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1/ [Thread]

No Labels' Lieberman, Huntsman play curious roles inside Trump-Russia orbit



2/ In 2016, co-chairs Joe Lieberman and Jon Huntsman announced that No Labels had convinced six presidential candidates to accept the “Problem Solver Promise.”

3/ Those candidates were Martin O’Malley and five Republicans—Ben Carson, Chris Christie, John Kasich, Rand Paul and Donald Trump.

4/ They promised that if they won the presidency, they’d meet with a bipartisan group within a month of taking office. They would then work to accomplish one of No Labels’ four goals: Create 25 million jobs in the next 10 years,...



**Here's Why Joe Lieberman, Jon Huntsman Have Labeled Donald Trum...**

No Labels, spearheaded by Joe Lieberman and Jon Huntsman, have announced six candidates who have agreed to its "Problem Solver Promise."

<https://bit.ly/2QxZmfi>

5/ ...secure Social Security and Medicare for another 75 years, balance the federal budget by 2030 and make America energy-secure by 2024.

6/ Trump did the opposite.

7/ The economy has added 3.8 million jobs, but at that rate he would fall well short of the 25 million. Medicare will now become insolvent three years sooner due, in large part, to Trump and the GOP's \$2.3 trillion tax cut. It's estimated to raise the deficit by \$3.8 trillion...

8/ ...Social Security will now be insolvent one year sooner. He withdrew from the Paris climate agreement, nominated Scott Pruitt as EPA administrator and has opened up federal land and waters for drilling.



**The five worst things Donald Trump has done on climate change – so far**

As the US president weighs up whether or not to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, we look at his most frightening actions on global warming

<https://bit.ly/2sedrQd>

9/ No Labels says it wants to "reclaim the political system that's been hijacked by ideologues, ultra-partisans & special interests." Yet it publicly supported Trump as the consensus candidate who could merge the parties. For Huntsman, Trump was the best man to build a coalition.

10/ "...Donald Trump has the ability to assemble a nontraditional bloc of supporters. ...The ability to cut across traditional party boundaries - like '80, '92 and 2008 - will be key, and he's much better positioned to achieve that."



**GOP's Stop-Trump fever breaks**

But a small core of Never-Trump operatives is still plotting a contested convention.

<https://politi.co/2RtsphD>

11/ When asked about Trump becoming president, Huntsman said, "People want a big, loud, brash protest vote right now. That's a good chunk of the (GOP). And he is that person. And he embodies exactly the anger & disgust that so many have about politics."

[cnn.it/2FWNa5](http://cnn.it/2FWNa5)

12/ Huntsman's the son of billionaire businessman Jon Huntsman Sr., who was Special Asst. and Staff Secretary to President Richard Nixon. In 1971–1972, his role in the White House was to monitor the flow of documents coming in and out of the Oval Office.



**Remembering Jon Huntsman, Sr.**

Jon Huntsman Sr., philanthropist and businessman who served as special assistant and staff secretary to President Nixon, died today at age 80. Feb 2, 2018.

<https://bit.ly/2U6iFeR>

13/ His boss was chief of staff H.R. Haldeman, who spent 18 months in prison for his role in Watergate.

14/ He also built the Huntsman Container Corp, a business that made the containers for Big Macs. In 1972, he left the White House to run the company but remained a "consultant to the Office of the President." A year later, U.S. Congress began an impeachment process against Nixon.

15/ Huntsman Sr. started the Huntsman Chemical Company in 1982 and built it into a multibillion-dollar international conglomerate that's now in more than 30 countries. Two of those countries are China and Russia and the Huntsman's have done extensive business in both.

16/ In 1990, there were only 45 Americans doing business in Russia. Huntsman Sr. was one of them. He had Huntsman Chemical in Moscow. The company currently has 5 offices in Russia. Two of those are located 30 mins. north of the Kremlin.

[bit.ly/2zNgwMo](http://bit.ly/2zNgwMo)

17/ Almost 10 years ago, he signed an agreement with Russian chemical producer Zavod Sintanolov to "share know-how, expertise and resources to develop the Russian detergents market.



Newsroom

The Investor Relations website contains information about Huntsman Corporation's business for stockholders, potential investors, and financial analysts.

<https://bit.ly/2Ekvb5N>

18/ He was introduced to the Soviet Union by his close friend and mentor, Dr. Armand Hammer, who owned Occidental Petroleum Corp. In 1989, Hammer and the Soviets agreed to build and operate two chemical plants in Ukraine.



