

# LifeZette

## Koch on the GOP Rocks

**Charles Koch assails Trump, mulls supporting Hillary**

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Billionaire Republican mega-donor Charles Koch says one of Donald Trump's policies is "reminiscent of Nazi Germany" — and that Hillary Clinton could be a better choice for president than the eventual GOP nominee.

While the Koch brothers may be unique among the Republican donor class for their dedication to libertarian ideals, they clearly share the strong disdain for Trump and his supporters that seems to permeate the ranks of the GOP's top donors.

"Obviously that's antithetical to our approach," Koch said of Trump's proposed temporary ban on Muslim immigration on ABC's "This Week." But "what was worse was this 'we'll have them all register,'" Koch continued. "That's reminiscent of Nazi Germany. I mean that's monstrous," he said.

Trump, however, has maintained he never suggested such a policy, tweeting in November 2015 that, "I didn't suggest a database — a reporter did."

After resorting to the rhetorical tactics of a liberal scorned and comparing Trump to a Nazi, Koch then went on to say "it's possible" Clinton could be a better president than the eventual Republican nominee, a shocking statement from one of foremost donors to Republican causes. However Koch did stop short of saying he would offer Clinton his support.

"We would have to believe her actions would be quite different than her rhetoric" in order to support her, Koch said. "But on some of the Republican candidates we would — before we could support them — we'd have to believe their actions will be quite different than the rhetoric we've heard so far" too, he stressed.

Koch and his brother David have donated tens of millions of dollars to libertarian and conservative groups. They had initially planned on spending roughly \$9 million on the 2016 election but it now appears they are having second thoughts.

Koch claimed his and his brother's disappointment with the Republican candidates is rooted mainly in the tone they've employed in what has at times been a heated primary race. "You've

got to be like Ronald Reagan and compete on making the country better rather than tearing down your opponents," Koch insisted. "And right off the bat, they didn't do it."

"More of these personal attacks and pitting one person against the other, that's the message you're sending the country," he said of Trump, Cruz, and Kasich. "You're role models and you're terrible role models. So how -- I don't know how we could support" the eventual nominee he said.

However it's also entirely possible the libertarian-leaning Koch brothers — Charles co-founded the Cato Institute — recognize the more populist and nationalist direction in which voters want to take the GOP and want none of it.

Indeed, for all the anti-Koch vitriol that comes from the American left, the brothers are pro-choice, unopposed to gay marriage, and in favor of open borders. Coupled with their doctrinaire support for free markets and free trade, they are at political odds with each Republican candidate left in race, albeit for different reasons.

It now seems they would rather suffer through a third term of Obama courtesy of Hillary Clinton, and focus on supporting state and local politicians until a GOP candidate friendlier to their ideology appears on the national stage, than support either Trump, Cruz, or Kasich.

"There have been some good things, particularly at the state and local level," said Koch, reflecting on what the millions of dollars he and his brother have pumped into politics have achieved. "But the national politics is — has been disappointing," he said.