

Valero Energy—Which Has Given Over \$335,000 To Anti-Democracy Lawmakers In Its Home State Of Texas—Gave \$112,500 To The Sedition Caucus After Pausing Contributions Following The Insurrection

SUMMARY: So far in 2021, Valero Energy has given \$112,500 to the Sedition Caucus after claiming it was committed to pausing all political contributions following the January 6 insurrection, saying it would “[continue to evaluate future contributions to assure they serve the best interest and values](#)” of the corporation.

Valero Energy also has a troubling record of undermining democracy through its political giving. In its home state of [Texas](#), the company has given [\\$318,212](#) to Gov. Greg Abbott—who helped advance and signed into law the state's "[sweeping](#)" voter restrictions—and [\\$18,000](#) to Attorney General Ken Paxton—who called the restrictions "[great](#)" and has targeted [72%](#) of his voter fraud cases against people of color.

Beyond its contributions to the Sedition Caucus and to state voter restriction advocates, Valero Energy's support for the election deniers who tried to reinstate Trump is in tension with its stated corporate values on human rights:

- Valero claims that it [observes](#) the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which includes an article that defends the integrity of "[genuine elections](#)."

Additionally, multiple members of Valero's Board of Directors are tied to the conservative establishment—one having served as the Chair of the Federal Trade Commission and a senior Justice Department official under President George W. Bush and another having served as a high-ranking Republican senator from Oklahoma.

- Valero Board of Directors member and former Senator [Don Nickles](#) was once the "[second-ranking Senate Republican](#)" and [Chair](#) of the Senate Budget Committee.
- Valero Energy Board Of Directors [member Deborah Majoras](#) previously served as the [Chair of the Federal Trade Commission](#) and held two senior Justice Department roles under President George W. Bush. Notably, Majoras [defended Microsoft](#) from an antitrust lawsuit while working for the administration.

Valero Energy Has Given \$112,500 To The Sedition Caucus In 2021 After Saying It Was Pausing All Political Contributions Following The January 6 Insurrection, Claiming It Would “Continue To Evaluate Future Contributions To Assure They Serve The Best Interest And Values” Of The Corporation.

Valero Energy Has Given \$112,500 To The Sedition Caucus So Far In 2021.

Valero Energy Has Given \$112,500 To The Sedition Caucus, As Of December 22, 2021. [Accountable.US, Corporate Donations Tracker, accessed [12/22/21](#)]

PAC	Member	Amount	Date
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Steve Scalise (LA-1)	\$10,000	07/27/21; 07/27/21

Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Kevin McCarthy (CA-23)	\$10,000	06/04/21; 06/04/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Richard Hudson (NC-8)	\$7,500	09/27/21; 06/04/21; 09/27/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Stephanie Bice (OK-5)	\$7,500	09/27/21; 09/27/21; 06/21/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Brian Babin (TX-36)	\$5,000	09/27/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Jason Smith (MO-8)	\$5,000	07/27/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Mike Kelly (PA-16)	\$7,500	11/02/21; 09/27/21; 08/26/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	August Pfluger (TX-11)	\$5,000	09/27/21; 06/21/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Jodey Arrington (TX-19)	\$5,000	11/23/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Bill Johnson (OH-6)	\$5,000	11/23/21;11/02/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Beth Van Duyne (TX-24)	\$5,000	11/02/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Tom Cole (OK-4)	\$2,500	06/21/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Ronny Jackson (TX-13)	\$2,500	09/27/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Markwayne Mullin (OK-2)	\$7,500	11/02/21; 11/02/21; 08/26/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Garret Graves (LA-6)	\$2,500	06/21/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Lloyd Smucker (PA-11)	\$2,500	07/27/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Mike Johnson (LA-4)	\$5,000	07/27/21; 11/23/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	David Kustoff (TN-8)	\$2,500	07/27/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Kevin Hern (OK-1)	\$2,500	06/04/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Michael Cloud (TX-27)	\$5,000	11/23/21; 08/26/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Greg Pence (IN-6)	\$2,500	11/02/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Troy Nehls (TX-22)	\$2,500	11/23/21
Valero Energy Corporation Political Action Committee	Sam Graves (MO-6)	\$2,500	11/23/21
Total:		\$112,500	

[Accountable.US, Corporate Donations Tracker, accessed [12/22/21](#)]

Valero Energy Called Itself The “Largest Independent Petroleum Refiner In The World And The World’s Second Largest Renewable Fuels Producer.” “We are the best-in-class producer of essential fuels and products that are foundational to modern life. Not just today, but for generations to come. We are the largest independent petroleum refiner in the world and the world’s second largest renewable fuels producer. We’re

proud of fueling lives while protecting our communities and the environment with industry-leading safety records and continued efforts to reduce emissions." [Valero Energy, Accessed [11/17/21](#)]

Valero Energy Committed To Pausing All Political Contributions Following The January 6 Insurrection At The Capitol, Saying It Would "Continue To Evaluate Future Contributions To Assure They Serve The Best Interest And Values" Of The Corporation.

