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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## Republican donations surge despite corporate boycott after Capitol riots



FILE PHOTO: U.S. Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Orlando, Florida, U.S. February 26, 2021. REUTERS/Joe Skipper/

(Reuters) - Right after the deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, dozens of U.S. companies announced they would halt political donations to the 147 Republican lawmakers who voted to overturn Donald Trump's presidential election loss. Two months later, there is little sign that the corporate revolt has done any real damage to Republican fundraising. If anything, the biggest backers of Trump's false election-fraud narrative - such as Missouri Senator Josh Hawley and Georgia Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene - have been rewarded with a flood of grassroots donations, more than offsetting the loss of corporate money. And contributions from both small donors and rich individuals looking to fight the Democratic agenda have poured into the party's fundraising apparatus.

The boycott's limited impact underscores the diminishing role of corporate money in U.S. politics. Individual donations of \$200 or less have made up a growing share of campaign money in recent years, while the share given by corporate America shrinks. That trend has accelerated with the rise of anti-establishment figures on

both the right and left, such as Trump and progressive firebrand Bernie Sanders, a Vermont senator. Reuters examined contributions by more than 45 corporate donor committees that vowed to cut off the 147 Republicans - eight senators and 139 members of the House of Representatives. The review found that the political action committees (PACs) gave about \$5 million to the lawmakers during the 2019-2020 election cycle - or only about 1% of the money the lawmakers raised, according to Federal Election Commission (FEC) disclosures.

By comparison, Republican fundraising operations supporting Senate and House candidates raked in a combined \$15.8 million in January alone on the strength of small-dollar donations. These groups outpaced their Democratic counterparts by more than \$2 million that month, regulatory filings show.

Interviews with Republican operatives, big-money donors and fundraisers revealed little apprehension that corporate outrage over the Jan. 6 Capitol riots would damage the party's fundraising for the 2022 congressional elections.

Dan Eberhart, a major Republican fundraiser, said he had predicted for years that Trump's support would collapse. He believed the Capitol insurrection would be the tipping point.

"The data is the opposite," Eberhart said. "You are seeing a hardening of support for Trump ... I think there will be no shortage of money."

Some Republicans and lobbyists believe that companies now backing away from the 147 lawmakers - or from political giving entirely - will reconsider that stance as their interests are threatened by the policies of a Democratic White House and Congress.

"The Democrats have become our best fundraisers," said Fred Zeidman, a Republican donor and fundraiser in Houston and chairman of investment bank Gordian Group.

In a sign the corporate backlash may already be fading, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the nation's leading business lobby, said Friday that it has decided not to boycott the Republican lawmakers after discussions with more than 100 companies. Ashlee Rich Stephenson, the chamber's political strategist, wrote in a memo to members that there is a "meaningful difference" between members who voted to overturn the election in some states and those who "contin-

ue to engage in repeated action and undermine the legitimacy of our elections," such as trumpeting debunked conspiracy theories.

Among the more than 45 corporate PACs examined by Reuters, the five that donated the most to federal candidates in the 2019-2020 election cycle are controlled by AT&T, Comcast, Honeywell, Home Depot and New York Life Insurance. Asked for comment on this story, AT&T and Comcast declined and the others did not respond.

### RISE GRASSROOTS POWER

The National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC), which supports House candidates, raised \$7.5 million in January, outpacing its Democratic counterpart by about \$500,000, FEC filings show.

The Republican organization backing Senate candidates is chaired by Florida Senator Rick Scott, who voted after the Capitol riots to overturn Pennsylvania's Electoral College results. It collected more than \$8.3 million in January, compared to \$6.1 million received by its Democratic counterpart.

That performance came despite the dearth of corporate contributions. Ten corporate PACs examined by Reuters slashed donations in January by more than 90% compared to the same month in 2017, right after the previous presidential election. All ten of the PACs had sworn off donating to the 147 lawmakers.