19/ In 1992, Occidental began exporting oil from Russia through its subsidiary, Occidental of Russian Ltd.



**Occidental begins exporting oil from Russia**

Occidental Petroleum Corp., the nation's eighth- largest oil company, said Wednesday it began exporting oil from Russia earlier this week as part of a joint...

<https://bit.ly/2E7YZ1a>

20/ At 23, Hammer was sent to Russia to work for Vladimir Lenin as Russia's trade representative. He was tasked with negotiating trade deals with western countries in an effort to prop up Russia's failing economy.



## THE RIDDLE OF ARMAND HAMMER

<https://nyti.ms/2AYNut7>

21/ He became known as "Lenin's 'path' to America's financial resources." Over the years, he created a "personal empire largely by negotiating extraordinary deals with nations that have usually been hostile to the United States - and even more hostile to American capitalists."

22/ He was suspected by the CIA and FBI of being a full-fledged Russian agent and using his "company to help finance Soviet espionage in America."



23/ Huntsman Sr. and Hammer used their oil and chemical businesses and their network of government contacts to build their profits in Russia and to help stabilize the Russian economy.

24/ Like his father, Huntsman Jr. also has no issues with alternating between government and private work. He was an executive at his family's company from 1983–1989 before becoming a White House Staff Assistant for Reagan.

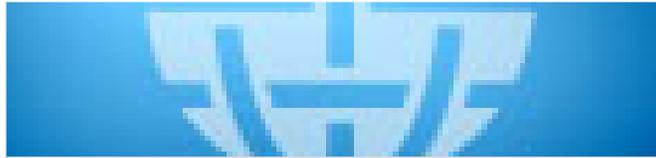
25/ He became the U.S. ambassador to Singapore under former President George H.W. Bush and Deputy U.S. Trade Representative under George W. Bush. He worked to bring China into the World Trade Organization.

[bit.ly/2AXEXXv](http://bit.ly/2AXEXXv)

26/ He also turned down Bush's nomination for ambassador to Indonesia. In 2003, he became the Chairman and CEO of Huntsman Family Holdings Co.

27/ After being the Repub. Gov. of Utah (2005–2009), he was named Amb. to China by Obama. In 2014, he succeeded Chuck Hagel to become Chairman of the Atlantic Council. He's served on the boards of Ford, Caterpillar Corp., Chevron Corp. & Hilton.





#### Atlantic Council Names Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. as Chairman

The Atlantic Council promotes constructive leadership and engagement in international affairs based on the central role of the Atlantic Community in meeting global challenges. Founded in 1961, the...

<https://bit.ly/2QEXj9E>

28/ Despite initially supporting Trump, Huntsman withdrew his support after Trump's comments with Billy Bush leaked. He was a candidate for Secretary of State but ultimately lost out to Exxon Mobil CEO Rex W. Tillerson.



#### GOP's Stop-Trump fever breaks

But a small core of Never-Trump operatives is still plotting a contested convention.

<https://politi.co/2RtspHD>

29/ In October 2017, he was sworn in as Trump's ambassador to Russia. He's the only person to have ever been the U.S. ambassador to both China and Russia.

#### Ambassador Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. | U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Ru...

<https://bit.ly/2FOwvzk>

30/ "I've been able to access people who no ambassador in recent years has been able to access, in the military side, on the intelligence side, and mostly, on the national security issues where we're deeply involved and in joint efforts,...



#### Trump's Man in Moscow

Most of Washington is scared to meet with Russians. Jon Huntsman wants to meet as many as possible.

<https://bit.ly/2RGDGuQ>

31/ ...where we need to meet, where we need to carry messages, where it's critical to get the work done," he said.

32/ After Trump's Helsinki meeting in July where he never confronted Putin about Russia's attack on the U.S. elections, Huntsman refused to denounce Trump.



**Gehrke: Come home, Ambassador Huntsman, your country needs you**  
Ambassador Huntsman, you work for a pawn, not a president. It's time to come home.

<https://bit.ly/2Rxn74w>

33/ When asked about Trump's ability to negotiate with Putin, Huntsman defended Trump's negotiating style, "...(he) will drive the discussion on malign activity and election meddling. He knows the facts and the details and he's discussed it..."

34/ ...We all talk about it a little differently, but the president has talked about it in his own way."



