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## The 46 donors who gave nearly \$70K apiece to Hochul



New York Gov. Kathy Hochul speaks at a news conference at a Manhattan subway station on Jan. 6, 2022, in New York City. | Spencer Platt/Getty Images

By **BILL MAHONEY**

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ALBANY, N.Y. – While a lot has changed in New York politics in recent months, one thing hasn't: New York's incumbent governor still relies heavily on massive donations to grow a campaign war chest.

Only \$146,000 of Gov. Kathy Hochul's record-breaking \$21.9 million fundraising haul reported this week came from donors who gave \$250 or less. That's 0.7 percent of her money.

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Meanwhile, Hochul raised \$14.5 million from 583 donors who gave \$10,000 or more, including \$3.2 million from 46 different contributors who gave the maximum allowable amount of \$69,700 between August and mid-January.

And as was regularly the case for predecessor Andrew Cuomo, this list of top donors was dominated by those involved in the world of New York City real estate.

Dozens of interests from the sector gave five-figure donations at a time the state is debating issues such as the future of 421-a tax breaks and “good cause” eviction.

Here’s a look at the contributors who have maxed out to Hochul in recent months.

### **The developers:**

— Arnold Gumowitz, who [feuded with Cuomo](#) over the ex-governor’s plan to raze the neighborhood around Penn Station. In addition, his son Gary gave \$50,000. Hochul announced in November that she was dialing back Cuomo’s

plan.

— Vornado's Steven Roth, who would've benefited from the Penn Station expansion. David Mandelbaum and Russell Wright, who founded development firm Interstate Properties with Roth in the 1960s and are both trustees at Vornado, also gave \$69,700 apiece. Mandelbaum is a minority owner of the Minnesota Vikings.

Vornado has [lobbied the state](#) to allow a casino in New York City, an idea Hochul has supported.

— Steven Ross, chair of The Related Companies and owner of the Miami Dolphins. A Jennifer Ross, who shares a name with his daughter, also gave the max, as did Related CEO Jeff Blau and his wife Lisa.

— Rob Speyer, CEO of **real estate development** company Tishman Speyer.

— Sheryl Tishman, wife of Tishman Construction CEO Dan Tishman. Dan gave Hochul \$44,700.

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— Winston Fisher of the real estate firm Fisher Brothers. The firm's Kenneth

Fisher and Martin Edelman each gave \$62,500.

- William Haugland, William Haugland Jr., and Joseph Haugland. The Melville-based Haugland Group, which specializes in construction projects in areas like civil engineering and off-shore wind, has been a major contractor to the MTA and Department of Transportation in recent years.
- **Multifamily** housing developer Douglas Eisenberg, who has pushed for changes to rent control laws. His wife Wendy also gave the max.
- Larry Silverstein, who purchased the World Trade Center in early 2001 and has since been involved in development in the area. His wife Klara also gave the max.
- BLDG Management's Lloyd Goldman, who was involved in the 2001 deal and was later part of a team that bought the Sears Tower, was another \$69,700 contributor. So was Solil Management's Jane Goldman, his cousin and ["America's only female billionaire running a real estate firm."](#)
- Real estate investment firm RFR's Michael Fuchs and Aby Rosen.
- Owen Thomas of Boston Properties, which has been [seeking to develop](#) the MTA's former headquarters.
- Alice and Alexander Tisch, members of the family that has business in areas like hotels and offshore drilling. Other members of the family also gave sizable amounts, including Elizabeth (\$50,000), Jonathan (\$50,000), Andrew (\$5,000), Laurie (\$5,000), and James (\$1,000) also contributed to Hochul.
- John Fish, the CEO of Boston's largest construction company.
- David Winter, co-CEO of the country's largest roofing company. That company, Standard Industries, has become a major [developer of solar panels](#).

## The businesspeople:

- Joseph Cayre, who founded Atari, gave \$64,700 and didn't quite make the list. But his wife Trina gave the full \$69,700.
- Former Google CEO Eric Schmidt.
- Isaac Ash, the founder of clothing company United Legwear.
- Reid Hoffman, a venture capitalist and the founder of LinkedIn.
- Albert Houllou, president of a New Jersey electronics distributor. A donor named Claudette Edery, who shares ownership of a Brooklyn property with Houllou, also gave the max.
- Alexander Rovt, who made his fortune selling fertilizer in former Soviet states and has since become a top donor to candidates like Cuomo.

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- Leonard Blavatnik who owns Warner Music, invests in oil and is [the United Kingdom's wealthiest person](#).
- Bernard Schwartz, a former satellite communications company CEO who

has spent decades as [a top Democratic donor](#).

— The PAC controlled by health insurance company Fidelis Care.

### **Others:**

— Psychiatrist Samantha Boardman.

— Ronald Abramson, a D.C.-based attorney focused on matters such as mergers and real estate lending.

— Ann Tenenbaum, who serves on the board of the Met and the New York City Public Design Commission. She is married to private equity investor Thomas Lee, who once owned Snapple.

— Alexandra Cohen, whose husband Steve is a hedge fund manager and the owner of the Mets. Steve just missed making the list, after contributing \$69,036.

— Marilyn Simons. She and her husband James — a hedge fund founder who fell just shy of this list by giving only \$64,700 — have been among the biggest donors in New York politics over the past decade. In Cuomo's first term alone, they combined to give various committees controlled by the then-governor \$1.8 million.

— Two PACs tied to labor unions that represent workers in hospitality: Local 6 Committee on Public Education and the New York Hotel Trades Council Committee.

— A new PAC funded by trustees of the Montefiore Medical Center.

— The Democratic Governors Association, which endorsed Hochul in September.

*CLARIFICATION: This report has been updated to clarify that Tishman Speyer is a real estate development company and that Douglas Eisenberg is a multifamily housing developer.*

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