

CORRUPTION NEWS

10.5.24 UPDATES

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Biden-Harris Admin Gives \$55 Million Kick-Back to Green Energy Insider Buddies Linked to Pro-Kamala Ad Campaign

League of Conservation Voters Chair Carol Browner on advisory board of federal grant selectee



Thomas Catenacci

The Biden-Harris administration last week announced a \$55.2 million grant for Blue Whale Materials, a little-known electric vehicle battery recycling company advised by a prominent climate activist whose organization is spending tens of millions of dollars to keep Vice President Kamala Harris in the White House.

Carol M. Browner, one of the few officials that Blue Whale Materials identifies on the “team” page of its website, also serves as the chairwoman of the League of Conservation Voters, a powerful environmental nonprofit that regularly advises federal lawmakers. The activist group launched a \$55 million advertising campaign last month to support Harris’s campaign shortly after endorsing her.

Blue Whale Materials publicly lists Browner as an adviser but doesn’t explain what that role entails. Browner’s biography on the Blue Whale Materials website mentions a variety of positions she has held in the past—such as EPA administrator and director of the White House Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy—but doesn’t include her role with the League of Conservation Voters.

The revelation sheds light on the deep financial entanglements between the green energy industry and climate activists. Browner was advising Blue Whale Materials as it sought federal funding while simultaneously leading the League of Conservation Voters as it pushed legislation that made such funding possible.

According to disclosures reviewed by the ***Washington Free Beacon***, the League of Conservation Voters lobbied federal officials and lawmakers in 2021 to push the INVEST in America Act, which was the legislative precursor to President Joe Biden’s signature Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and included provisions to boost transit vehicle battery recycling and reuse.

The \$55.2 million grant for Blue Whale Materials—announced on Sept. 20 by the Department of Energy, which noted the funding has yet to be disbursed—is earmarked under the \$16 billion battery processing and manufacturing programs established by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The grant would support the expansion of Blue Whale Materials’s Oklahoma plant, where it extracts critical minerals from old batteries for use in new EV batteries.

In a statement to the ***Free Beacon***, Blue Whale Materials said Browner was hired in 2019 to serve as a member of its advisory board. The company said she is not an employee

and is not involved in its federal grant application process but didn't elaborate on the specifics of her advisory role.

"We appreciate her insight as we are building a company to produce a domestic source of critical materials at our plant in Oklahoma," the company said.

"Few people are as plugged into D.C.'s climate industrial complex as Ms. Browner, except perhaps Energy Secretary Granholm, who pioneered the policy for-profit model early in the Biden-Harris Administration," Michael Chamberlain, the director of the watchdog group Protect the Public's Trust, told the **Free Beacon**. "We see it all through the administration's greendoggle Inflation Reduction Act."

Biden-Harris Admin Gives \$55 Million to Green Energy Company Linked to Pro-Kamala Ad Campaign

League of Conservation Voters Chair Carol Browner on advisory board of federal grant selectee

Kamala Harris (Mireya Acierto/Getty Images)

Thomas Catenacci

September 30, 2024

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"When government gets to pick winners and losers, don't be surprised if government officials and political allies just happen to be among the winners," he continued.

Since the Biden-Harris administration entered office, Browner has visited the White House five times, including twice for private meetings with Biden's clean energy czar John Podesta, visitor logs show. She and Podesta previously worked together at the Center for American Progress, the progressive think tank Podesta founded. They also both worked in the Obama White House, though they didn't overlap.

In April, Browner conducted a one-on-one interview with Podesta during a climate policy forum that discussed federal efforts to rapidly fund green energy projects.

Podesta was quoted in the Department of Energy's press release announcing the grants for Blue Whale Materials and other selectees last week, stating that the funding "will boost America's manufacturing base, create good-paying union jobs all over the country, and help tackle the climate crisis."

Meanwhile, since Browner was first selected to chair the League of Conservation Voters in 2015, the group has raked in more than \$450 million in contributions, according to tax filings. Much of that funding has then been funneled to other green groups to fund various efforts to push a rapid green transition in the United States.

"LCV is a force throughout the country for enlightened principles and policies," Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer (D., N.Y.) said previously. "Because of their work, America is closer to achieving clean water, clean air, and a safe climate for all communities."

After Vice President Harris launched her presidential campaign in July, the League of Conservation Voters's 501(c)(4) affiliate immediately endorsed her, characterizing her as a "climate champion." As the Democratic National Convention opened in August, the group unveiled its \$55 million advertising campaign to support Harris, touting her administration's work funding green energy projects.

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REPUBLICANS ASK WHY DEMOCRATS ARE SO FIXATED ON STICKING THEIR WEINERS IN GUYS BUTTHOLES



Laura Loomer, Donald Trump and JD Vance claim that Kamala's fixation for supporting extreme sex policy comes from Willie Brown constantly slipping his sausage up her buttole.

J D V

Democrats really, really want guys to cut off their dicks and act like girls (Being 'Trans') so that they have a wider selection of butt holes to sex up. Republican's just don't get it.

Most of the attendees at P. Diddy and R. Kelly sex parties were Democrats.

Most of the freaks at Epstein sex orgy events were Democrats.

Rapist Harvey Weinstein finances the Democrats.

All of the Facebook staff arrested for underage sex solicitation were Democrats who were looking for anal.

They all loved, and paid extra for, anal sex. It excites them because it is the same hole that shit comes out of and most Democrats are full of shit, say Republicans.



pbs.org

pbs.org › newshour › politics › senate-democrats-to-move-forward-with-same-sex...

Senate Democrats to move forward with same-sex marriage act ... – PBS

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer holds a test vote on a bill to protect same-sex and interracial marriages nationwide, betting on bipartisan support from Republicans. The legislation would ...



nbcnews.com

nbcnews.com › feature › nbc-out › progressive-vanguard-9-democratic-primary...