**Trump heads into high-stakes summits with NATO and Putin at odds w...**

President Trump's willingness to break with official U.S. policy leaves his top envoys exposed, experts say.

<https://cnb.cx/2QuheYJ>

35/ In May 2017, a week after Trump fired former FBI Director James Comey, Lieberman was invited to the White House to discuss becoming the next FBI director. He was Trump's top pick but later took himself out of the running.





**Does Trump's Pick for Russia-Probe Attorney Mean Lieberman Won't ...**

If Lieberman is the next FBI director, Trump hiring Lieberman's boss is a huge conflict of interest – but perhaps the president doesn't mind.

<https://nym.ag/2E3jort>

36/ Lieberman works as senior counsel and lobbyist at the law firm Kasowitz Benson Torres, a group of men that have played a significant role in Trump's life for at least the last 15 years.

[bit.ly/2AUgSAR](http://bit.ly/2AUgSAR)

37/ Founder Marc E. Kasowitz is Trump's personal attorney and has represented him in numerous cases. He allegedly helped Trump keep divorce records sealed and worked to defend a case against Trump University.

38/ He was also the lead lawyer in defending Trump in an investigation of collusion with Russia and the 2016 presidential election.

**Washington Post: Breaking News, World, US, DC News & Analysis**

Breaking news and analysis on politics, business, world national news, entertainment more. In-depth DC, Virginia, Maryland news coverage including traffic, weather, crime, education, restaurant review...

<https://wapo.st/2PnyvNR>

39/ Kasowitz has represented Russia's Sberbank in a lawsuit filed by Sergey Poymanov, a Russian gravel quarry owner who claims his business was illegally bankrupted and seized by Sberbank.

40/ He's also represented Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska. He was first hired by Trump in 2001 to restructure his Atlantic City casinos debt.

41/ Former Partner David M. Friedman was Trump's personal bankruptcy attorney who also worked on Trump's Atlantic City casino "investments" and their eventual bankruptcies. Last year, he was confirmed as U.S. ambassador to Israel.

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<https://wapo.st/2Qp3bDx>

42/ He opposes a Palestinian state and supports Jewish settlements in the West Bank. In December 2017, Trump recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and ordered the U.S. Embassy to be moved there.





**Trump Recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's Capital and Orders U.S. Emba...**

Ignoring warnings from diplomats around the world, President Trump reverses decades of American policy toward the contested city.

<https://nyti.ms/2AepBA8>

43/ Partner Edward McNally was considered by Trump to succeed Preet Bharara as U.S. attorney for the SDNY. He was the first WH general counsel for homeland security & counterterrorism after the 9/11 attacks. He was also a prosecutor under Rudy Giuliani.

[trib.in/2zz5Epn](http://trib.in/2zz5Epn)

44/ Lieberman, the former Connecticut Attorney General and four-term Senator, has worked at the firm since 2013. Five years ago, he signed a FARA contract to provide Libyan businessman Basit Igtet with "government relations services,...

[bit.ly/2E4uDA9](http://bit.ly/2E4uDA9)

45/ ...communication of information to the principal and as well as [communication of] information about the principal to interested persons in the public sector."

46/ Igtet is married to Sara Bronfman, heir to the Seagram fortune. The two were "deeply involved" in NXIVM, a celebrity "sex cult" that's under federal indictment. They both promoted the group and reportedly spent \$150 million to keep it afloat.



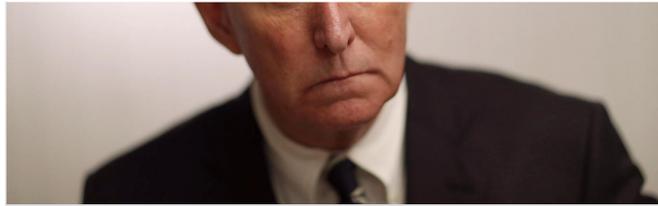
**The Heiresses and the Cult**

Multiple lawsuits have done little to solve the mystery of why Edgar Bronfman Sr.'s daughters opened their lives—and trust funds—to a guru whose "self-improvement" organization, nxivm, looks to many ...

<https://bit.ly/2yy9ETy>

47/ Roger Stone has admitted to working as a lobbyist for the group in 2007.





**How is former Trump aide Roger Stone linked to NXIVM and the “cult” ...**

Stone, who worked for Trump until a rancorous split in 2015, was once on the group's payroll.