Asked about the corporate boycott, NRCC chairman Tom Emmer, a Minnesota congressman, told Reuters that Republican House members "don't answer to PACs. We answer to voters."

The Senate fundraising committee did not respond to requests for comment.

The waning importance of corporate money reflects a fundamental shift in fundraising over the past decade as the advent of online platforms such as Act Blue and WinRed made it easy to solicit donations from rank-and-file voters. Individual donations, small and large, accounted for two-thirds of funding for last year's elections.



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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

## CORONAVIRUS DIARY

03/08/2021



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## We Support Andrew Yang's Run For Mayor Of New York

In the first WPIX-TV poll of the New York mayoral race, Chinese American Andrew Yang leads the crowded Democratic primary with 32% of the Democratic votes.

Other candidates in the race include Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, former counsel to Mayor DeBlasio, and NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer.

We are so proud and happy that Andrew Yang has become the first Asian American to run for mayor of the world's greatest city – New York City.

A couple of years ago Andrew Yang visited Houston when he was in the Democratic Presidential race. We were



getting together in our community to support him and he promised that if he became president he would give all the citizens one thousand dollars every month. His proposal was welcomed by a lot of voters. In the primary race, he was able to stay in the race until the last stage. Even through he

could not make it to the top, his fight was glorious and we are so very proud of him.

Andrew Yang is an ABC (American Born Chinese). According to his family background, he was a good student with a hard-working character and a very friendly attitude. He represented a new generation of Asian Americans. We all need to support his fight for the mayor's race in New York City.



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## Editor's Choice



Britain's Prince Charles departs following a visit to Jesus House church to view an NHS COVID-19 vaccine pop-up clinic in London, Britain. REUTERS/Toby Melville



Participants with the word "Harta" on their bodies, link arms as they mark International Women's Day at Avenida 18 de Julio in downtown Montevideo, Uruguay. The word is a term to say exhausted or "had enough." REUTERS/Mariana Greif



Activists dressed in Handmaid's Tale costumes walk as they take part in a demonstration to mark International Women's Day in Sao Paulo, Brazil. REUTERS/Carla Carniel



Protesters spray paint on police officers during a protest to mark International Women's Day in Mexico City, Mexico. REUTERS/Mahe Elipse



An employee works on an oak tree selected to be used to rebuild the spire and the roof of the Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral destroyed by fire in 2019, in the Berce forest in Jupilles, France. REUTERS/Stephane Mahe



Nicky Clough visits her mother Pam Harrison in her bedroom at Alexander House Care Home for the first time since the coronavirus lockdown restrictions began to ease, in London, Britain. REUTERS/Hannah Mckay



The COVID-19 Recession -  
Most Unequal In Modern History



Key Point

While many middle and high-income workers are back at work, the country's low-wage workers are still suffering from a recession that has annihilated their jobs.

With Scott Pelley, CBS News, Speaking With Those Caught Up In The COVID Recession

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Soon, President Biden is expected to sign a third COVID recession relief plan just days before emergency unemployment benefits expire. For many the need is great, in part, because this recession is the most unequal in modern history. This past Friday, new jobs numbers confirmed that middle and high-income workers are returning but the jobs of low-income Americans have been annihilated. Relief checks have been a lifeline, but temporary. Many, like the Americans you're about to meet, were already struggling in poverty when COVID pushed them over the edge. As they fall, the pandemic is cutting away at the safety net. For 23-year-old Courtney Yoder, the cruel recession hit just as she was saving enough from her job to move out of a tent, anticipating the birth of her first child.