Nine percent of Democratic primary voters so far are LGBT

Lesbian, , bisexual and transgender Americans came out in disproportionately high numbers to vote in their states' Democratic primaries this year, and they skewed younger and more liberal ...



menshealth.com

menshealth.com › sex-women › a32998312 › what-anal-sex-feels-like

What Anal Sex Really Feels Like, From Men Who've Tried It – Men's Health

If you haven't tried , you might be curious what it feels like. Here, men who've tried it explain sensation of —and why it feels so good.



healthline.com

healthline.com › health › healthy-sex › benefits-of-anal-sex

What Are the Benefits of Anal Sex? 11 Things to Consider – Healthline

If you've been toying with idea of and are still on fence, see possible benefits may have you signing up to take plunge, bum first.

NANCY PELOSI TIPS OFF HER HUSBAND, AGAIN, IN YET ANOTHER INSIDER TRADING SCAM

Nancy Pelosi's husband sold more than \$500K worth of Visa stock — just weeks before DOJ's antitrust lawsuit

By

Ariel Zilber

Nancy Pelosi's husband unloaded more than \$500,000 worth of Visa stock — less than three months before the credit card giant was slapped with federal antitrust charges, public documents show.

Visa was hit with a lawsuit on Tuesday that alleged the company has illegally monopolized the debit card market — the culmination of a years-long review conducted by the Justice Department's antitrust unit.

Visa allegedly used its dominant market position to penalize customers and merchants who use competing payment processors, according to court papers.



Getty Images for The Atlantic

Antitrust cops also allege that Visa forces financial tech firms to work with it by threatening to penalize those that don't.

The Post has sought comment from Visa.

Meanwhile, Christopher Josephs, the tech entrepreneur who runs the "Nancy Pelosi Stock Tracker" on X, posted a screenshot of a congressional filing on July 3 which showed that the former House speaker's husband, Paul Pelosi, had sold 2,000 shares of Visa worth between \$500,000 and \$1 million.

The disclosure form shows that Pelosi's transaction is marked "SP," or spouse — a reference to husband Paul, the San Francisco-based venture capitalist and real estate investor.

At the time Paul Pelosi sold Visa stock, there was no public indication that an antitrust lawsuit against the company was imminent.

Shares of Visa closed down 5.5% at \$272.78.

Nancy Pelosi Stock Tracker @PelosiTracker_ · Jul 3
 BREAKING 🚨: Pelosi is back on the Trading Desk

She just bought ~\$5M of Broadcom [\\$AVGO](#) and another \$1.2M of Nvidia [\\$NVDA](#)

She also sold ~\$500K of Tesla and ~\$536K of Visa [\\$V](#)

PERIODIC TRANSACTION REPORT

Clerk of the House of Representatives • Legislative Resource Center • BB1 Cannon Building • Washington, DC 20515

FILER INFORMATION

Name: Hon. Nancy Pelosi
 Status: Member
 State/District: CA11

TRANSACTIONS

ID	Owner	Asset	Transaction Type	Transaction Date	Notification Date	Amount	Cap. Gains > \$200?
SP	Broadcom Inc. - Common Stock (AVGO) [OP]		P	06/24/2024	06/24/2024	\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Filers Status: New Description: Purchased 2511 call options with a strike price of \$800 and an expiration date of 8/29/25.						
SP	NIYDIA Corporation - Common Stock (NVDA) [IT]		P	06/26/2024	06/26/2024	\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Filers Status: New Description: Purchased 10,000 shares.						
SP	Tesla, Inc. - Common Stock (TSLA) [IT]		S	06/24/2024	06/24/2024	\$250,001 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Filers Status: New Description: Sold 2,500 shares.						
SP	Visa Inc. (V) [IT]		S (partial)	07/01/2024	07/01/2024	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Filers Status: New Description: Sold 2,000 shares.						

513 3.4K 18K 6.2M

“Speaker Pelosi does not own any stocks, and she has no prior knowledge or subsequent involvement in any transactions,” the congresswoman’s spokesperson told The Post.

Nevertheless, critics have claimed that Nancy Pelosi’s perch in Washington gives her potential access to non-public information that is relevant to the markets.

“At various critical inflection points in history, members of our government have engaged in trading at a time which their conflicts are called into question,” Ron Geffner, a former enforcement attorney with the Securities and Exchange Commission, told The Post.

Geffner said that the appearance of impropriety should be tempered when taking other factors into consideration.

“Before public opinion judges Pelosi unfairly, it is important to determine who engaged in the transaction on her behalf as well as whether it was part of a broader change of her portfolio,” Geffner added.

The July 3 disclosure also revealed that Paul Pelosi sold 2,500 shares of Tesla. At the same time, he bought up stock in Nvidia and Broadcom.



5

BLOOMBERG

Nancy Pelosi, who remains a key Democratic Party power broker despite stepping down from the House speakership early last year, has a nine-figure net worth on account of her and her husband's extensive stock and investment portfolio.

The San Francisco Democrat has long resisted calls from a bipartisan group of lawmakers to ban legislators and their spouses from trading stock given the inherent conflict of interest.

In 2021, Visa revealed in a regulatory filing that the Justice Department's antitrust unit requested information on potential violations of laws governing competitive behavior in the marketplace, according to Financial Times.



5

Mark Wilson / Evansville Courier and Press / USA TODAY NETWORK

Federal antitrust investigators are reportedly looking into Visa's relationships with companies such as Square, Stripe and PayPal.

According to the Wall Street Journal, Visa is alleged to have offered those companies financial incentives to prevent the firms from using competitive payment processors.

The Justice Department was reportedly keen on examining whether PayPal was coerced by Visa to encourage customers to make payments using Visa-branded cards.

Visa is also alleged to have offered lower fees and other incentives to Square subsidiary Cash App on condition that it steer customers toward making transactions using Visa-branded services.



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WireImage

Visa said it was asked to hand over information pertaining to the company's conduct in its US-based debit card business.

“We believe Visa’s US debit practices are in compliance with applicable laws,” the company said at the time.

Last year, Visa said federal prosecutors sought even more documents as part of the same investigation.

The San Francisco-based company said at the time that it was cooperating with the investigation.

