

Preparation 4: Super PACs & OpenSecrets

Instructions

You are a researcher at OpenSecrets, a research group tracking money in U.S. politics and its effect on elections and public policy. Today, the Financial Times has published a new report: “How dozens of Trump’s donors have benefited from his second term”. This report documents how since Trump took office, he has received many donations that have often resulted (almost immediately) in beneficial policies for those donors.

Your boss is now interested in comparing this report to Trump’s presidential campaign. They want you to find out who the top donors were, primarily to his Super PACS, and whether any of these were also mentioned in the Financial Times article.

Write a report of max 1,500 words (excluding tables & references) on the top donors to Trump-supporting Super-PACS during the 2024 Presidential Election, using data from the OpenSecrets platform, and link it back to the article in the Financial Times. Your report needs to contain at least the following (but you are free to report additional content you found interesting):

- (1) A brief discussion on what Super PACs are and why they are relevant to examine;
- (2) A ranking of the top 30 pro-Trump Super PACs in terms of money raised for the 2024 cycle;
- (3) An aggregated overview (i.e. of all 30 Super PACs combined) showing the top **industries** in terms of percentage of total donations to the Super PACs;
- (4) For the top 5 Super PACs, an overview of its five top donors, as well as the top five single biggest donations received; and
- (5) Finally, an overview of those who are mentioned in both this report and the Financial Times article.

You will be graded on the **accuracy** of the data you provide, as well as your ability to **present** the data in an accessible but engaging manner (with the use of self-made figures and/or graphs) and your **discussion** of said data and how it links to the FT article.