

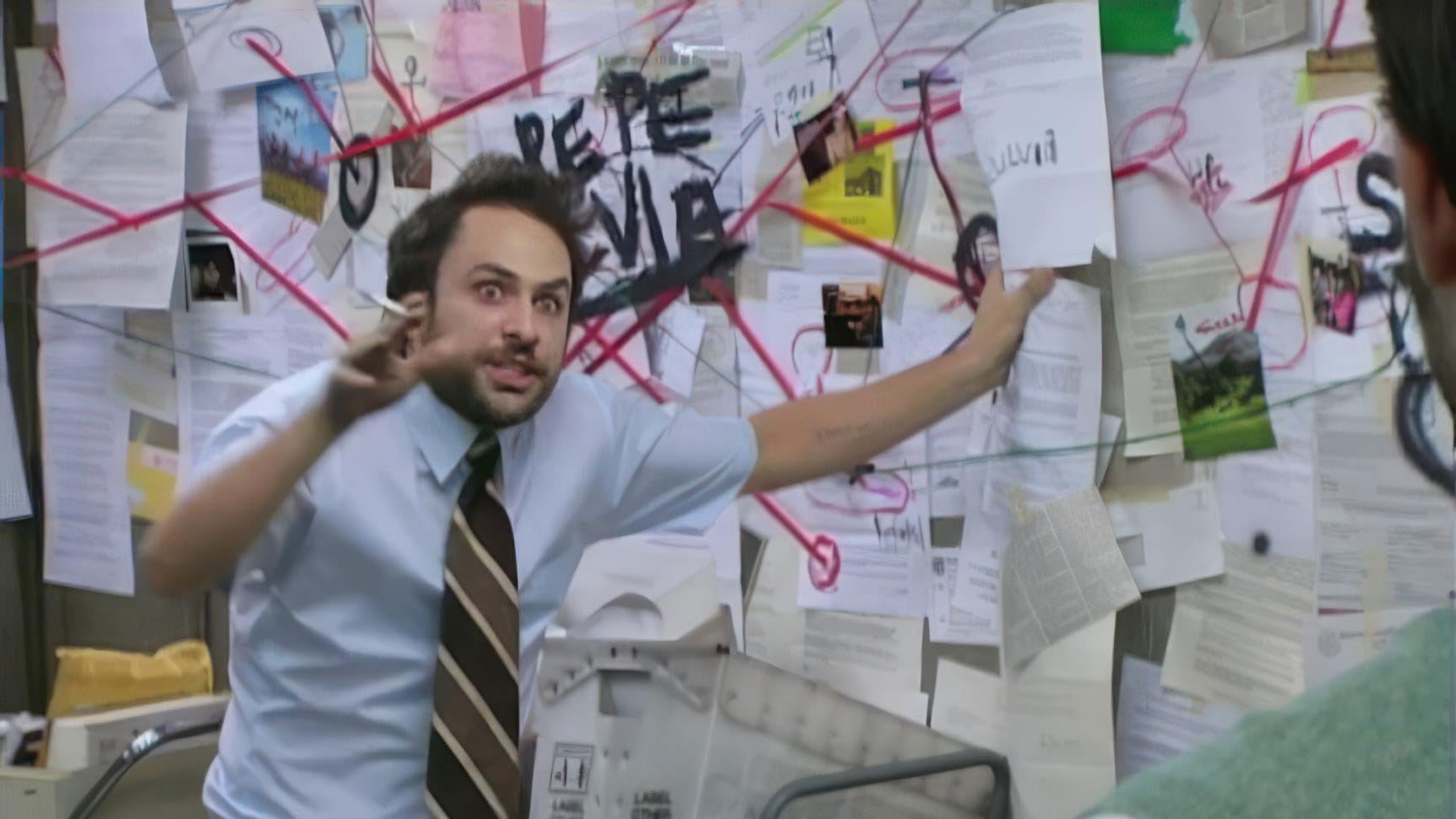


CAPITAL RESEARCH CENTER  
AMERICA'S INVESTIGATIVE THINK TANK

# *How Outside Money is Shaping Alaska's Politics and Future*

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Resource Development Council  
February 5, 2026  
**Kristen Eastlick**



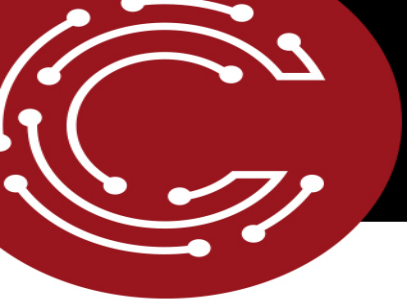


# SalmonState

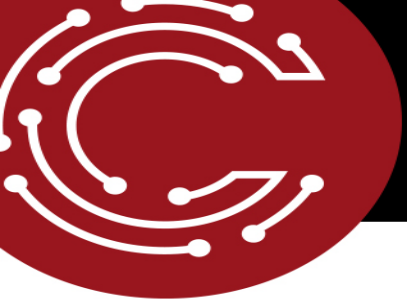
**“Wild salmon power our economy, sustain our communities, underpin traditions, and fill our bellies.**

**At SalmonState, we work to keep Alaska a place wild salmon and the people who depend on them thrive.”**





“A modern, diverse energy mix means lower costs, greater reliability and stronger energy security for Alaska. Across the state, Alaskans are already seeing the benefits of homegrown energy solutions that keep communities powered, businesses competitive, and our economy thriving for the long haul. Hear from Alaskans on why unlocking Alaska’s clean energy potential matters to them.”