Filed under

- [antitrust law](#)
- [credit cards](#)
- [department of justice](#)
- [justice department](#)
- [nancy pelosi](#)
- [visa](#)
- [9/24/24](#)

F

forbes.com

forbes.com › sites › dereksaul › 2022 › 07 › 27 › pelosi-unloads-millions-in-nvidia...

Pelosi Unloads Millions In Nvidia Stock At A Loss Before ... – Forbes

Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) called last week for a hearing to crack down on alleged from lawmakers and their families, citing the and Nvidia deal. “Speaker and her ...

PF

politifact.com

politifact.com › ... › no-evidence-nancy-pelosi-made-millions-insider-cor

No sign Nancy Pelosi made millions trading on insider coronavirus ...

The article alleges that and her husband made millions by buying Amazon and Facebook stocks before the coronavirus outbreak. But the fact-checker shows that the stocks were bought before ...



finance.yahoo.com

finance.yahoo.com › news › nancy-pelosi-made-20-times-065422895

Nancy Pelosi has made 20 times her salary in just one trade – Yahoo Finance
Former House Speaker has made 20 times her salary from Nvidia call options
purchased by her husband in November, according to Unusual Whales. The trades have
sparked criticism over ...

F

finbold.com

finbold.com › should-you-follow-nancy-pelosis-stock-moves

Should you follow Nancy Pelosi's stock moves? – Finbold

Exhibit 3: loses on PANW stock purchase, but a copy trader would win. Looking at one
of the Representative's most high-profile 2024 stock purchases, however, tells a
somewhat different story. On February 23, 2024, disclosed two acquisitions of Palo Alto
Networks (NASDAQ: PANW) shares. On the day, PANW was at ...

BI

businessinsider.com

businessinsider.com › nancy-pelosi-stock-trades-congress-investments-2022-7

See Every Stock Trade Speaker Nancy Pelosi's Husband ... – Business Insider
Speaker 's husband is making massive stock trades as Congress mulls whether to ban
lawmakers and their spouses from . An analysis estimated the s' cumulative ...

AP

apnews.com

apnews.com › article › business-nancy-pelosi-congress-
8685e82eb6d6e5b42413417f3d5d6775

Pelosi defends lawmaker stock trades, citing 'free market'

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker on Wednesday said lawmakers should not be
barred from stock, a practice that has come under scrutiny because it gives members of
Congress the opportunity to profit off information gained through their official duties.
"We are a free market economy.

W

en.wikipedia.org

en.wikipedia.org › wiki › 2020_congressional_insider_trading_scandal

2020 congressional insider trading scandal – Wikipedia

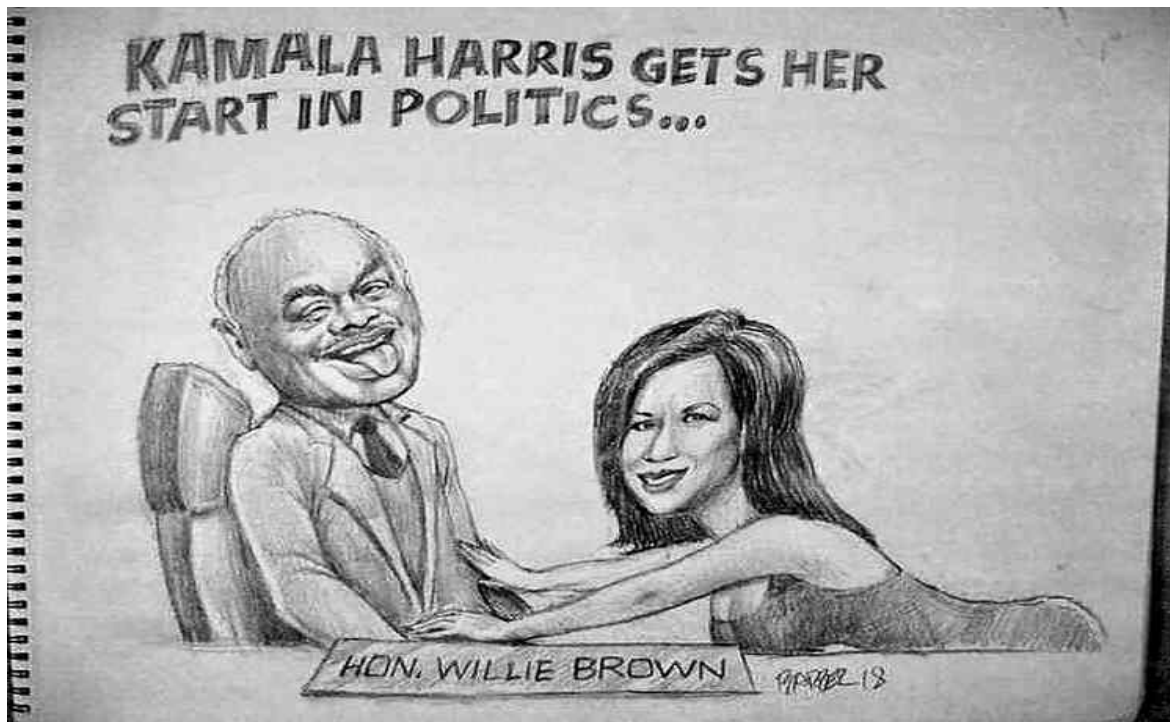
The scandal involved several US Senators selling stock at the start of the COVID-19
pandemic using non-public information from a closed Senate meeting. No charges were
brought against anyone and all investigations are closed.

BI

businessinsider.com

businessinsider.com › congress-stock-act-violations-senate-house-trading-2021-9

78 members of Congress have violated a law designed to prevent insider ...
and several other news organizations have identified 78 members of Congress who've
recently failed to properly report their financial trades as mandated by the Stop on ...



**SAN FRANCISCO'S SUGAR BABY AND HER
OLD, RICH, SUGAR DADDY AND SUGAR
MAMA**

Resurfaced dossiers '*blow a hole*' in Kamala's claims about her working life under ex-lover sugar daddy Willie Brown



Kamala Harris was frequently absent for California Medical Assistance Commission meetings, even though she was appointed to the position by her boyfriend at the time and then-Assembly Speaker Willie Brown.