Courtney Yoder

Courtney Yoder: Working actually was something

good for me. And then when I lost it, it was like, "Now I have nothing, you know what I mean, to look forward to." Because I actually felt good about myself. I felt accomplished. I felt like I was doing something in my life. I had stacked up three checks. I was actually trying. Then all that gets taken from me. There wasn't much to take from Courtney Yoder. She had lived in and out of foster care from age 3. On her own at 18, she pitched a tent in Columbus, Ohio and found a job in a restaurant. Scott Pelley: COVID comes and I take it the restaurant closed. Courtney Yoder: Yes. Yeah. Scott Pelley: You went back to the tent and thought what? Courtney Yoder: "What am I gonna do now?" So I'm not working. I have no income. I'm waiting on unemployment. I have no way to get to and from anywhere. I can't go to the library. All the places are closed that we usually go to to eat. Or, you know, going to during the day. She couldn't even go back to her tent. It was slashed by someone who left a warning that she

was on railroad property. When we met, she was eight months pregnant and had to push herself to keep fighting.

Courtney Yoder: Because there was times where I wanted to give up and, you know what I mean, not be alive anymore. And just be like, you know what I mean, "Things are never gonna get better," Courtney Yoder is among the Americans suffering the most. COVID killed the jobs of low-earning workers in restaurants, hotels, theaters and shops -- jobs held mainly by women and minorities.

Steve Roth: You know, some of those aren't gonna come back. Some of those jobs won't come back.



Retired firefighter Steve Roth and nurse Jackie White distribute food

In Columbus, retired firefighter Steve Roth and nurse Jackie White are discovering the wreckage of the recession. For 22 years, Roth has shouldered relief for the homeless. Now there are newcomers to those, as he puts it, who live on the land.

Steve Roth: Before the pandemic hit, they were just makin' it. They were just makin' their bills. And now the rug's pulled out from under 'em.

Scott Pelley: People who were just hanging on when everything was normal.

Steve Roth: Those people that had multiple jobs even before things got bad.

How bad is measured in Ohio's unemployment claims, which are higher in the pandemic than the last five years combined. Nationwide, COVID took 9 million jobs. The crush of new unemployment claims has delayed benefit checks. Steve Roth works for Mount Carmel, a not-for-profit hospital system that has brought compassion to the homeless for 32 years and watched the need grow with every recession.

Steve Roth: We have our mobile medical clinic that sets up at various locations throughout the city. We have two exam rooms, X-ray, pharmacy. A place for our physician and our nurse practitioner to work in there, also our nurses. We can do just about anything that a doctor's office can

do. And then we also have a specific team that goes out to the homeless camps and provides care out there.

Scott Pelley: What are their needs?

Steve Roth: They need someplace warm. They need a tent. They need shoes, clothes. They need blankets, they need sleeping bags. And those are all things that we provide for them.

Scott Pelley: And their medical needs are what?

Steve Roth: Unfortunately, a lot of what we deal with right now is because of addiction. But they also have high blood pressure. They have diabetes. They have skin issues. Everything that everybody else has, they have also. In the pandemic, Mount Carmel has increased its rounds from two days a week, to five.



Matt Habash

Before the pandemic, a census counted more than half a million homeless Americans. COVID is likely to crowd the camps with another quarter million according to a study by the economic roundtable.

Scott Pelley: How has COVID changed the world for these people?

Steve Roth: There were a lot of places throughout the city where they could get resources. Clothes, food, they could go somewhere to get warm, like a library. Those are done, they can't have any of that stuff.

When COVID closed soup kitchens, Mount Carmel started delivery.

Steve Roth: Mid-Ohio Food Bank made lunches for us, and we were passin' out 100 lunches a day to people. And when it first happened, they were so thankful for that food. They said, "Oh, my gosh, haven't eaten for two days," well, here's a lunch.

The Mid-Ohio Food Bank tells the story of how COVID threatens the lifelines to the newly unemployed.

Scott Pelley: Every aisle is filled up like this one. So how long does this food last you?

Matt Habash: If we didn't bring any more food in today, this would be less than 30 days we'd move all the food that's in this building out.

Mid-Ohio Food Bank's CEO Matt Habash ordered three times more food than usual for the emergency, but then, covid took away his most important resource.

Matt Habash: We have 13,000 volunteers put in

about 70,000 hours of packing. And we were gonna lose 'em all. You know, figured senior citizens are being told to stay home. And more than half our wonderful volunteers are corporate volunteers. And they were all being told to stay home.