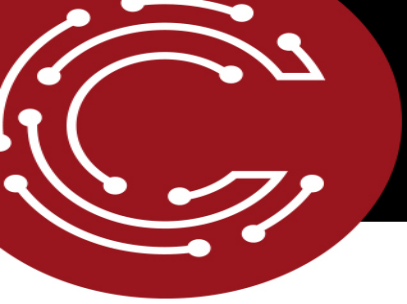


# Alaska Venture Fund

“But Alaska isn’t just outsized in its physical landscape. Like many low-population states, Alaska’s roughly 735,000 people have an outsized impact on national decision-making, with the same number of U.S. Senators as the country’s most populous states. As Alaskans wrestle with our future in a place that is warming at more than double the speed of the global average, our ability to transition to a sustainable future has importance not only for Alaskans but also for our country and the world.”



# Fiscal Sponsorships



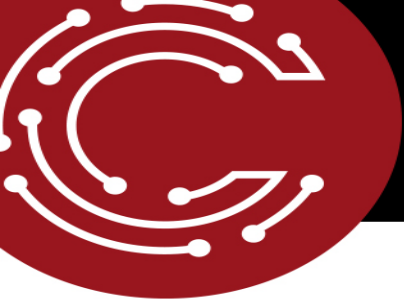
# How did we get here?



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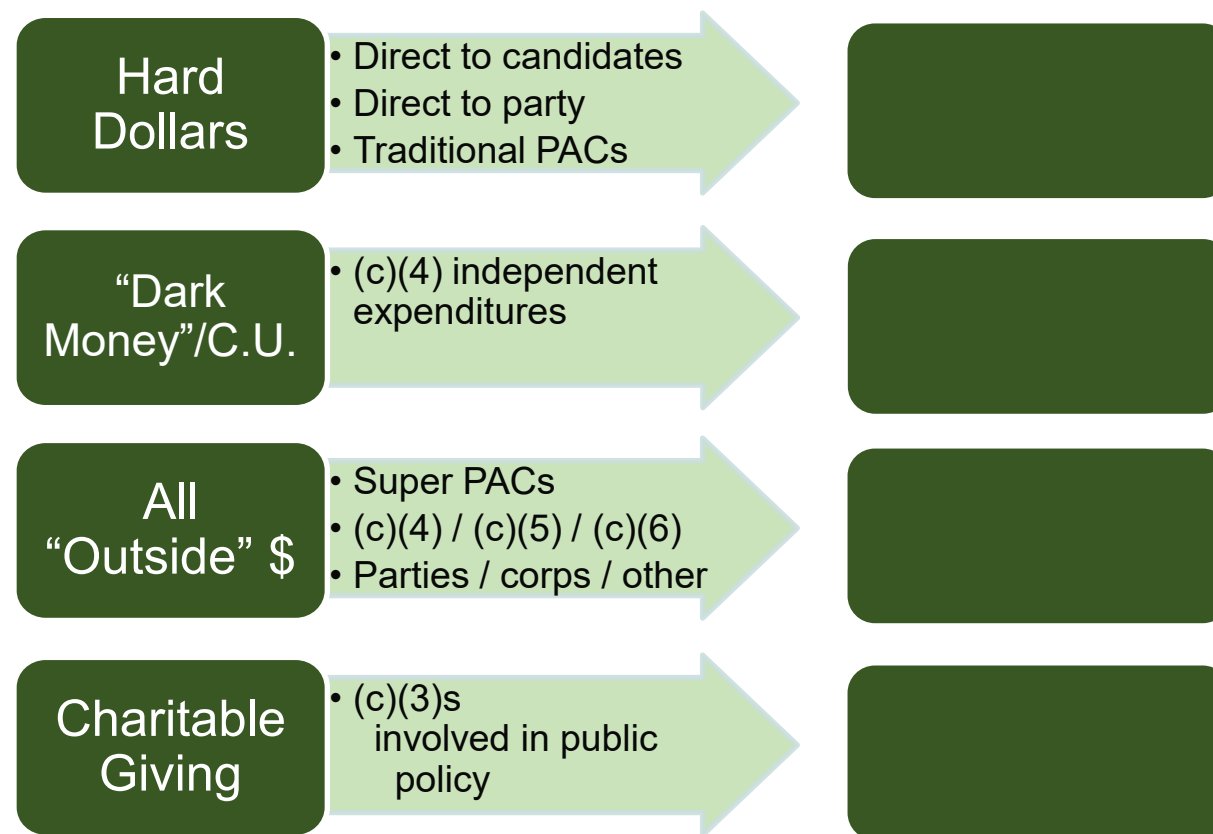
# **Since 2005, the nonprofit tail has wagged the Democratic Party dog**

