

# POLITICO

## David Koch: ‘A social liberal’

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Conservative activist and philanthropist David Koch says he’s a “social liberal” and doesn’t understand why people think he’s an “evil billionaire.”

Koch sat down with Barbara Walters for a rare interview on her ABC program “The 10 Most Fascinating People of 2014.” The veteran journalist asked the GOP megadonor a series of pointed questions about his politics.

“You have given money to all of these different hospitals, universities, different schools and so forth. Yet there are people would call you an evil billionaire. Why?” Walters said.

“Well, I don’t understand that,” Koch answered.

Walters asked Koch to explain his political views, stating that he’s “not well-liked” because of his “very conservative politics.”

“Well, I’m basically a libertarian,” Koch said. “I’m a conservative on economic matters, and I’m a social liberal.”

Walters then asked how Koch can back candidates who, though in sync with his views on economic policy, do not support a liberal social agenda. While Koch supports gay marriage and abortion rights, he said economic issues trump social ones. He said he is “intensely” focused on the economy and preventing inflation, emphasizing the need for a federal balanced budget amendment.

Koch and his brother Charles, who are co-owners of Koch Industries, have flexed their political might as powerful contributors to many conservative institutions, and both have received plenty of criticism for their unprecedented influence on American politics. The brothers have pumped millions into many organizations including the Cato Institute, the Koch Family Foundations and Americans for Prosperity, an influential super PAC whose big-money spending played an important role in the 2014 midterm and 2012 presidential elections.

Walters and Koch also discussed his prostate cancer, his feud with his other brother, Bill, and the plane crash he survived in 1991, which he said inspired him to pursue his philanthropic endeavors.

Walters' final question: "What do you want your tombstone to say?"

"David Koch did his best to make the world a better place and that he hopes that his wealth will help people long after he has passed away," Koch said.

Koch joined a diverse list of entertainers, innovators and media personalities who were also interviewed by Walters, including Neil Patrick Harris, Taylor Swift, George R.R. Martin, Elon Musk and Oprah Winfrey.