

# [***Democrat In High-Stakes Race Who Says She's 'Not Beholden' To Corporate Interests Raked In Lobbyist Cash***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6C2M-YMC1-JBFB-H001-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

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The Democratic nominee for Maryland's Senate race has repeatedly distanced herself from corporate interests, but a slew of corporate lobbyists have flooded her campaign with cash.

Democratic Senate candidate Angela Alsobrooks on April 26 [*stated*](https://x.com/AlsobrooksForMD/status/1784366385386094787) that she is “not beholden to large corporate interests like Big Oil, Big Pharma, or the Big Gun Lobby,” and has echoed similar sentiments in fundraising emails. Despite her posture, Alsobrooks' campaign has raked in well over $100,000 from dozens of lobbyists, including those representing the pharmaceutical and fossil fuel industries, disclosures [*show*](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CKVndbJcR_UVcblpo_a1jF38bSKCwi1gNmKXO4p00No/edit?usp=sharing).

In addition to rebuking corporate interests, Alsobrooks has also promised that, once elected to the Senate, she will “stand up to deep-pocketed, powerful, special interests,” [*according*](https://politicalemails.org/messages/1278833) to a December 2023 fundraising email. Some lobbyists working to represent these interests, however, have donated to her campaign. [***(RELATED: Maryland Dems Pick Angela Alsobrooks To Face-Off With Larry Hogan In Senate Race)***](https://dailycaller.com/2024/05/14/david-trone-angela-alsobrooks-democratic-maryland-senate-primary-gop-gov-larry-hogan/)

Top-level lobbyists who donated thousands to Alsobrooks' campaign have represented pharmaceutical giants, big tech firms, a major tobacco company, large defense contractors, fossil fuel interests and other massive corporations.

Jeffrey Forbes, a [*founding partner*](https://forbes-tate.com/who-we-are/) at Forbes-Tate, [*donated*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/contribution/df204189-6998-4fc2-8fe3-eec04ae13f05/print/) $3,3000 to Alsobrooks' campaign while working for pharmaceutical companies. Forbes counted [*Novartis*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/filing/16680811-6629-473e-ad34-2b8b76f3a81d/print/), a firm that makes COVID-19 vaccines as well as other drugs, and [*Alexion Pharmaceuticals*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/filing/76c13cba-adbb-4d26-aad6-d2745dfd3163/print/) among his clients at the time he donated to Alsobrooks, disclosures show.

Forbes has also represented [*Altria*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/filing/24d0c54e-2dcf-44c5-bdbb-9699c9def93d/print/), a leading tobacco company at the time of his donation and began lobbying for [*RTX*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/filing/4464d710-9508-4489-9cd2-d46fe7f97163/print/), [*formerly*](https://www.defensenews.com/industry/2023/06/20/raytheon-rebrands-as-rtx/) Raytheon, months after his donation, according to disclosures. Mary Stanton, a principal at Invariant and [*another*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/contribution/c91ba44c-46e1-4e08-a7a5-deb108729db9/print/) Alsobrooks donor, gave to the Democratic Senate hopeful while [*lobbying*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/filing/3bf5b7c2-fed1-43bf-a4c7-32d34bea0afc/print/) for Raytheon.

[*Mike McKay*](https://www.cbcpac.org/leadership/mike-mckay), the CEO and managing partner of the lobbying firm Empire Consulting Group, also made the [*maximum contribution*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/contribution/adee2bba-6139-4369-8f1d-40e2a0353b95/print/) to Alsobrooks' campaign while representing pharmaceutical interests. McKay's clients included [*Gilead Sciences*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/filing/250c9620-97bc-462c-904b-ba085d010615/print/), [*Amgen*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/filing/57ba0633-1a69-42f1-9afa-3e9cb2320112/print/) and ​[*Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/filing/7ba04a07-f50b-4d0f-96f3-8e06548fc2ce/print/), the primary [*trade group*](https://phrma.org/About) for the American drug industry, according to disclosures.

Other large corporations McKay has lobbied for include [*Fox Corp.*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/filing/2f9e53e6-60f9-44a7-97e4-77bcedf88664/print/), [*Coca-Cola*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/filing/dead5904-2afe-4102-8933-b55dd2a60b97/print/) and [*Nike*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/filing/36e1da4d-0ac2-4ab4-8039-4e81ab49f8e7/print/), disclosures show.

Larry Camm, a Johnson & Johnson lobbyist, donated $250 to Alsobrooks, records [*show*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/contribution/2d1af986-964d-4066-bb32-9a2700464292/print/). Sarah Venuto, a lobbyist for America's Natural Gas Alliance, gave Alsobrooks $250 as well, [*according*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/contribution/3bc1d739-aa37-435b-8eca-dbfaba689266/print/) to disclosures.

“It's hard to tell what career politicians like Angela Alsobrooks love more: bashing special interests or using their money to bankroll their campaigns,” National Republican Senatorial Committee spokesman Tate Mitchell told the Daily Caller News Foundation. “This type of hypocrisy is exactly why voters are fed up with ***politics*** as usual in Washington.”

Big tech lobbyists were fond of Alsobrooks as well.

[*Chris*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/contribution/b6e85c0f-1091-4d0a-8a3b-ca121f515921/print/) [*Randle*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/contribution/b6e85c0f-1091-4d0a-8a3b-ca121f515921/print/) [*and*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/contribution/cc709f9f-4ea0-49d3-8f2a-81b785317c37/print/) [*Brian*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/contribution/af32abb5-8789-487d-870e-19b5a6bd370d/print/) [*Rice*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/contribution/af32abb5-8789-487d-870e-19b5a6bd370d/print/), both lobbyists for Meta, collectively donated about $7,000 to Alsobrooks, disclosures show. Adrian Boafo, a lobbyist working for Oracle, [*gave*](https://lda.senate.gov/filings/public/contribution/0f51f4d6-8f38-4667-924f-5f653ece8dad/print/) her $500.

[*Link to Image*](https://cdn01.dailycaller.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2020-07-22T224254Z_181831426_RC2MYH97X9HU_RTRMADP_3_HEALTH-CORONAVIRUS-USA-MARYLAND-scaled-e1715785245387.jpg)

Larry Hogan (REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst)

Alsobrooks, despite her financial ties to corporate influence, [*accused*](https://politicalemails.org/messages/1319327) “corporate special interests” of attempting to deliver Maryland to the Republicans in a February fundraising email.

Maryland is not usually in play for Republicans, as Democrats have historically won [*presidential*](https://www.270towin.com/states/Maryland) and [*senatorial*](https://ballotpedia.org/United_States_Senate_election_in_Maryland,_2024) elections by double-digit margins. Republicans, however, [*nominated*](https://dailycaller.com/2024/05/16/maryland-blue-state-senate-race-larry-hogan-angela-alsobrooks/) popular former Gov. Larry Hogan, a moderate who has gone to great lengths to distance himself from former President Donald Trump.

[*Multiple*](https://www.politico.com/news/2024/03/20/hogan-maryland-senate-poll-00148059) [*polls*](https://www.fox5dc.com/news/new-poll-shows-hogan-with-narrow-lead-over-democratic-contenders-for-maryland-senate) have shown Hogan leading his Democratic opponents in Maryland, making some Republicans confident that he could flip the state.

The Alsobrooks campaign did not respond to the DCNF's request for comment.

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