Kamala Harris flip flops on another major issue... this time involving prostitution



Vice President Kamala Harris remains unclear about whether prostitution should be legal, as she has taken different positions on the issue throughout her career.



Kamala Harris said she 'worked her a** off' under ex-lover mayor Willie Brown... but new information about her time there reveals the truth

- Brown appointed to Harris to two state board posit



ions

while they dated

- Harris only dates rich high visibility guys who help her career
- Her current husband got his nanny pregnant and yet she over-looks that

- Willie Brown's escort: Sonia, who worked at Union Square's Wilkes Bashford, told friends that Kamala 'serviced rich judges and Pacific Heights frat boys'.
- Kamala Harris attended a San Francisco COYOTE (Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics) Free Sex meeting and stated, in public, "i am one of you", to the assembled prostitutes. It is recorded.
- **Sign up for the Daily Mail US Political Newsletter**

By Charlie Spiering, Senior Political Reporter, Washington, Dc



Kamala Harris was frequently absent for California Medical Assistance Commission meetings, even though she was appointed to the position by her boyfriend at the time and then-Assembly Speaker Willie Brown.

Harris and Brown dated for about a year when she was a 29 year old lawyer for the Alameda District Attorney's office and he was the powerful speaker who ran for mayor of San Francisco at the age of 60.

Brown appointed Harris to the CMAC position in 1994, drawing some criticism for impropriety despite Brown's willingness to publicly flaunt accusations of political patronage.

Harris had already served six months on the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, a job that paid \$97,088 annually, but resigned to take the new position with CMAC.

It's unclear why Harris missed so many meetings, as she took leave from her job as the Alameda County District Attorney's office according to the Los Angeles Times.



Willie Brown and Kamala Harris at a post-sex dinner in April 1995

Mark Zuckerberg's Meta AI Loves Kamala Harris, Calls Donald Trump 'Crude And Lazy'

Harris was absent from more than 20 percent of the meetings according to a Daily Mail review of the committee minutes. On other occasions the minutes reveal that Harris arrived after commissioners started the meetings and already conducted some of their business.

Of the 111 CMAC meetings, Harris was absent from 23 of them, making her the most absent commissioner on the board.

The job required that board members meet twice a month, as it was not a full-time position. The Commission was responsible for negotiating contracts with hospitals to limit costs paid by government funded health care.

But it still paid Harris a great deal of money, \$99,000 annually, according to a report from SF Weekly. All told, Harris made more than \$400,000 over the five year period she was appointed by Brown to the state positions.



•
Kamala Harris faced questions about her relationship with Willie Brown and her performance in the jobs that Brown appointed her to when she ran for District Attorney of San Francisco

Behind Kamala Harris's Rise Is Silicon Valley's Wealthiest Sugar Mama

You don't get Kamala Harris running your government, you get Steve Job's ex wife!



After Vice President Joe Biden swore in Kamala Harris as a United States senator in January 2017, they posed for a customary photo in the Capitol with her family. Then she asked her future boss for a favor: Would he indulge in one more photo?

“Come on, everybody,” Ms. Harris said, waving in a dozen others. “My extended family is here.”

The first member of Ms. Harris's entourage to approach Mr. Biden just happened to be one of the richest people in the world: Laurene Powell Jobs.

Ms. Powell Jobs, the philanthropist who controls a fortune worth over \$11 billion, stood just behind Mr. Biden's right shoulder, joining Ms. Harris's best friend from kindergarten and others in her inner circle. As the photo was snapped and the group broke up, Mr. Biden grabbed a coveted 60 seconds with Ms. Powell Jobs — asking about her son and talking about his ambitions for cancer research.

Few figures have cultivated a more consequential friendship with Ms. Harris, now the Democratic nominee for president, than Ms. Powell Jobs, who for decades was married to one of America's most famous entrepreneurs, Steve Jobs.

Over the past 20 years, she has become one of Ms. Harris's most essential confidantes, providing counsel and money, and helping to expand Ms. Harris's public profile. Now, in this year's presidential race, the wealthiest woman in Silicon Valley has emerged as a powerful player behind the scenes. She has quietly contributed millions of dollars to an organization backing Ms. Harris, according to three people briefed on the gifts.

She played a hidden but key role in helping usher Mr. Biden out of the race, which cleared the way for a Harris run.

And Ms. Powell Jobs, who is so close to the vice president that her staff refers to her simply as "L.P.J.," is positioned to have extraordinary influence, or at least access, in a potential Harris administration.

"Laurene has a gift for friendship, especially old friends — she is tribally loyal," said David Bradley, who sold *The Atlantic* magazine to Ms. Powell Jobs's philanthropy, the Emerson Collective. "Kamala Harris falls within that ring of friends."

Silicon Valley roots

Darren Walker, the president of the Ford Foundation, found himself at an intimate dinner in Washington last fall, along with Ms. Powell Jobs, Ms. Harris and Doug Emhoff, Ms. Harris's husband.

The women, he recalled, seemed especially at ease. "It was the vice president's residence," he said, "but they were sitting on the sofa like longtime girlfriends."

Over fish and African vegetables, Mr. Walker said, they chatted about art and recounted stories of their recent travels to Africa.

"There was no mention of any political leaders," he said. "No one mentioned Trump. No one mentioned the president."

Politicians often use the word "friend" to describe patrons who can power their campaigns and careers. Neither Ms. Harris nor Ms. Powell Jobs, who both zealously guard their privacy, would comment for this story. But in interviews, three dozen people with insight into their bond described a genuine friendship built on a shared political philosophy, an interest in art and culture and their mutual trials as women in the public spotlight.

Ms. Harris, 59, and Ms. Powell Jobs, 60, rose to prominence together in the Bay Area: Ms. Powell Jobs donated \$500 to Ms. Harris's first run for district attorney of San Francisco in

2003. The next year, they attended the March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C., part of a "posse" of female leaders from the Bay Area, recalled Andrea Dew Steele, who organized the group.

