over profit, workers over corporations, and communities over the wealthy few. It is within our power to create it—but only if we continue to challenge the influence of corporate money in Tallahassee and demand a government that serves all Floridians.

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Table 1: Bills Supported By Corporate Donors In Florida's 2025 Legislative Session

Corporate Donor	2025 Donation \$\$*	Bills Supported on Record	Issue Area
Associated Industries of Florida	\$450,000	HB 1219	Bill Title: "Employment Agreements" <i>What it actually means:</i> Longer Non-Competes to Suppress Wages
		HB 565	Bill Title: "Regulation of Auxiliary Containers" <i>What it actually means:</i> Let the Sea Turtles Choke (Again)
		HB 585	Bill Title: "Former Phosphate Mining Lands" <i>What it actually means:</i> Lawsuit Shield for Toxic Corporations (Mosaic)
Chamber of Commerce	\$452,000	HB 1219	Bill Title: "Employment Agreements" <i>What it actually means:</i> Longer Non-Competes to Suppress Wages
		HB 1225	Bill Title: "Employment of Minors" <i>What it actually means:</i> Child Labor
		HB 585	Bill Title: "Former Phosphate Mining Lands" <i>What it actually means:</i> Lawsuit Shield for Toxic Corporations (Mosaic)
		HB 1205	Bill Title: "Initiative Petitions for Constitutional Amendments" <i>What it actually means:</i> "Pay To Have Say" - Attack On Citizen-Led Ballot Initiatives

Corporate Donor	2025 Donation \$\$*	Bills Supported on Record	Issue Area
Capital City Consulting	\$462,500	HB 1219	Bill Title: "Employment Agreements" <i>What it actually means:</i> Longer Non-Competes to Suppress Wages
		HB 1205	Bill Title: "Initiative Petitions for Constitutional Amendments" <i>What it actually means:</i> "Pay To Have Say" - Attack On Citizen-Led Ballot Initiatives
		HB 1381	Bill Title: "Elections" <i>What it actually means:</i> Reduce Early Voting Options and Restrict Student IDs
		HB 123	Bill Title: "Education" <i>What it actually means:</i> Reduced Community Input and Local Accountability In School Governance
Duke Energy	\$670,000	N/A	
Florida Power & Light and Next Era	\$447,300	HB 1137	Bill Title: "Utility Service Restrictions" <i>What it actually means:</i> Force Local Governments To Allow Natural Gas Hookups
GEO Group	\$225,000	N/A	
The Mosaic Company	\$167,400	HB 585	Bill Title: "Former Phosphate Mining Lands" <i>What it actually means:</i> Lawsuit Shield for Toxic Corporations (Mosaic)

Corporate Donor	2025 Donation \$\$*	Bills Supported on Record	Issue Area
U.S. Sugar Corporation	\$300,000	N/A	
Publix Supermarkets	\$200,000	HB 565	Bill Title: "Regulation of Auxiliary Containers" <i>What it actually means:</i> Let the Sea Turtles Choke (Again)
Walt Disney Parks and Resorts	\$171,100	N/A	
Slide Insurance	\$160,000	N/A	
Heritage Insurance	\$157,500	N/A	
Florida Home Builders Association	\$55,800	N/A	

Table 2: Political Committees Controlled by Governor and Legislators

Political Committee	Controlled By
Florida Freedom Fund	Gov. Ron DeSantis (R)
Friends of Ben Albritton	Senate President Ben Albritton (R)
Advancing Florida Agriculture	
Florida Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee	
Friends of Ed Hooper	Senate Budget Chairman Ed Hooper (R)
Friends of Jim Boyd	Senate President-Designate Jim Boyd (R)
Conservatives For A Better Florida	House Speaker Daniel Perez (R)
Florida House Republican Campaign Committee	
Conservative Florida	House Budget Chairman Lawrence McClure (R)
Honest Leadership	House Speaker-Designate Sam Garrison (R)

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