Valero Energy Committed To Pausing All Political Contributions Following The January 6 Insurrection, Saying It Would "Continue To Evaluate Future Contributions To Assure They Serve The Best Interest And Values" Of The Corporation. "The list of companies that say they are withholding political contributions after the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol riot continues to grow steadily. [...] VALERO ENERGY: The oil refiner is pausing all political contributions and has no plans to resume them over the next few months. 'We will continue to evaluate future contributions to assure they serve the best interest and values of our employees, shareholders, and the communities where we operate,' spokeswoman Lillian Riojas said." [Bloomberg, [1/11/21](#)]

Valero Energy Has Given \$318,212 To Texas Gov. Greg Abbott—Who Helped Advance And Signed Into Law The State's "Sweeping" Voter Restrictions—And \$18,000 To Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton—Who Called The Restrictions "Great" And Who Has Targeted 72% Of His Voter Fraud Cases Against People Of Color.

Valero Energy Has Given \$318,212 To Texas Governor Greg Abbott, Who Helped Advance And Ultimately Signed Into Law The State's "Sweeping" Voter Restrictions—The Biden Administration Later Sued The State, Arguing The Law Would Disenfranchise Already-Vulnerable Voters.

Valero Energy Corporation Has Given \$318,212 To Texas Governor Greg Abbott. [FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [12/01/21](#)]

- **Valero Energy Is Headquartered In Texas.** [Valero Energy, accessed [12/01/21](#)]

September 2021: Texas Governor Greg Abbott Signed Into Law "Sweeping" Voter Restrictions That Raised "New Barriers For Marginalized Voters." "Though delayed by Democratic quorum breaks, Texas has officially joined the slate of Republican states that have enacted new voting restrictions following the 2020 election. Gov. Greg Abbott on Tuesday signed into law Senate Bill 1, sweeping legislation that further tightens state election laws and constrains local control of elections by limiting counties' ability to expand voting options. The governor's signature ends months of legislative clashes and standoffs during which Democrats — propelled by concerns that the legislation raises new barriers for marginalized voters — forced Republicans into two extra legislative sessions." [The Texas Tribune, [09/07/21](#)]

Abbott Earlier Helped To Advance The Restrictions By Calling A Special Legislative Session With An Agenda That Included "'Election Integrity,'" Despite There Being "No Evidence Of Widespread Voter Fraud." "Texas Republicans began the 2021 legislative session staging a sweeping legislative campaign to pass new voting restrictions and election rules, proposing significant changes to nearly the entire voting process and taking particular aim at local efforts to make voting easier. It was formally touched off by Abbott early this year when he named 'election integrity' one of his emergency items for the legislative session despite no evidence of widespread voter fraud. Republican lawmakers framed their push for SB 1 as an effort to safeguard elections from fraud and to standardize election practices." [The Texas Tribune, [09/07/21](#)]

November 2021: The Biden Administration Sued Texas Over Its New Voter Restriction Law, Arguing They "Will Disenfranchise Eligible Texas Citizens Who Seek To Exercise Their Right To Vote." "The

Biden administration is suing Texas over the state's restrictive voting law that was signed into law in September and is set to go into effect Dec. 2. The U.S. Department of Justice filed a lawsuit in a federal court Thursday claiming that the Republican-led law contains several provisions that 'will disenfranchise eligible Texas citizens who seek to exercise their right to vote.'" [NPR, [11/04/21](#)]

Biden Justice Department Officials Argued The Voter Restriction Law Would Erect Barriers For 'Voters With Limited English Proficiency, Voters With Disabilities, Elderly Voters, [And] Members Of The Military.'" "Justice officials say those people include 'voters with limited English proficiency, voters with disabilities, elderly voters, members of the military' who are deployed and American citizens who are out of the country. 'These vulnerable voters already confront barriers to the ballot box,' the DOJ says, 'and SB 1 will exacerbate the challenges they face in exercising their fundamental right to vote.'" [NPR, [11/04/21](#)]

Valero Energy Has Given \$18,000 To Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, Who Called Texas' New Voter Restriction Law "A Great And A Much-Needed Bill" And Who Has Unfairly Filed 72% Of His Voter Fraud Cases Against People Of Color Since 2015.