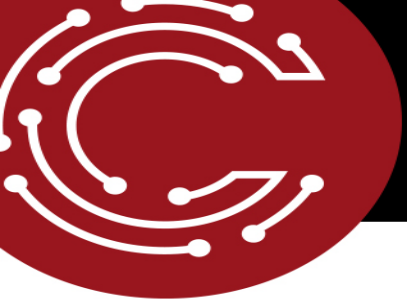




# 3½ Rivers of Political Spending

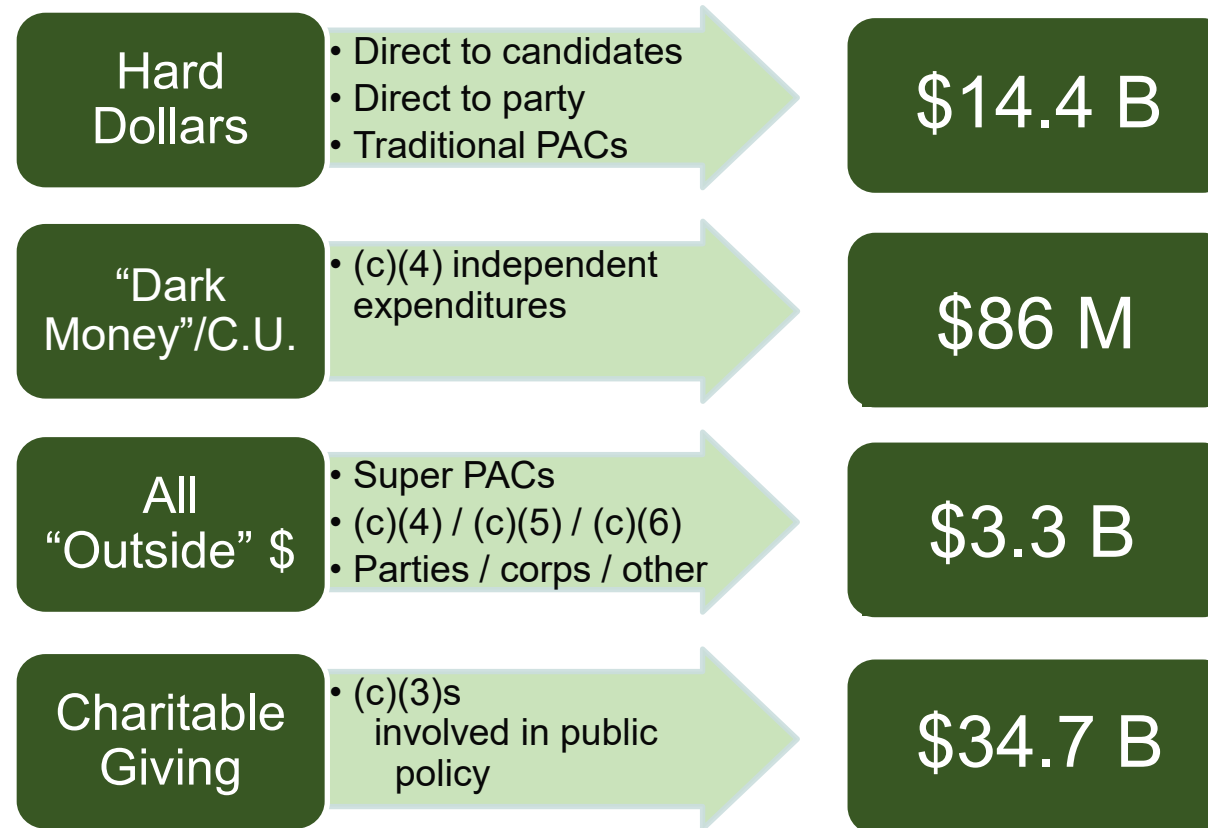
(2020 Cycle)

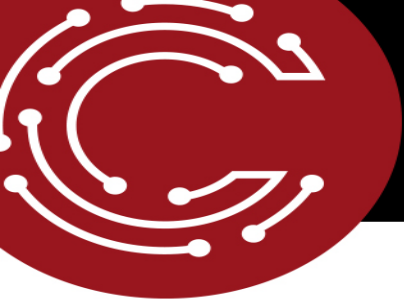




# 3½ Rivers of Political Spending

(2020 Cycle)