<https://bit.ly/2QiyLUh>

48/ Lieberman was Al Gore's running mate for the 2000 presidential election. The Gore family and Armand Hammer go back more than a half century. They both made each other wealthy. Hammer's Occidental Petroleum owned coal and phosphate plants in Tennessee at the time Gore Sr...

49/ ...was the state senator. Gore Sr. owned shares in the company and represented its interests for many years. He later became head of its subsidiary, Island Creek Coal Company.



The Center for  
**Public Integrity**

**How the Gores, father and son, helped their patron Occidental Petrole...**

The Center for Public Integrity is an investigative newsroom that exposes betrayals of the public trust by powerful interests.

<https://bit.ly/2L4Ghwh>

50/ Hammer was a mentor to Gore Jr. and guided him through his political career. They both benefited financially and politically from their relationship.



**THE 2000 CAMPAIGN: THE VICE PRESIDENT; Gore Family's Ties to Oil...**

Gore family ties to Armand Hammer and his oil company, Occidental Petroleum, draw new attention as Vice Pres Al Gore's locks his hold on Democratic presidential nomination; ties go back to 1940's, wh...

<https://nyti.ms/2w5y1VH>

51/ According to Lieberman's financial records, he sold 500 shares of Occidental in 1999. That same year, he accepted a \$1,000 donation from the Trump Organization. In 2005, Trump donated another \$1,000 to his campaign.



**THE 2000 CAMPAIGN: THE FINANCES; Statement Shows Conservative...**

Joseph I Lieberman's personal financial statement, which includes investments of his wife, Hadassah, shows conservative list of investments, with bulk of his net worth coming from mutual funds, blind...

<https://nyti.ms/2SzXzUI>

52/ Lieberman's supported Trump on various international issues like the Iran nuclear deal exit and the U.S. embassy move to Jerusalem. On Fox News, he said Trump's June meeting with North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un was a "success."



**Joe Lieberman, lone Democrat at Jerusalem event, lauds Trump on em...**

Former senator says he always knew moving the U.S. embassy would not lead to riots in the Arab world, and that reimposition of sanctions will put more economic pressure on Tehran

<https://bit.ly/2AZuCTU>

53/ In October, Trump was rumored to be considering Lieberman to replace Nikki Haley as UN ambassador.



**Announcing U.N. exit, Nikki Haley reveals a clue about her next move**

Recent financial disclosures reveal Haley is hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt, which could be alleviated by a lucrative private sector job

<https://cbsn.ws/2RHVvtP>

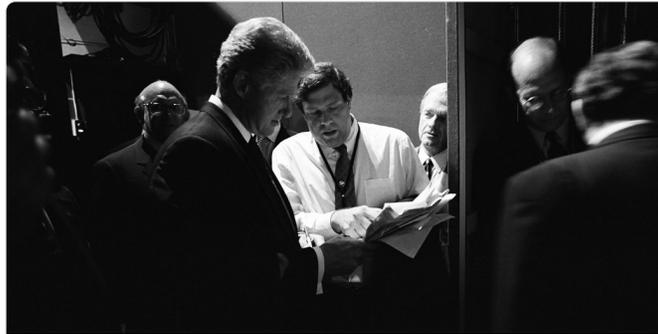
54/ Nancy Jacobson and Tom Davis are founders of No Labels.

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<https://wapo.st/2EmvtZZ>

55/ Jacobson is a longtime Dem. fundraiser who worked for former IN Gov./Senator Evan Bayh and Hillary Clinton. She's married to Mark Penn, a former Clinton strategist who was a primary architect of Bill Clinton's 1996 presidential reelection campaign.



**Mark Penn, Ex-Clinton Aide, Dismisses Mueller Inquiry, and the Clinton...**

His criticism goes beyond just denouncing the special counsel to describing the people around his former employers as unprincipled schemers, the way the Republicans he once opposed used to do.

<https://nyti.ms/2lCNcyL>

56/ He served as chief strategist for Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign. Penn has supported Trump's claims that Robert Mueller's investigation "has resorted to 'storm trooper tactics' and has become a 'scorched-earth effort' to 'bring down Donald Trump.'"

57/ Davis is the former House Rep. (R-VA) who resigned from Congress in 2008. He was chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) from 1999–2003 and then House Oversight Committee Chairman until 2007.



58/ He worked closely w/ GOP operative Karl Rove to not only get W. Bush elected as president, but also in getting candidates funded & elected for the 2002 midterms. Both were accused of various illegalities & sued by former special counsel Scott Bloch,...