"She was helpful early on in Kamala's career," Ms. Dew Steele recalled.

The women spent the next two decades traveling among the same Silicon Valley elite. They have attended each other's family events: Ms. Powell Jobs was one of about 60 people to attend Ms. Harris's wedding to Mr. Emhoff in 2014, and Ms. Powell Jobs invited Ms. Harris to the wedding of her son, Reed, this year in Hawaii, which Mr. Emhoff attended. They even shared the same celebrity dermatologist.

Even as Ms. Harris's career took her to Sacramento and Washington, they have gone on personal trips together, with Ms. Harris at times flying on Ms. Powell Jobs's private plane. They have prioritized one-on-one meals when they've found themselves in the same city: They have been spotted together at Quince, the San Francisco hot spot, and were once seen chatting with Rupert Murdoch at the high-end restaurant Nobu Malibu.

Susie Tompkins Buell, a San Francisco philanthropist who is close to both women, recalled the look on Ms. Powell Jobs's face as Ms. Harris spoke at her swearing-in as attorney general in 2011.

"I've watched them appreciate each other in a room full of a lot of people — Laurene looking so proudly at Kamala when she was speaking, and just seeing this great sense of appreciation and pride," she said. She has texted with Ms. Powell Jobs in recent weeks about how to support Ms. Harris's presidential bid. "I know she's just besides herself with joy."

‘I vote for her’

In 2017, Ms. Powell Jobs consented to a rare interview onstage at a tech conference hosted by the journalist Kara Swisher, who would become a New York Times opinion writer. She brought Ms. Harris along and made the interview a twofer.

It was the beginning of the Trump administration, but Ms. Swisher was already looking ahead to the next election. When she jokingly asked Ms. Powell Jobs if she was planning to run for president in 2020, Ms. Powell Jobs quickly turned the question into an opportunity to promote Ms. Harris, then a newly elected senator from California.

“Well, one of us should,” Ms. Powell Jobs replied. She pointed at Ms. Harris and said, “I vote for her.”

Ms. Powell Jobs’s re-emergence into public and political life in the years since her husband died of cancer, in 2011, has been cautious and deliberate. She began making bigger political donations and lobbying Washington, pressing President Barack Obama on education at a closed-door Q. and A. with other tech billionaires during his 2012 re-election campaign, according to a person who was in the room.

Ms. Powell Jobs was, like her late husband, an enigma — but she had sweeping ambitions. Politicians began to seek her out. Michelle Obama invited her to sit in her box during Mr. Obama’s State of the Union address in 2012. Hillary Clinton cultivated her, and Ms. Powell Jobs hosted a 20-person, \$200,000-a-head event for Mrs. Clinton’s 2016 presidential campaign. She struck up a friendship with Kevin McCarthy, the former Republican speaker of the House.

And as Ms. Harris sought higher office, Ms. Powell Jobs hosted a series of fund-raisers for her, including several at her house and one in 2014 with fellow Silicon Valley royalty like Marc Benioff, the founder of Salesforce; the investor Ron Conway, her closest political confidant; and Sean Parker, the early Facebook executive. In 2016, she spent election night taking selfies with Ms. Harris at a party in Los Angeles, celebrating Ms. Harris’s election to the Senate.

As a senator, Ms. Harris often visited Emerson Collective’s offices in Washington to speak with Ms. Powell Jobs, her staff and the billionaire’s friends like Yo-Yo Ma and the fashion designer Marc Ecko.

Still, the sprawl of Ms. Powell Jobs’s empire, vast even among ambitious Silicon Valley billionaires, sometimes gets in the way. Ms. Powell Jobs’s 2017 near-total purchase of The Atlantic has at times made her reluctant to jump more fully into politics. She has told other Democrats that as the de facto owner of a large media company — Ms. Powell Jobs has even tried her hand at journalism, interviewing Ms. Harris for an event hosted by The Atlantic — she should not be a full-fledged partisan actor, to the frustration of some on both her and Ms. Harris’s teams. She declined to significantly help Ms. Harris’s presidential bid in 2019.

The fateful debate

Ms. Powell Jobs has visited the Biden-Harris White House nine times, but she has not always loved the administration.

The first years of Ms. Harris's tenure as vice president were especially difficult, as she drew criticism for her efforts on illegal immigration and reports of unhappiness among her staff. She frequently leaned on Ms. Powell Jobs, confiding in her about the toll that the public scrutiny was taking, according to a person briefed on the relationship, and Ms. Powell Jobs pushed other Democrats to defend her more vigorously.

But Ms. Powell Jobs's relationship with Mr. Biden has been trickier. She has been a major shareholder in Apple and Disney, and has bristled at some Biden policy positions that she considers anti-tech. She expressed frustration over what she considered hostile rhetoric from the president about rich people and Silicon Valley.

Then came the June debate.

After Mr. Biden's disastrous performance against former President Donald J. Trump, Ms. Powell Jobs expressed to other major Democratic donors her deep concerns about Mr. Biden's ability to win the election. One of her top aides, David Simas, a former Obama staff member who oversees her political research, circulated focus-group and polling data to other donors that painted a dire portrait. Several said that Mr. Simas's research was influential in encouraging them to mobilize against Mr. Biden.

As Mr. Biden insisted that he would not leave the race, Ms. Harris quietly tried to survey her options and navigate the sensitive politics of the moment. Among those she turned to for counsel was Ms. Powell Jobs.

Just weeks later, Ms. Powell Jobs was at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, sitting in Ms. Harris's exclusive friends and family box and watching her companion formally accept the party's nomination for president.

A Harris administration role?

Ms. Harris and Ms. Powell Jobs have talked for decades about the challenges of being women in the public eye — and now the billionaire could help elect the country's first female president.

Ms. Powell Jobs was not particularly involved in Mr. Biden's re-election campaign, but she has told friends recently that she was energized by Ms. Harris's ascension. She has joined calls with Harris campaign officials in recent weeks and told them that she was eager to host an intimate, pricey event for her, similar to the one she threw for Mrs. Clinton, although with time short and money flooding in, officials are skeptical that an event will come together.