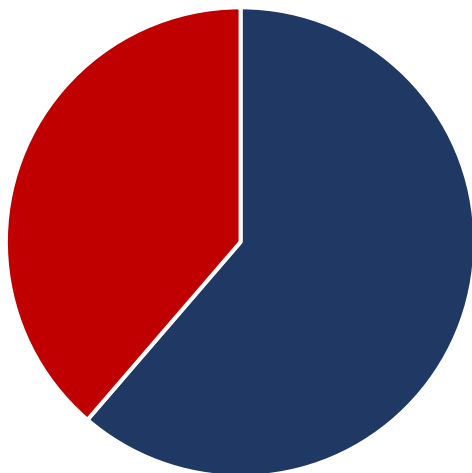




# Political Giving, in Scale

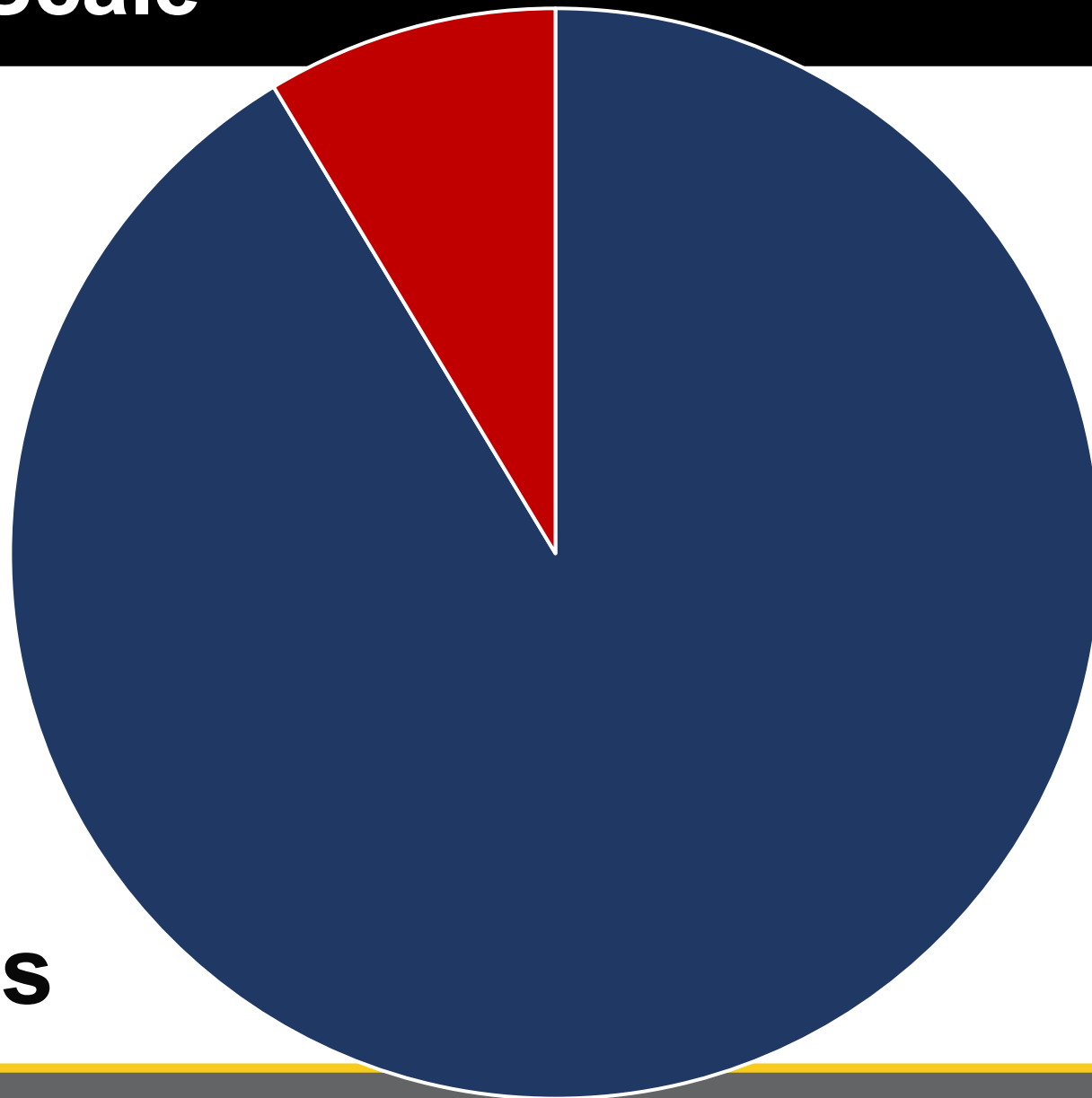
(2020 Cycle)

  
Soft  
Money



Hard  
Money

## Public Policy (c)(3)s

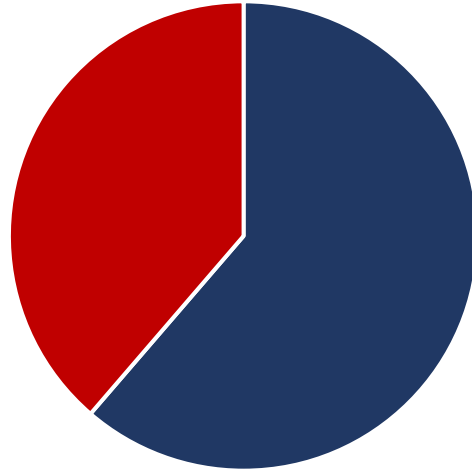




# Political Giving, in Scale

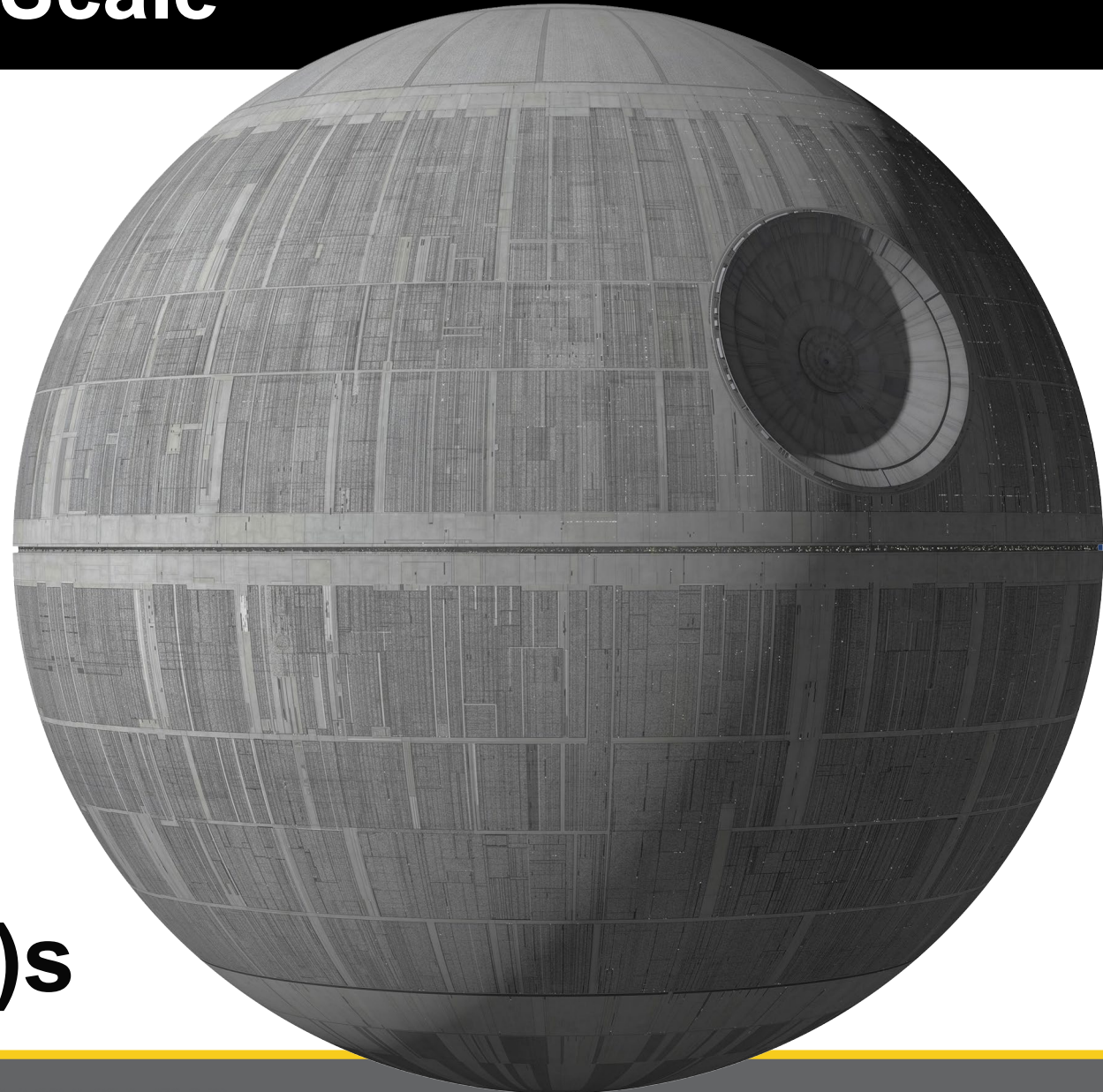
(2020 Cycle)