Major General John Harris

Matt Habash: We have 13,000 volunteers put in about 70,000 hours of packing. And we were gonna lose 'em all. You know, figured senior citizens are being told to stay home. And more than half our wonderful volunteers are corporate volunteers. And they were all being told to stay home.

So, Ohio ordered in the National Guard. More than 300 troops have distributed 90 million pounds of food in Ohio. Nationwide, the census bureau says four and a half million people, who lost jobs to COVID, don't have enough to eat.

Scott Pelley: What is your understanding of how much the need has increased?

Major General John Harris commands the Ohio Guard.

John Harris: The demand has increased fourfold. Fivefold. Just here. Families coming to get food.

Families who've never, ever had to come to a food bank for food are coming now. I'm reminded of a story a soldier told me about people who worked in the food bank where he was working. People who had previously volunteered at that food bank are now coming to the food bank to get food because their families are in need. So that places pressure on our folks to ensure those people leave here with their dignity. Hunger is reaching into middle-income families too. More than 17 million Americans have told the census bureau they've relied on free food during the pandemic.

And there will be more. Low-wage jobs will not recover until 2024 according to the Congressional Budget Office. Until then, Americans who were the first to lose their jobs and will be last to get them back--will be depending on an uptick in the index of human kindness. (Courtesy cbsnews.com)

Stay Home!

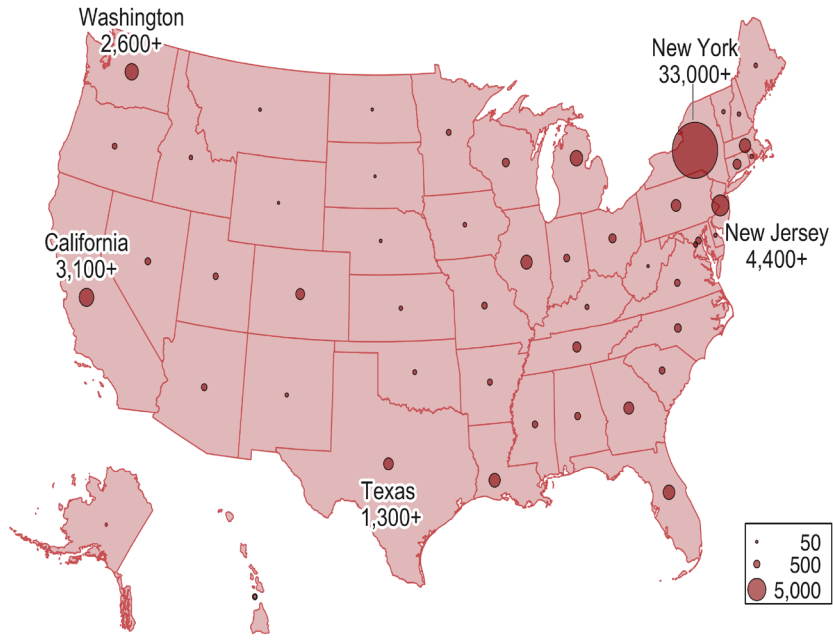
Wear Mask!

COMMUNITY

U.S. Coronavirus Updates

Number of coronavirus cases by US state

Of the 69,000 confirmed cases in the US, almost half have been in New York



Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated: 26 Mar 08:30 GMT



Data: The COVID Tracking Project; Note: Does not include probable deaths from New York City; Map: Andrew Witherspoon/Axios

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The U.S. surpassed 8 million coronavirus cases last Friday, per Johns Hopkins data. **The big picture:** Coronavirus infections jumped by almost 17% over the past week as the number of new cases across the country increased in 38 states and Washington, D.C., according to a seven-day average tracked by Axios. By the numbers: Over 218,000 people have died from COVID-19 in the U.S. and more than 3 million have recovered, per Johns Hopkins. Hospitalizations have jumped more than 14% from a week earlier, per the COVID Tracking Project. **What's happening:** Moncef Slaoui, the White House's top scientific advisor to Operation Warp Speed, knows his job may not be over by inauguration day, but tells the Axios Re:Cap podcast that hasn't yet spoken with anyone on Team Biden about vaccine development or deployment.