Ms. Powell Jobs has spoken with other female leaders in technology and encouraged them to publicly support Ms. Harris. And her team has circulated to other megadonors a list of 17 recommended pro-Harris organizations to which they can donate, including the super PAC Future Forward, where one of her senior political aides is working. Ms. Powell Jobs prefers to make undisclosed contributions, and she has donated millions to Future Forward's dark-money vehicle, according to three people briefed on the donations.

Friends of Ms. Powell Jobs have long thought she might want to go into politics. Some have wondered whether, if Ms. Harris wins the election, Ms. Powell Jobs might want a formal role in the administration, such as secretary of education, one of her top issues. Others hope she will simply use her clout to try to influence Ms. Harris more informally, such as by pushing her to support tougher measures to fight climate change.

Either way, Marc Porter Magee, an education-reform advocate, predicted that Ms. Powell Jobs would emerge as an insider in a Harris administration.

"Laurene is one of a small number of philanthropists who has both made significant investments in educational innovation and is also actively engaged in Democratic politics," he said. "If Harris wins, she and her staff could emerge as important players in an administration that has yet to define its K-12 agenda."

Is the publicity-averse Ms. Powell Jobs even interested in a Washington career?

"I do live a life of service now, and I feel like I am getting good at it," Ms. Powell Jobs told an interviewer in 2022. "It's not my intention," she said, "but I would not necessarily shy away from another opportunity."

The post [Behind Kamala Harris's Rise: Silicon Valley's Wealthiest Woman](#) appeared first on [New York Times](#).

EXCLUSIVEDiddy's ex Cassie Ventura is 'triggered' by horrifying baby oil and 'freak off' revelations



Cassandra 'Cassie' Ventura, 38, sent shockwaves through the entertainment world when she filed a lawsuit against Combs, 54, in November. But despite her lawsuit inspiring other alleged victims to come forward, she is still struggling with her experience.

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Adult entertainer claims Sean 'Diddy' Combs forced her into depraved sex acts that 'haunt me to this day' – as she vows to testify to ensure the rapper is jailed for life



Adria Sheri English has claimed that Sean 'Diddy' Combs forced her into depraved sex acts at his unruly annual White Parties.

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Trump heaped praise on Diddy drawing a chilling reply from female Apprentice contestant

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An Apprentice contestant's response to Donald Trump 's ultra-flattering remarks about Diddy revealed yet another ignored clue about the rapper's wrongdoings.

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Haunting Diddy X post to ex-partner Kim Porter as stars call for full investigation into her death



Diddy, 54, was sensationally arrested and charged with crimes including racketeering and sex trafficking last week, all of which he has pleaded not guilty to. A week after the disgraced star was arrested, singer Al B. Sure! shared a post to social media claiming there is a conspiracy involving the death of Kim Porter.

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Comedian Eddie Griffin says Diddy is a 'dead man' and won't leave prison alive after rapper's sex trafficking arrest



The rapper is accused of forcing women into 'sex performances', described as 'freak offs' and will now have to serve time in a New York City prison once described as 'Hell on Earth'.

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Diddy's bodyguard says there are videos of politicians at 'freak offs' and claims rapper learned from other music moguls: 'They made him a monster'



Gene Deal, a former insider who protected Diddy through the 1990s, claimed the producer's indictment is tied to a corruption scandal currently gripping New York City politics.

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Diddy's tragic jailhouse phone call to his young children revealed



Sean 'Diddy' Combs has spoken to his seven children as he awaits trial at Brooklyn's Metropolitan Detention Center in New York City.

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Willie Brown admitted that he had an impact on Kamala Harris' political career. Harris was fiercely defensive of her role on the boards when she campaigned for District Attorney of San Francisco, insisting she did the work despite questions about whether she had earned the position that Brown had appointed her to.

'Whether you agree or disagree with the system, I did the work,' she told SF Weekly magazine in a 2003 profile of her career.

'Well, I worked,' Harris said to journalist Joan Walsh when asked about her positions in 2003 for [San Francisco City Journal magazine](#).

'I've worked my ass off for everything I have,' she said.

Brown confirmed much later in his career that he appointed Harris to the positions, which helped boost her career.

'Yes, I may have influenced her career by appointing her to two state commissions when I was Assembly speaker,' he acknowledged in a San Francisco op-ed confirming their relationship to the San Francisco Chronicle in January 2019.

Diddy's ex Cassie Ventura is 'triggered' by horrifying baby oil and 'freak off' revelations. How was Kamala Harris involved?



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ELON MUSK'S CARS ARE THE MOST HATED CARS ON EARTH

How the Tesla Cybertruck is fuelling Trump's culture wars

Dubbed the 'MAGAmobile' and 'Deploreat', it may be the best thing to ever happen to electric vehicles, but not for the reason Elon Musk wants, writes [Anthony Cuthbertson](#)

On Christmas Day last year, while other political leaders were posting messages of peace and prosperity, Donald Trump took to [his own Truth Social app](#) to go on a festive rant against all that he thought was wrong with the world. Among those on his list were the "evil and 'sick' THUGS" pushing

for “electric car lunacy” in the US. “MAY THEY ROT IN HELL,” he wrote. “AGAIN, MERRY CHRISTMAS!”



Less than nine months later, and just two months away from the presidential elections, the Republican candidate is now publicly proclaiming his love for the technology. “I’m for electric cars,” he told supporters at a rally in Georgia last month. “I have to be because Elon [Musk] endorsed me very strongly.”

This sudden shift in sentiment was cemented when he was presented with a brand new Tesla Cybertruck, gifted to him by the controversial streamer Adin Ross. Emblazoned with his “Make America Great Again” slogan on the bonnet, the electric truck featured an image on the doors of Trump with his fist raised shortly after July’s assassination attempt. Trump appeared enthralled. “That is beautiful,” he said. “I think it’s incredible.”

