

PolitiFact Analysis

Claims nonpartisanship; however, it is sponsored by activist movements.

Source: <https://www.politifact.com/who-pays-for-politifact/>

Donors include Google, Meta, TikTok, the National Endowment for Democracy, the Weissberg Foundation, the "Black & Yellow" Race Coalition, the Catena Foundation (immigration), the Gill Foundation (LGBT), the Joyce Foundation (climate), Common Cause (Spanish-language fact-checking), Microsoft, the Facebook Business Accelerator, and others.

→ Are donations a form of bribery? Are they conflicts of interest?

Considered form of academic bias.

Researchers typically distinguish between several possibilities:

- *Conflict of interest: Financial support can create actual incentives that may influence priorities, research questions, hiring, or editorial decisions.*
- *Funding bias: There is evidence in some fields (such as pharmaceutical, nutrition, and environmental research) that funding sources can correlate with more favorable outcomes for the funder's interests.*
- *Selection effects: Funders may choose to support organizations that already share their values or mission, rather than changing the organization's views after funding.*
- *Safeguards: Reputable organizations often disclose donors, establish editorial independence policies, diversify funding sources, and separate fundraising from editorial decision-making to reduce potential bias.*

PolitiFact Example: A foreign Hispanic author was placed on topic of immigration issues related to discussions of immigration and potential criminality within the Hispanic population.

The same patterns appear across the board.

Why is this an issue?

Media bias of this level poses propaganda risk → grave risk for the American population.