



Here are Colorado's biggest donors to Trump's inauguration

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John Malone and his Liberty Media business empire were among the big contributors to President Donald Trump's inauguration festivities, donating a collective \$1 million.

Federal Election Commission documents filed by Trump's 58th Presidential Inaugural Committee show Malone — founder and chairman of Douglas County-based Liberty Media Corp. and its various offshoots — donated \$250,000 himself.

Liberty Media Corp. CEO Greg Maffei also donated \$250,000, as did both Liberty Media and Liberty Interactive, related companies that Malone and Maffei run.

They rank among many millionaires and billionaires who donated to the celebrations surrounding Trump's swearing in on Jan. 20.

The \$130 million given to the Trump inauguration committee broke records, according to the New York Times, and included money from big names including casino magnate Sheldon Adelson and Charles Schwab.

Some other notable people in Colorado business contributed:

- Larry Mizel — founder and CEO of Denver-based homebuilder M.D.C. Holdings, which does business as Richmond American Homes — donated \$150,000 toward the inauguration, the FEC documents show. Mizel organized an Aspen fundraiser for Trump last August during the presidential campaign.

- Stan Kroenke, owner of the Denver Nuggets, Colorado Avalanche and the Pepsi Center arena and a part-time Colorado resident, donated \$100,000.

Inauguration committees help fund the events surrounding a new president's swearing in. Decisions about how much money to raise and what it's used for are left to the candidates.

Neither Malone nor Maffei, nor any of the Liberty companies, appear to have donated to inaugural events of the two previous presidents, Barack Obama and George W. Bush, according to FEC documents. Obama's inauguration committees did not accept corporate donations, the Times said.

Malone has made individual political contributions over the years, but nothing as big as what he gave to Trump's inauguration. He did donate \$100,000 in 2015 to the Unintimidated PAC, a political action committee backing presidential candidate Scott Walker, the Wisconsin governor who was one of the first Republican candidates to drop out of the 2016 presidential race.

Making a showy donation to Trump's inauguration isn't an obvious choice for Malone. He's a former chairman of the Cato Institute, a Libertarian think tank, and would likely disagree with some of the protectionist trade policy promises Trump made on the campaign trail.

But Malone and Maffei are keenly aware of how U.S. tax policy affects their businesses. Showing support for a president promising broad tax reform would fit Malone's often-stated goal to keep federal taxes on his companies and shareholders as low as possible.

Malone was unavailable to comment for this story. A message to Liberty Media and Liberty Interactive and Greg Maffei was not immediately returned.

Liberty Media owns the Atlanta Braves baseball team and the Formula 1 international car racing series. It also owns a controlling stake in LiveNation, the concert promoter and ticketing giant, as well as SiriusXM satellite radio.

Liberty Interactive owns several online and TV retail businesses, including QVC and Zulily.

Before leading the Liberty Media empire, the 76-year-old Malone led Tele-Communications Inc., or TCI, through a blizzard of cable TV deals in the 1980s and early 1990s that made it the biggest U.S. cable TV company.