While it wasn’t clear whether he was talking about the truck or the wrap, Trump’s pivot follows a broader trend of Republicans and those on the right shifting their allegiance to Elon Musk and his assorted companies. Having been a champion for environmentalists after supercharging the transition to electric vehicles, Musk has since staked his ideological flag in the MAGA camp, pushing far-right conspiracies and radicalising himself on his own platform.

You're doing it wrong, Elon



Elon Musk 
@elonmusk

those who attack space
maybe don't realize that
space represents hope
for so many people



Yell in a War
@jelenawoehr

...

Replying to @elonmusk

those who hoard wealth
definitely realize that
they are starving people
so they can go play in space

The move has drawn in those who had previously shunned electric vehicles – former Fox News anchor Tucker Carlson posted [an hour-long video](#) praising the Cybertruck – but it has also turned Democrats off Teslas. The polarising antics of the world's richest person saw the portion of Democrat Tesla buyers fall from 40 per cent in 2023 to just 15 per cent at the beginning of 2024, according to figures from research firm Strategic Vision. In California – a Democratic stronghold and the former home of Musk and Tesla before

they both moved to Texas – Tesla registrations fell 12 per cent between January and July, according to S&P Global Mobility.

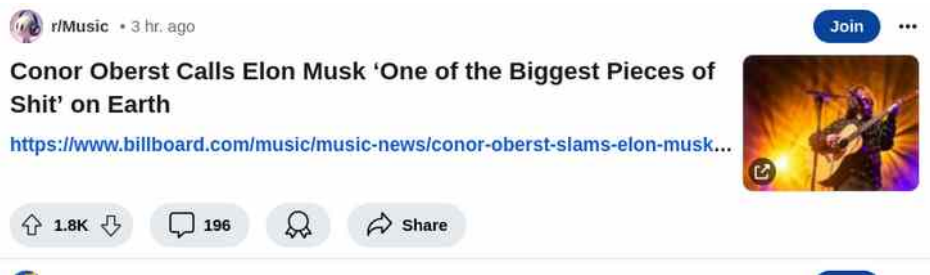
Recommended

- [Elon Musk is turning himself into a space superpower – this is why it matters](#)
- [Elon Musk is wrong – high-status males shouldn't be in charge of anything](#)

Despite the rejection among Democrats, the latest figures show that the Tesla Cybertruck is currently outselling all other electric pickup trucks combined throughout the US, with sales shooting up 61 per cent in July – the same month that Musk first publicly endorsed Trump.

The new fanbase has seen the vehicle be dubbed the “[MAGAmobile](#)” and the “[Deplocean](#)” – referencing the “deplorables” phrase that Trump’s 2016 presidential rival Hillary Clinton used to describe the Republican candidate’s followers. In July, the ***New York Times*** described it as “a culture war on wheels”.

Whole communities have emerged that are dedicated to actively mocking Tesla’s latest vehicle and its association with Musk. More than 160,000 people have [joined the Reddit forum r/Cyberstuck](#), which aims to mock the stainless steel polygon and anyone who buys it. Popular images and videos shared on the subreddit – which has more members than there are owners of the Cybertruck – include “humiliated” owners breaking down or having to deal with [yet another recall](#) for the “apocalypse-proof” truck.



Less than a year after launching, the forum is now among the top 2 per cent of subreddits on the site, with dozens of posts and hundreds of comments each day, showing that the truck has become as controversial as Musk himself. And with Trump’s new pro-Tesla stance, the Cybertruck has become the latest symbol of American division.

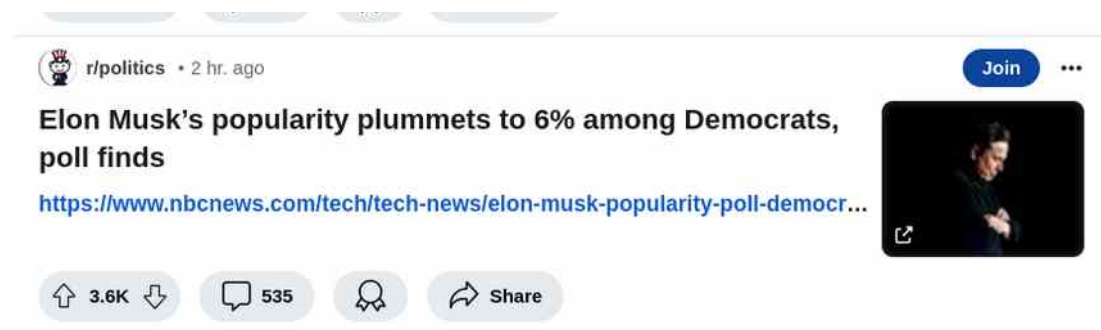
Cybertruck owner forums have generated hundreds of posts discussing the phenomenon, with many lamenting the unwanted attention their vehicle choice has attracted.

“At first I didn’t care but now it’s starting to get annoying,” wrote one owner. “It’s my first time owning an EV and this attention is crazy.”

I’ve never seen car fandom/hatedom quite like this ever before, and I sincerely hope this is an inane phase we’ll get past, because at this moment, we all seem kind of nuts

Jason Torchinsky in a note on The Autopian’s Cybertruck review

Another noted: “Many are vehement anti-Trump/Musk and post in anti-conservative subreddits. I am guessing folks who hate Trump and see Musk’s support extends to anyone who supports Tesla is an instant villain... I will note, I think the term w*nkpanzer is quite hilarious and have caught myself referring to my Cybertruck as the w*nkpanzer.”



Musk’s takeover of Twitter, now renamed X, has supercharged his own transition from an apolitical moderate a few years ago, to a far-right instigator raging against what he perceives as woke culture and social justice activists. Musk has driven the division lines even deeper in recent weeks, claiming that anything other than a vote for Trump in November’s presidential elections will be catastrophic for the US.

The world’s richest person is lined up to be a governmental adviser for Trump, which would further entrench him within the MAGA camp, and would likely increase controversy around the Cybertruck. As a political and cultural statement, ownership of a Cybertruck is increasingly being seen as an endorsement of Musk, and by extension, Trump.