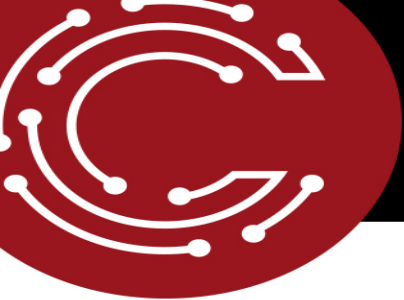
  
Soft  
Money



Hard  
Money

## Public Policy (c)(3)s





# The Art of Fiscal Sponsorships

- Funding from The Movement in 2005

- Huge growth:

**2020 cycle revenues: \$2.4 B**  
***or \$1 B More Than DNC + RNC***

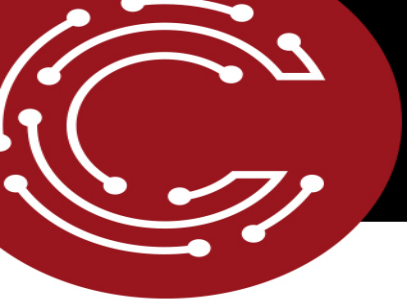
**2022 cycle revenues: \$3 B**  
***or \$400 M More Than All D + R nat'l comms***

**2024 cycle revenues: \$2.9 B**



**Arabella**  
Advisors





# How it Works

## Three (c)(3)s:

- New Venture Fund
- Hopewell Fund
- Windward Fund

## DAF (another (c)(3))

Telescope Fund

## Three (c)(4)s:

- 1630 Fund
- North Fund
- Impetus Fund

*“these platforms are . . .  
a work-around to the tax regime”*  
—Arabella Advisors’ president, 2020

# (c)3/(c)4 Campaign Profile

Health Care for America Now Education Fund  
(New Venture Fund)

Health Care for America Now  
(Sixteen Thirty Fund)

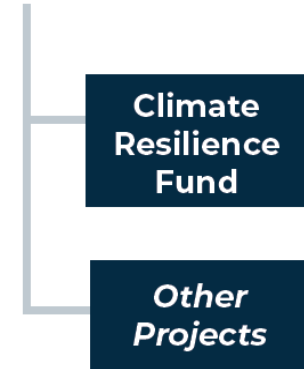
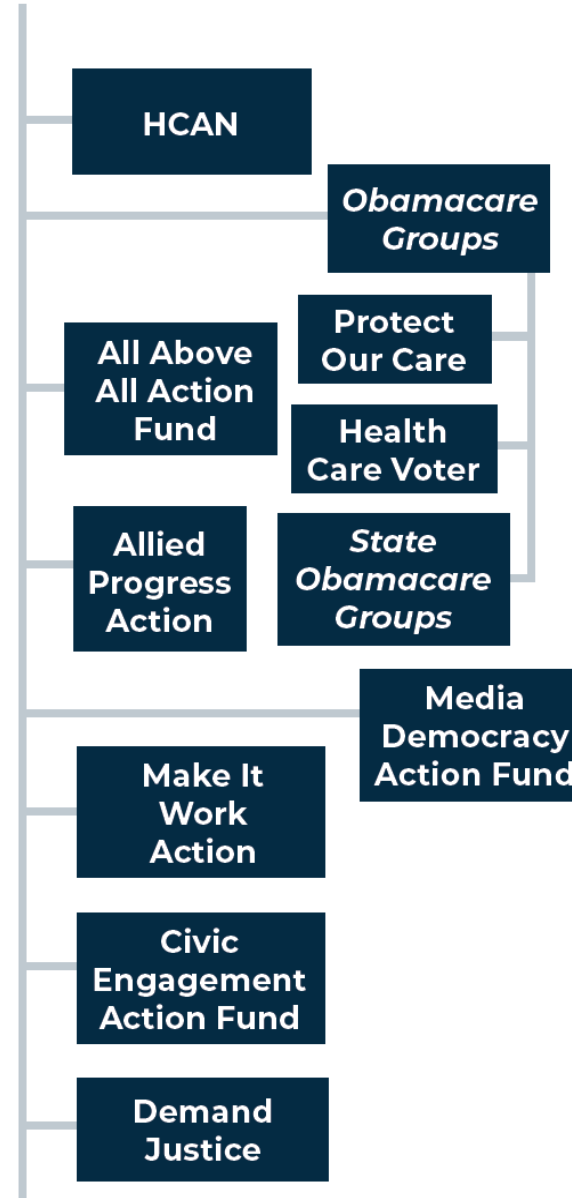
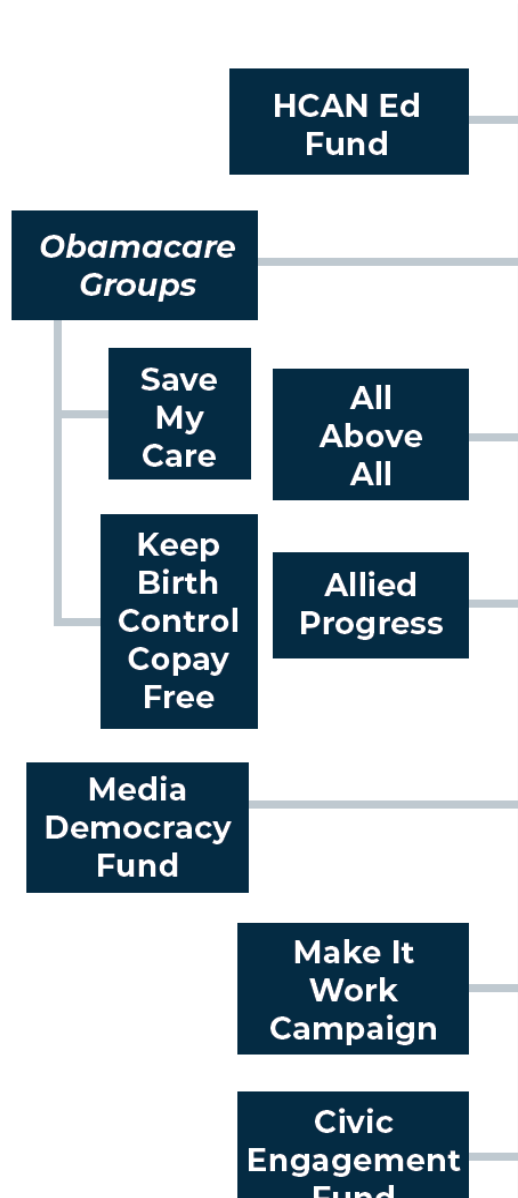
Funded 501(c)3 **capacity building and education field work** as part of Health Care for America Now Education Fund's overall coordinated campaign

