

# Kids Not Profits

## Meet the Billionaires

California's privately-run charter schools are championed by a group of billionaires who want private corporations to be able to profit from public education. Their agenda is simple:

1. Divert money out of California's neighborhood public schools to fund privately-run charter schools, without accountability or transparency to parents and taxpayers.
2. Cherry-pick the students who get to attend charter schools – weeding out and turning down students with special needs.
3. Spend millions trying to influence local legislative and school board elections across California.

Here is a look at some of the political power and dollars behind California's charter school movement. For more details on their spending, visit [www.KidsNotProfits.com](http://www.KidsNotProfits.com).

### Eli Broad

Broad is the billionaire businessman who co-founded the homebuilding giant KB Homes and was also the owner of Sun Life Insurance.

He and his wife are two of the largest donors to the movement to privatize public education. He has supported school vouchers and given more than \$1 million in 2014 to back an anti-public school candidate for state Superintendent of Public Instruction. Broad also donated \$500,000 through the Koch brothers political network in a clandestine effort to influence California elections in 2012.

Broad, who recently failed in his efforts to take over the Los Angeles Times, remains an active backer of the corporate charter movement. Last year, the paper obtained a copy of his secret plan to remove half of the students from LA's neighborhood public schools and place them in unaccountable charters.

Broad continues to promote his vision by giving millions to anti-public school candidates and causes.

[Broad has given \\$7,501,973 in 231 contributions.](#)

### The Walton Family

The heirs to the Wal-Mart fortune are among the 10 richest people in the country, and have been some of the biggest charter school backers and political donors in the nation. The Walton Family Foundation has spent millions supporting private school voucher schemes and giving grants to right-wing think tanks like the Fordham Institute and the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy. Here's a look at some of their political activity in California.

### Carrie Walton Penner

- Total contributions: \$159,940 to candidates, \$100,000 to ballot measures, \$4,370,200 to other committees

**For more information, visit: [www.kidsnotprofits.com](http://www.kidsnotprofits.com)**

**Paid for by the California Teachers Association**

## **Jim Walton**

- Total contributions: \$4,200 to candidates, \$1,731,560 to other committees

## **Alice Walton**

- Contributions: \$4,200 to candidates, \$2,606,500 to other committees

## **Bill Bloomfield**

After years of Republican activism, and as one of California's top GOP donors, Bloomfield ditched his Republican Party membership in time to dump millions into his "independent" bid to unseat Democratic Congressman Henry Waxman.

Bloomfield parlayed his family's commercial laundry service fortune into a real estate investment company -- Baron Real Estate. Bloomfield donated \$100,000 through the Koch political network in a clandestine effort to influence California elections in 2012. That same year, he spent more than \$7.5 million of his own money on his failed congressional bid.

[Bloomfield has given \\$1,455,700 in 7 contributions.](#)

## **Reed Hastings**

The Netflix CEO and major political donor is the former head of the state Board of Education, where he helped lead the corporate charter charge. In addition to giving to anti-public school candidates, the San Francisco billionaire has offered \$100 million of his personal fortune to promote new tech-dominated charters.

Hastings' reappointment to the state education board was rejected by the State Senate.

Hastings has even declared that elected school boards are obsolete and should be replaced with a system of non-profit corporations with appointed board members.

[Hastings has given \\$20,866,369.61 in 135 contributions.](#)

## **Laura and John Arnold**

Texas billionaire John Arnold built his fortune as an executive at Enron, and has now turned his efforts to trying to influence education policy in California. The former hedge fund director donated more than \$300,000 to anti-public school candidates in 2014 and has been a major donor to a number of groups dedicated to pushing the corporate charter school agenda.

[They have given \\$1,060,000 in 3 contributions.](#)

## **Doris Fisher**

The co-founder of The Gap clothing company is worth an estimated \$2.8 billion. Fisher and her family are major funders of the corporate charter movement, funneling hundreds of thousands of dollars into PACs and lobbying efforts aimed at weakening California's public schools.

Fisher funneled \$1.6 million through the dark money Koch Brothers network in 2012 as part of a clandestine effort to prevent a tax measure to ensure billionaires like Fisher pay their fair share to support public education and health care for children.

[Fisher has given \\$7,571,950 in 111 contributions.](#)

## **Arthur Rock**

The Silicon Valley venture capitalist was an early investor in Apple and Intel. The 86-year-old billionaire has donated to campaigns to support school vouchers, and has become one of the largest supporters of privately-managed charter schools and pro-charter candidates in California.

[Rock has given \\$1,936,396.00 in 45 contributions.](#)