

US Election Donations from PRC-Linked Entities (2016–2024)

Journalist Briefing — November 2025

Headline:

Public data reveal 37 contributions (~US \$565K) from donors with documented connections to the People's Republic of China, aligned with major U.S. election crisis moments. Statistical correlation with polarization: $r = 0.82$. Correlation ≠ causation, this is data worth investigating.

What we did:

Collected U.S. federal campaign-finance records (2016-2024).

Filtered donors meeting PRC-linked criteria (corporate ownership, PRC-based address, state-influenced partnerships).

Identified 37 donations crossing flashpoints in U.S. politics.

Mapped donation timing against a federal polarization index, found high correlation.

Made all data, methods and sources public.

Key findings:

Donations clustered around election-cycle events: e.g., election conventions, China-themed policy debates, cybersecurity/spy-ring revelations.

Flow to both major U.S. parties, suggests strategic dispersal rather than one-sided support.

The timing of these donations aligns with peaks in U.S. political polarization, though no evidence in this dataset of direct coordination or illegal foreign intervention.

What this means:

These patterns offer a signal, not proof, that PRC-linked donors participate in U.S. political finance in ways aligned with moments of tension.

For journalists, oversight bodies and researchers: the dataset provides a roadmap for follow-up, interviews, deeper ownership tracing, and/or legal review.

For policymakers: this underscores the need to revisit how foreign-linked donations are defined,

monitored and audited, especially during crisis windows.

How to use this briefing:

For a newsroom: Use the attached CSV and notebook to build story angles with interactive visuals.

For think-tanks: Plug the correlation into broader foreign influence frameworks (e.g., Taiwan/China geopolitics, cybersecurity).

For oversight/legal: Use the “Legitimacy Check” audit trail to determine whether any donations warrant further investigation under 52 U.S.C. § 30121.

Access the data:

GitHub repository: github.com/Leerrooy95/US-Election-Donations-China

Contains: Clean CSV, analysis notebook, audit trail, README with definitions and methods.

Important note:

This research uses publicly available data only. It does not claim: foreign direction, legal violation, or campaign awareness. It offers transparent data and invites investigation.

Treat this as a starting point, not a definitive conclusion.

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