Funded 501(c)4 field work in targeted states and districts that successfully pushed back regressive repeal legislation as part of HCAN's coordinated **legislative advocacy campaign**

In 2017, Health Care for America Now Education Fund groups reached over 1.8 million people through on the ground **public education efforts** in over 30 states.

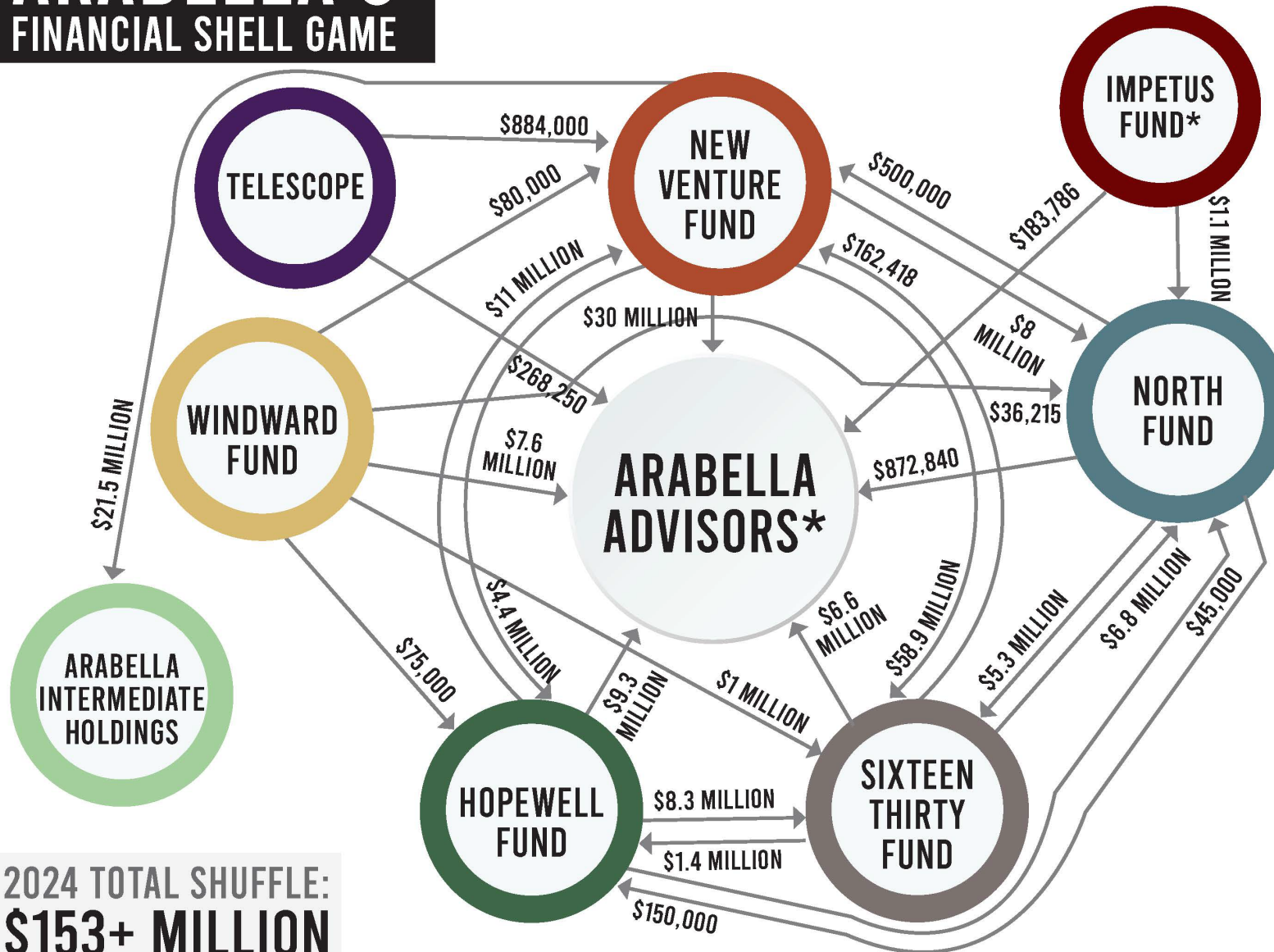
Organized and led weekly grassroots coalition calls to share information, provide communication guidance, and **mobilize key constituency field operations** to push back against regressive legislation in a strategic and coordinated manner.

