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Companies that funded Trump's inauguration came up big in 2017

By [Alex Baumgart](#) | [January 19, 2018](#)

(Photo by Aude Guerrucci-Pool/Getty Images)

President Donald Trump's inaugural committee raised a record \$107 million with the help of wealthy benefactors but also through donations from more than 200 corporations and anonymous LLCs, some of which held government contracts.

On the one-year anniversary of Trump's inauguration, [OpenSecrets took a look](#) at the 63 federal contractors that collectively contributed \$16.3 million to finance the festivities to see how they've fared in the first year of his presidency.

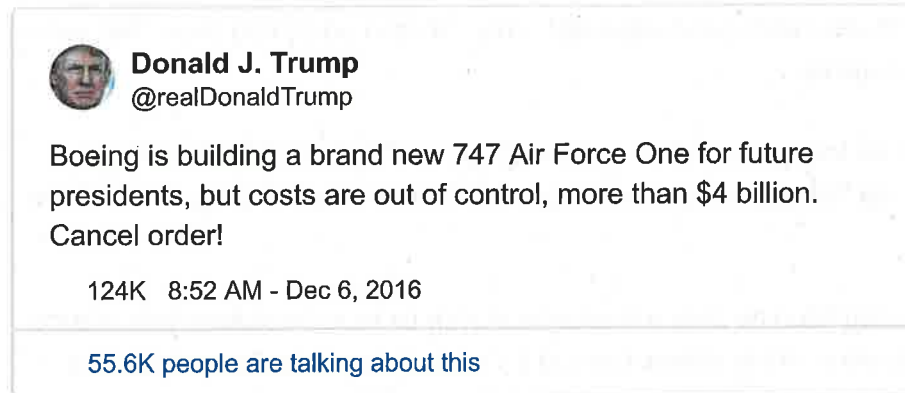
Some have received lucrative contracts; others have shed executives who now sit among Trump's political appointees; and still others have earned an unprecedented level of access to the new administration.

Contracts and the pay-to-play loophole

Of the 63 federal contractors that donated to the inauguration, more than half won multimillion-dollar bids in 2017, federal records show. Six companies earned contracts last year after not receiving any awards in 2016.

Federal law forbids government contractors from making contributions to candidates and political action committees. However, there is no such rule against contributions to post-election activities like

Boeing, the second-largest government contractor, ran into early opposition from Trump in December 2016 when Trump tweeted the following about Boeing's Air Force One contract, which he claimed was over budget.



In September 2017 Boeing [ultimately won the bidding process for the \\$600 million contract](#) to build the Air Force One replacements.

Contributions to the inaugural fund didn't necessarily guarantee lucrative government awards, however. For instance, **BP America**, saw a 58 percent reduction in government contracts in Trump's first year despite contributing a sizable \$500,000 to his inauguration.

In total, just over half of the companies that gave to the inauguration saw an increase in contract money from 2016 to 2017.

Perks

Some companies that donated to Trump's inauguration didn't secure government contracts last year but benefited in other ways.

In 2016, **Dow Chemical** was awarded both a \$1.9 million federal grant for bioenergy research and \$1 million as part of an ongoing agreement with the Energy Department. The company gave \$1 million to Trump's inauguration but didn't receive federal contracts or grants last year.

However, Dow benefited tremendously last year in two major ways: First, the DOJ approved their \$130 billion merger with **DuPont** in spite of [a number of antitrust concerns](#) that had previously delayed the merger.

The new entity, **DowDuPont**, has prospered in the last year as the result of an amenable EPA, which includes business friendly leadership in Scott Pruitt and Nancy Beck, the top deputy of the toxic chemicals division. Beck is a former executive at the American Chemistry Council, the trade association that represents companies in the chemical industry like DowDuPont.

The EPA recently rejected a recommended ban on chlorpyrifos, a Dow pesticide that [studies suggest has adverse effects on humans](#). The agency also appears to be [streamlining the chemical approval process](#), which will allow companies such as DowDuPont to get its products to market faster.

trends in elections. Alex is a former CRP intern who has also spent time interning in both the district and DC offices of a US Representative. Alex graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with degrees in Political Science and Economics.

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