Valero Energy Corporation Has Given \$18,000 To Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton.
[FollowTheMoney.org, accessed [12/01/21](#)]

November 2021: After The Biden Administration Sued Texas Over Its New Voter Restriction Law, Ken Paxton Called The Law "A Great And A Much-Needed Bill," Despite No Evidence Of Widespread Voter Fraud. "State Attorney General Ken Paxton wrote on Twitter: '[President] Biden is coming after Texas for SB1, our recently enacted election integrity law. It's a great and a much-needed bill. Ensuring Texas has safe, secure, and transparent elections is a top priority of mine. I will see you in court, Biden!'" [NPR, [11/04/21](#)]

- **November 2021: The Biden Administration Sued Texas Over Its New Voter Restriction Law, Arguing They "Will Disenfranchise Eligible Texas Citizens Who Seek To Exercise Their Right To Vote."** "The Biden administration is suing Texas over the state's restrictive voting law that was signed into law in September and is set to go into effect Dec. 2. The U.S. Department of Justice filed a lawsuit in a federal court Thursday claiming that the Republican-led law contains several provisions that 'will disenfranchise eligible Texas citizens who seek to exercise their right to vote.'" [NPR, [11/04/21](#)]
- **Texas Republicans Advanced Voter Restrictions Although There Was "No Evidence Of Widespread Voter Fraud."** "Texas Republicans began the 2021 legislative session staging a sweeping legislative campaign to pass new voting restrictions and election rules, proposing significant changes to nearly the entire voting process and taking particular aim at local efforts to make voting easier. It was formally touched off by Abbott early this year when he named 'election integrity' one of his emergency items for the legislative session despite no evidence of widespread voter fraud. Republican lawmakers framed their push for SB 1 as an effort to safeguard elections from fraud and to standardize election practices." [The Texas Tribune, [09/07/21](#)]

March 2021: An American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Study Showed That At Least 72% Of Voter Fraud Cases Prosecuted By Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton Were Against Voters Of Color, "Primarily Women Of Color," Since 2015 "Since Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton took office in 2015, the vast majority of individuals his office has prosecuted for voter fraud are people of color — and primarily women of color, a new analysis by the American Civil Liberties Union shows. The analysis, based on public records, court filings, media reports and assumptions based on common Hispanic surnames, found at least 72 percent of all the election fraud cases have been brought against Black and Latino defendants. At least 45 percent were against Black and Latino women." [Houston Chronicle, [03/24/21](#)]

At Least Two Members Of Valero's Board Of Directors Are Tied To The Conservative Establishment—One Was Chair Of The Federal Trade Commission And A Senior Justice Department Official Under President George W. Bush And Another Was As A Prominent Republican Senator From Oklahoma.

Deborah Majoras Is On The Valero Energy Board Of Directors And Previously Served As The Chair Of The Federal Trade Commission And As A Senior Justice Department Official Under President George W. Bush, Where She Defended Microsoft From An Antitrust Lawsuit.

Deborah P. Majoras Serves On Valero Energy's Board Of Directors. [Valero Energy, Accessed [11/18/21](#)]

Majoras Served As The Chair Of The Federal Trade Commission Under President George W. Bush, Having Been Sworn In In August 2004. "Deborah Platt Majoras was sworn in as Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission on August 16, 2004. Majoras' tenure as FTC Chairman has been marked by the Commission's strong efforts to protect and enhance consumer welfare. She has focused on ensuring data security and protecting consumers from emerging frauds, such as identity theft, spyware, and deceptive spam. In May 2006, she was appointed by President George W. Bush to be Co-Chair of his Identity Theft Task Force." [Federal Trade Commission, Accessed [11/18/21](#)]

From April 2001 Through 2003, Majoras Served In The U.S. Justice Department As Deputy Assistant Attorney General And As Principal Deputy Of The Department's Antitrust Division. "From April 2001 through 2003, Majoras served first as Deputy Assistant Attorney General, then as Principal Deputy, of the U.S. Department of Justice's Antitrust Division." [Federal Trade Commission, Accessed [11/30/21](#)]

2003: While With The Bush Justice Department, Deborah Majoras Defended Microsoft From An Antitrust Lawsuit From Plaintiffs Including Massachusetts' Attorney General, Who Noted That The Company Had Been "Repeatedly Found Guilty Of Antitrust Violations." "Led by the Attorney General of Massachusetts, Microsoft's antitrust adversaries had another day in court to protest the provisions of the settlement the company worked out with the Bush administration. The antitrust battle was joined Tuesday in oral arguments before the six-judge panel of the U.S. Circuit Court for the District of Columbia. Attorney General Tom Reilly of Massachusetts said the settlement was so wrong-headed that its approval by U.S. District Court Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly represented an abuse of her discretion. Massachusetts is the lone holdout state continuing to protest the settlement. 'Microsoft has been repeatedly found guilty of antitrust violations but it has not yet been held accountable for its actions,' Reilly said in a statement made before his court appearance." [InformationWeek, [11/05/03](#)]