Executed a joint New Venture Fund and Sixteen Thirty Fund contract with Berlin Rosen, allowing the projects to provide **cohesive C3/C4 messaging**



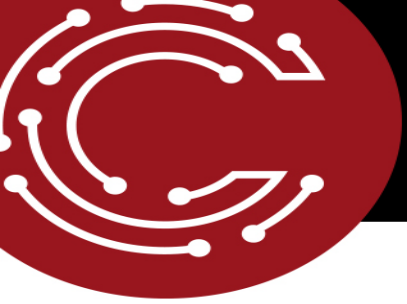
# ARABELLA'S FINANCIAL SHELL GAME

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: [CAPITALRESEARCH.ORG/TAG/ARABELLA-ADVISORS/](https://capitalresearch.org/tag/arabella-advisors/)



2024 TOTAL SHUFFLE:  
**\$153+ MILLION**  
INCLUDING MANAGEMENT FEES

\*IMPETUS FUND'S FISCAL YEAR RUNS FROM JULY-JUNE. ALL OTHER ORGANIZATIONS HAVE JANUARY-DECEMBER FISCAL YEARS.  
\*BEGINNING IN 2024, NEW VENTURE FUNDS PAID "ARABELLA INTERMEDIATE HOLDINGS" ONE OF THE TOP FIVE INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS. IN PREVIOUS YEARS, "ARABELLA ADVISORS" WAS THE ENTITY PAID BY THAT GROUP.



# Grassroots, Arabella-style

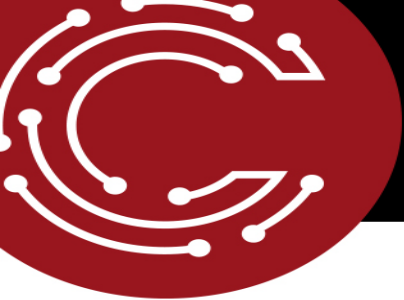


~100 “State”  
Groups









# Telescope on the Telescope Fund

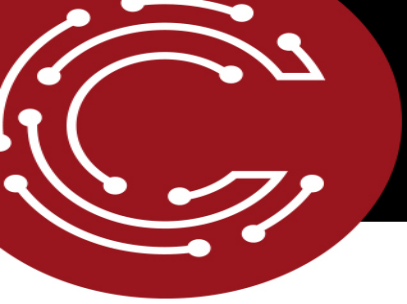
- **Already minimal transparency**
- **Why an In-House DAF?**
- **Gwendolyn Sondheim-Meyer**
- **White House Visits**
- **John Podesta/GOTV efforts**
- **Email**  
**[keastlick@capitalresearch.org](mailto:keastlick@capitalresearch.org)**  
**for many more details!**





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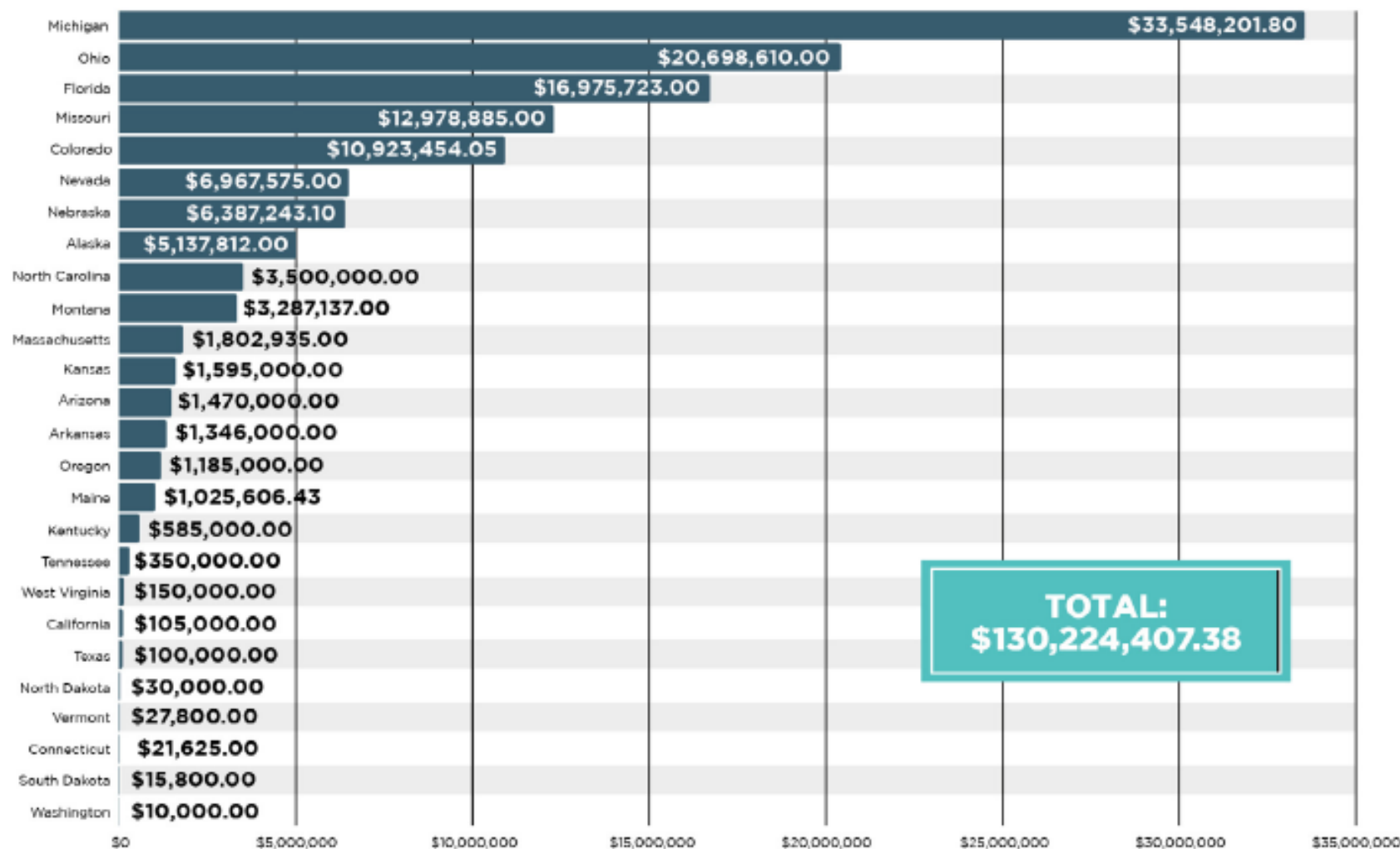
# How does this change Alaska?