**Connect the Dots: Karl Rove's Politics Uber Alles Strategy and the Uta...**  
Rove may be on his way out the door, but the destructive legacy of his politicization of the federal government will be with us for many years to come.  
<https://bit.ly/2C0Ghui>

59/ ...who was appointed by Bush to head an agency that protected government whistleblowers and enforced against political activity in government agencies.

60/ He sued Rove, Davis & others for \$202M for allegedly trying to thwart his office's work. When they failed, he claims, they launched a made-up criminal investigation to force him to leave his job. He spent one month in prison for contempt of Congress.

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Breaking news and analysis on politics, business, world national news, entertainment more. In-depth DC, Virginia, Maryland news coverage including traffic, weather, crime, education, restaurant revie...  
<https://wapo.st/2BYAchT>

61/ While in office, Davis voted for all of Bush's most important legislation, including: the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and their funding, U.S. spy agencies

expanded power to eavesdrop on foreign suspects without a court order,...

[bit.ly/2Qx6Ijg](https://bit.ly/2Qx6Ijg)

62/ ...against a repeal for oil company tax cuts, a fence on the Southern border, not to allow the government to negotiate directly with drugmakers for lower Medicare prescription drug prices and against increasing the federal minimum wage.

63/ In 1999, when he was head of the NRCC, he wrote a \$500,000 check to the U.S. Family Network, the largest ever single donation given by the NRCC. The network was funded by the DeVos family as a means to spread its conservative views and political agenda.

64/ Five years later, the FEC fined the NRCC \$280,000 for the donation.



**Party Misuse of Soft Money To Pay for Issue Ads Results in \$280,000 C...**  
Party Misuse of Soft Money To Pay for Issue Ads Results in \$280,000 Civil Penalty  
<https://bit.ly/2romj6R>

65/ Lieberman is also close with the DeVos family. He introduced Betsy DeVos at her Senate confirmation hearing for education secretary. He's a member of the board at DeVos' American Federation of Children.



**Joe Lieberman, being considered for FBI director, is from Trump's go-t...**

To fill appointments, Trump keeps turning to the law firm Kasowitz, Benson, Torres and Friedman, which has represented him for years.

<https://bit.ly/2AA7WJF>

66/ No Labels has a network of at least nine PACs: United for Progress; Citizens for a Strong America; United Together; Govern or Go Home; Forward, Not Back; Progress Tomorrow; No Labels Action; No Labels Problem Solvers; and Patriotic Americans PAC.





#### Bipartisan 'No Labels' group's super PAC network revealed: mega Chi...

The super PACs are stockpiling money for "independent expenditures," which can't be coordinated with the campaigns or candidates the PACs are backing.

<https://bit.ly/2Phyv3z>

67/ They all donate to each other. They have so far raised more than \$11 million from at least 53 individual donors.



#### Super PAC behind spending in Minnesota and Florida primaries linked ...

No Labels, a nonpartisan 501(c)(4), appears tied to multiple super PACs spending money in competitive House races.

<https://bit.ly/2AJbXm0>

68/ The money was used in the November midterms to back challengers to incumbents it considered to be obstructionists. It also looked for primaries in open seats where a candidate they backed would be facing a nutball candidate.

69/ "The goal is not to oppose the parties, the goal is not to be hostile to Democrats or Republicans," according to Ryan Clancy, No Labels' chief strategist.



#### Bipartisan 'No Labels' group aims to protect moderates in primary fights

The bipartisan No Labels group is looking to expand its fight for political moderates to more than a dozen primaries this year after being emboldened by Rep.

<https://bit.ly/2U6nncG>

70/ For 2018, the group has given more than \$225,100 to 23 Democratic candidates and \$122,900 to 17 Republican candidates.

How the various No Labels PACs have donated in 2018:

71/ United for Progress' largest donor is Louis Bacon, the billionaire founder and chief exec of hedge fund Moore Capital Management. He donated \$500,000 in March. He's a former fundraiser for Mitt Romney and gave \$1M to Jeb Bush's presidential campaign.

[dailym.ai/2Q7E3Gb](https://www.dailym.ai/2Q7E3Gb)

72/ Citizens for a Strong America donated \$1,256,010 to Dems & spent \$984,458 against Republicans. It donated \$271,552 to support Republicans. It received its largest donation of \$250,000 from Peter May, pres. of investment management firm Triam Partners.