- **Then-Deputy Assistant Attorney General Deborah Majoras Was In The "Awkward Position" Of Defending Microsoft's Settlement With The Federal Government And Argued That Its Windows Operating System Should Not Have Been Broken Up Into Multiple Programs.** "Indeed, the Justice Department, as the enforcer of the antitrust laws, was cast in the awkward position Tuesday of defending Microsoft and its settlement with the government. Deborah Majoras, a deputy assistant attorney general at the Justice Department, said it was Bork who was 'simply wrong' and defended the settlement as giving 'prompt, certain, and effective relief.' Reilly and others zeroed in on Microsoft's Windows operating system. Reilly favors restricting Microsoft to selling a version of Windows without its merged programs for browsing, E-mail, and the like. Majoras countered that the removal of some of the individual software programs from Windows could cause some of the software to malfunction. Her description brought praise from Judge Douglas Ginsburg." [InformationWeek, [11/05/03](#)]

Valero Energy's Board Of Directors Includes Former Sen. Don Nickles (R-OK), Who Had Risen To Be The "Second-Ranking Senate Republican" And Chair Of The Senate Budget Committee.

Don Nickles Serves On Valero Energy's Board Of Directors. [Valero Energy, Accessed [11/18/21](#)]

Nickles Was A Republican U.S. Senator From Oklahoma From 1981 To 2004. "Nickles was a senator from Oklahoma and was a Republican. He served from 1981 to 2004." [GovTrack, Accessed [11/18/21](#)]

Before Announcing His Resignation In 2003, Nickles Rose To Be The "Second-Ranking Senate Republican" And Had Been Chairman Of The Senate Budget Committee. "On this day in 2003, U.S. Sen. Don Nickles announced that he will not seek re-election to a fifth term. In his 23-year tenure, Nickles had risen to second-ranking Senate Republican and served as chairman of the Senate Budget Committee." [Tulsa World, [07/29/21](#)]

Valero Claims That It Observes The United Nations Universal Declaration Of Human Rights, Which Includes An Article That Defends The Integrity Of "Genuine Elections."

Valero Claims That It Observes The United Nations Universal Declaration Of Human Rights—Which Includes An Article On Democratic Rights That States, "The Will Of The People Shall Be The Basis Of The Authority Of Government," As Expressed Through "Genuine Elections."

Valero Energy Claims That It Is "Committed To Advancing The Respect Of Human Rights Around The World" And Observes The Universal Declaration Of Human Rights. "Human Rights [...] Our commitment to each other extends to our global community. We recognize the dignity, value and worth of all human beings around the world. We are committed to advancing the respect of human rights around the world by following all applicable labor laws and regulations consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and promoting transparency within Valero's supply chains." [Valero Energy Corporation, accessed [12/01/21](#)]

The Universal Declaration Of Human Rights Includes The Right For "Everyone Has The Right To Take Part In The Government Of His Country, Directly Or Through Freely Chosen Representatives."

"Universal Declaration of Human Rights [...] Article 21 [...] Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives." [United Nations, accessed [11/09/21](#)]

The Universal Declaration Of Human Rights Includes, "The Will Of The People Shall Be The Basis Of The Authority Of Government," As Expressed Through "Genuine Elections." "Universal Declaration of Human Rights [...] Article 21 [...] The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures." [United Nations, accessed [11/09/21](#)]

The United Nations' Guiding Principles On Business And Human Rights States Companies Should "Should Address Adverse Human Rights Impacts With Which They Are Involved." "II. THE CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS A. FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES 11. Business enterprises should respect human rights. This means that they should avoid infringing on the human rights of others and should address adverse human rights impacts with which they are involved." [United Nations, accessed [11/09/21](#)]

The United Nations Office Of The High Commissioner On Human Rights States That "Genuine Elections" Are "Necessary And Fundamental" In Promoting Human Rights. "The right to take part in the conduct of public affairs, including the right to vote and to stand for election, is at the core of democratic

governments based on the will of the people. Genuine elections are a necessary and fundamental component of an environment that protects and promotes human rights." [United Nations Office Of The High Commissioner On Human Rights, accessed [11/12/21](#)]