**Moncef Slaoui, the White House's top scientific advisor to Operation Warp Speed,**

- Nearly 900,000 Americans applied for first-time unemployment benefits last week, the Labor Department announced, the highest number since mid-August and the second weekly increase in a row.
- Some colleges are creating a blueprint for how to safely remain open during the coronavirus pandemic, relying heavily on regular testing and doing

what they can to curb parties and other large gatherings.

Trends to watch:

- **New risk factors:** The CDC included more demographic groups at risk for the coronavirus such as younger people who are obese and who have underlying health problems.

- **When to wear a mask:** Scientific evidence shows face masks can help control the spread of the virus, but nuances and changes in messaging about their use are complicating public health efforts.

- **Elections:** A federal judge in Wisconsin extended the state's deadline for counting absentee ballots, siding with Democrats in a lawsuit to make absentee voting easier in light of the pandemic. Judges in Georgia, Michigan and Pennsylvania have issued similar rulings.

- **Schools:** Kids are heading back to school, as students, teachers, administrators and parents try to build a clear picture of how it's going to work.

Coronavirus Dashboard

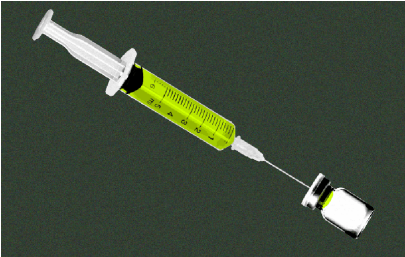


Illustration: Brendan Lynch/Axios

1. **Vaccines:** The barriers to vaccine passports — U.S. ahead of pace on vaccines.
2. **Health:** Mississippi Gov. defends lifting mask mandate — Cities' struggle to balance homelessness and public safety. Texas governor opens up the state, lifts masks mandate; businesses reopened.
3. **Economy:** U.S. economy added 379,000 jobs in February.
4. **Politics:** Senate passes \$1.9 trillion COVID relief package.
5. **Education:** Senate COVID relief bill paves way for student debt forgiveness.
6. **World:** U.K. schools to reopen with mass testing.

Cases:

1. **Global:** Total confirmed cases as of

5:30 p.m. ET on Sunday: 116,712,556 — Total deaths: 2,591,264 — Total recoveries: 66,013,361 (no longer includes U.S. recoveries as of Dec. 15).

2. **U.S.:** Total confirmed cases as of 5:30 p.m. ET on Sunday: 28,985,707 — Total deaths: 524,935 — Total tests: 358,598,304. (Courtesy axios.com)

Related

Brazil begins distributing Astra-

Zeneca coronavirus vaccine

Brazil on Saturday began distributing the 2 million doses of the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine that arrived from India Friday, Reuters reports.

**Why it matters:** Brazil has the third highest COVID-19 case-count in the world, according to Johns Hopkins University data. The 2 million doses "only scratch the surface of the shortfall," Brazilian public health experts told the AP.



**Containers carrying doses of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine arrive in Brazil. (Photo: Mauricio Pimentel/AFP via Getty Images)**

**The big picture:** Brazil started its vaccination campaign Monday, per the New York Times, using China's Sinovac CoronaVac vaccine — which was found to be 78% effective in Brazil trials.

- Brazil's Butantan Institute, a medical research institute in São Paulo, made 6 million CoronaVac doses imported from China available, and it used materials imported from China to bottle an additional 4.8 million doses, per AP.

- A flight from India planned for last week was delayed, derailing Brazil's plan to kick off its immunization with the AstraZeneca vaccine.

- Brazil's federally funded Fiocruz Institute has an agreement to produce up to 100 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine. (Courtesy axios.com)



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