**More Than 25 Billionaires Poured Millions Into Trump's Inaugural Com...**

The biggest donation came from casino titan Sheldon Adelson, who gave \$5 million -- reportedly the most anyone has ever contributed to an inaugural committee.

<https://bit.ly/2EgVppP>

73/ Nelson Peltz, the firm's founder, donated \$100k to Trump's Inaugural Committee. He's an activist investor who raids large corps. In 2016, he appeared at a No Labels 1787 event w/ Lieberman & Huntsman to discuss the political center under Trump's first 100 days as president.

74/ United Together was given more than \$925,000 by Fox News CEO Rupert Murdoch, Jerry Reinsdorf, White Sox & Bulls Chairman and Former Major League Baseball Commissioner "Bud" Selig."

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OpenSecrets.org

**United Together Contributors, 2018 cycle**  
Search our Political Action Committee (PAC) database to learn about the impact they have on our elections.

<https://bit.ly/2yjrcSg>

75/ Govern Or Go Home has raised \$800,000 this year. Bacon, May and Peltz, donated a combined \$750,000 to the group. It also got more than \$700,000 in contributions from Progress Tomorrow.



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OpenSecrets.org

**Organizations Disclosing Donations to No Labels Action, 2018**  
Outside groups spend millions during an election to influence voters' decisions with political advertising. Explore those expenditures here at OpenSecrets.org.  
<https://bit.ly/2FVctTO>

76/ Bacon, May, Berkshire Partners & Cerberus Capital Management have combined to give Forward, Not Back almost \$1 million. Cerberus is run by Stephen Feinberg, a billionaire private military contractor.

[bloom.bg/2RjXXiQ](https://bloom.bg/2RjXXiQ)

77/ Progress Tomorrow accepted nearly \$1.5 million from two other No Labels PACs. It spent \$400,00 on marketing against two Democrats in the November midterms: Alan Grayson (D-FL) and Matt Heinz (D-AZ). Both men lost.



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OpenSecrets.org

**Progress Tomorrow Independent Expenditures**  
Search our Political Action Committee (PAC) database to learn about the impact they have on our elections.  
<https://bit.ly/2zMUqde>

78/ Patriotic Americans was given \$600,000 from No Labels' Citizens For a Strong America. It also paid Republican PR firm Majority Strategies \$204,103 for its influence work.





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### **Patriotic Americans PAC Expenditures**

Search our Political Action Committee (PAC) database to learn about the impact they have on our elections.

<https://bit.ly/2UprCQv>

79/ No Labels Action spent \$2.5 million in expenditures for Republicans and \$1.25 million for Democrats. May donated \$300,000 to the PAC. Howard Marks of Oaktree Capital Management also donated \$300,000 and gave another \$375,000 to United for Progress.



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### **No Labels Action Contributors, 2018 cycle**

Search our Political Action Committee (PAC) database to learn about the impact they have on our elections.

<https://bit.ly/2RMCy9n>

80/ Oaktree has donated more than \$1.5 million to political groups and candidates in 2018.

Clarine Nardi Riddle, the former Connecticut Attorney General and Lieberman's chief of staff, is the treasurer for the PAC. She works with Lieberman at Kasowitz.

81/ No Labels Problem Solvers has so far donated \$187,700 to Democrats and \$122,500 to Republicans. Marks has given \$10,000. It's paid more than \$8,000 to the Susan Collins (R-ME) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) campaigns.



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### **No Labels Problem Solvers Contributions to Federal Candidates, 2018 ...**

Search our Political Action Committee (PAC) database to learn about the impact they have on our elections.

82/ No Labels helped inspire the creation of the House Problem Solvers Caucus, a group of more than 40 House representatives from both sides of the aisle that share No Labels' goal of fostering bipartisan problem-solving.

83/ Senators Collins and Manchin, who were selected in November to be No Labels honorary co-chairs, work closely with the group.



**Collins, Manchin to serve as No Labels co-chairs**

Congressional efforts to broker bipartisan legislation are getting a boost from a pair of senators with a proven willingness to work across the aisle.

<https://bit.ly/2E5LIRb>

84/ "This is a really important development for No Labels and I would say also for everyone who would like to see members of Congress working across party lines to solve problems, to get things done," Lieberman said.

This story can be read in long form here:

[link.medium.com/nvNXKA4HvS](https://link.medium.com/nvNXKA4HvS)

...