Unlike other Teslas, which conform to conventional automobile design, the Cybertruck is deliberately contrarian – much like the Tesla boss himself. It is therefore impossible to separate the man from the machine: if you hate Musk, you won’t like the Cybertruck.



Automotive journalist and editor in chief of ***The Autopian*** David Tracy wrote in June: “The Tesla Cybertruck should be renamed the Tesla Powderkeg, and reviewing it is totally pointless... While I think both groups – those who love Tesla and those who loathe it – have good intentions, oftentimes neither can think clearly. One is blinded by hatred, one is blinded by admiration.”

Tracy’s review attracted hundreds of comments, with one admitting: “There are some people (myself included) that consider Musk a large enough problem that they will judge a person’s character when that person uses or praises his work.”

A note from ***The Autopian***’s co-founder Jason Torchinsky added: “I’ve never seen car fandom/hatedom quite like this ever before, and I sincerely hope this is an inane phase we’ll get past, because at this moment, we all seem kind of nuts.”

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- [Where's Barron? Youngest Trump missing from crypto launch despite two-hour build-up](#)

Those who first bought Teslas due to Musk's commitments to clean energy may no longer be buying his cars, but they'll likely still be driving his rivals' electric vehicles – the likes of Lucid and Rivian. His new acolytes may have never before considered an electric vehicle, and now they're drawn to the Cybertruck to support a person who they see as a warrior against woke culture, and potential saviour of planet Earth. This could make the Cybertruck the best thing to ever happen to electric vehicles.

Or maybe not. It's been more than a month since Trump was gifted his own bulletproof Cybertruck, and despite the assassination attempts, he still hasn't been pictured riding in it.

DEMOCRACY IS BEING DESTROYED BY ELON MUSK AND BIG TECH OLIGARCHS

Amazon, Tesla and Meta among world's top companies undermining democracy – report

Corporations such as ExxonMobil and Blackstone also big funders of climate crisis, new trade union report finds

Michael Sainato

Some of the world's largest companies have been accused of undermining democracy across the world by financially backing far-right political movements, funding and exacerbating the climate crisis, and violating trade union rights and human rights in a report published on Monday by the International Trade Union Confederation ([ITUC](#)).

Amazon, Tesla, Meta, ExxonMobil, Blackstone, Vanguard and Glencore are the corporations included in the report. The companies' lobbying arms are attempting to shape global policy at the [United Nations Summit of the Future](#) in New York City on 22 and 23 September.

At [Amazon](#), the report notes the company's size and role as the fifth largest employer in the world and the largest online retailer and cloud computing service, has had a profound impact on the industries and communities it operates within.

“The company has become notorious for its [union busting](#) and [low wages](#) on multiple continents, monopoly in e-commerce, [egregious carbon emissions](#) through its AWS data centres, [corporate tax evasion](#), and lobbying at national and international level,” states the report.

The report cites Amazon's high injury rates in the US, the company challenging the constitutionality of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), its efforts in Canada to overturn labor law, the banning of Amazon lobbyists from the European parliament for refusing to attend hearings on worker violations, and refusal to negotiate with unions in Germany, among other cases. Amazon has also funded far-right political groups' efforts to undermine women's rights and antitrust legislation, and its retail website has been used by hate groups to raise money and sell products.

At Tesla, the report cites anti-union opposition by the company in the US, Germany, and Sweden; human rights violations within its supply chains; and Elon Musk's personal opposition to unions and democracy, challenges to the NLRB in the US, and his support for the political leaders Donald Trump, Javier Milei in Argentina and Narendra Modi in India.

The report cites Meta, the largest social media company in the world, for its vast role in permitting and enabling far-right propaganda and movements to use its platforms to grow members and garner support in the US and abroad. It also cited retaliation from the company for regulatory measures in Canada, and expensive lobbying efforts against laws to regulate data privacy.

Glencore, the largest mining company in the world by revenue, was included in the report for its role in financing campaigns globally against Indigenous communities and activists.

Blackstone, the private equity firm led by Stephen Schwarzman, a billionaire backer of Donald Trump, was cited in the report for its roles in funding far-right political movements, investments in fossil fuel projects and deforestation in the Amazon.

"Blackstone's network has spent tens of millions of dollars supporting politicians and political forces who promise to prevent or eliminate regulations that might hold it to account," the report noted. Blackstone has disputed the Amazon deforestation claim and sold its remaining shares in the company in question in 2021. The company argued it does not make direct political contributions and that contributions from its executives are personal.

The Vanguard Group was included in the report due to its role in financing some of the world's most anti-democratic corporations. ExxonMobil was cited for funding anti-climate science research and aggressive lobbying against environmental regulations.

Even in “robust democracies” workers’ demands “are overwhelmed by corporate lobbying operations, either in policymaking or the election in itself”, said Todd Brogan, director of campaigns and organizing at the ITUC.

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“This is about power, who has it, and who sets the agenda. We know as trade unionists that unless we’re organized, the boss sets the agenda in the workplace, and we know as citizens in our countries that unless we’re organized and demanding responsive governments that actually meet the needs of people, it’s corporate power that’s going to set the agenda.

“They’re playing the long game, and it’s a game about shifting power away from democracy at every level into one where they’re not concerned about the effects on workers – they’re concerned about maximizing their influence and their extractive power

and their profit,” added Brogan. “Now is the time for international and multi-sectoral strategies, because these are, in many cases, multinational corporations that are more powerful than states, and they have no democratic accountability whatsoever, except for workers organized.”

The ITUC includes labor group affiliates from 169 nations and territories around the world representing 191 million workers, including the AFL-CIO, the largest federation of labor unions in the US, and the Trades Union Congress in the UK.

With 4 billion people around the world set to participate in elections in 2024, the federation is pushing for an international binding treaty being worked on by the Open-ended intergovernmental working group to hold transnational corporations accountable under international human rights laws.

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- This article was amended on 24 September 2024 to reflect Blackstone’s position on claims made in the ITUC’s report.