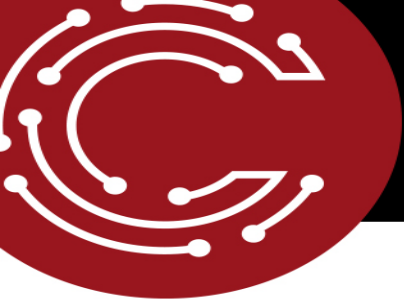
# What does Arabella fund in Alaska?

- **Short answer: everything L**
- **Especially keen on everything environmental**
- **Hyper-focused on Pebble Mine/co-opting the salmon interests**
- **Engaging the tribes in advocacy**
- **One of the biggest state ballot initiative funders across America**
- **Probably biggest abortion funder in the country**
- **Entire regulatory agenda for Biden administration beginning two years prior (Rewiring America)**
- **Election administration (everything from ZuckBucks to RCV)**
- **Closely tied to unions/union advocacy (minimum wage/paid sick leave initiative)**

# Sixteen Thirty Fund State-By-State Spending: \$130 Million







## Case Study: SalmonState/Data For Progress

- **“Anti-Trawl” messaging**
- **Claim: 141 million pounds of salmon, crab, halibut, etc. is bycatch.**
- **Where does the message originate?**
- **Data for Progress = Tides Network**

**\$627.3 Million**  
**(2023)**

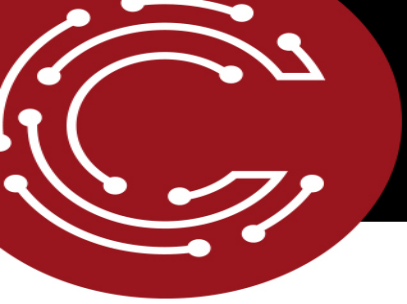
- **Tides Network is five separate legal entities:**
  - Tides Center
  - Tides Advocacy
  - Tides Foundation
  - Tides Two River Fund
  - Tides Inc.





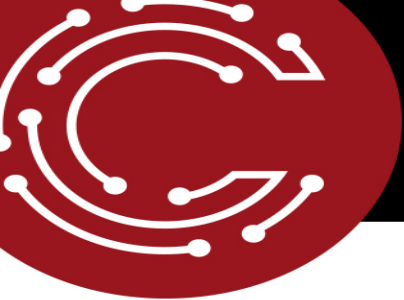
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# **What other outsiders?**



# Who funds Arabella?

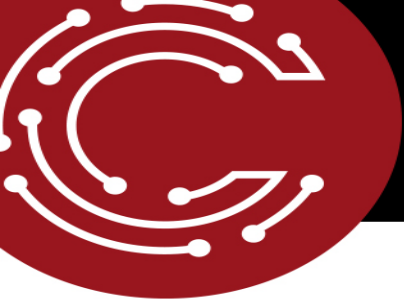
- **Short answer: Everybody on the Left**
- **Soros**
- **Soros' donor cabal, The Democracy Alliance**
- **Many other billionaires with the same last name**
  - Over \$100 million from:
  - Intel Co-Founder Gordon Moore's Moore Foundation
  - Ford Foundation
  - Susan Thomson Buffett Foundation



# Who else funds Arabella?

- **Hansjörg Wyss, a Swiss National billionaire**
  - Early on, made illegal direct political contributions to Durbin, Inslee, Udall
  - Wasn't caught till statute of limitations expired
  - Now his (c)(3) foundation & (c)(4) “dark money” group send 6, 7, and 8-figure donations into Arabella's network
  - FEC complaint filed but no punishment
  - But FEC general counsel report strongly recommends more investigation
  - ...said he & Arabella violating law because their (c)(4) groups are actually PACs
- **Of course, illegal for foreign national to donate to PACs**





# Who DOESN'T fund Arabella NOW?

- Gates Foundation funneled at least \$450 million through Arabella entities through 2023
- But...

## The New York Times

### *Gates Foundation Quietly Cuts Ties With Firm Linked to Democrats*

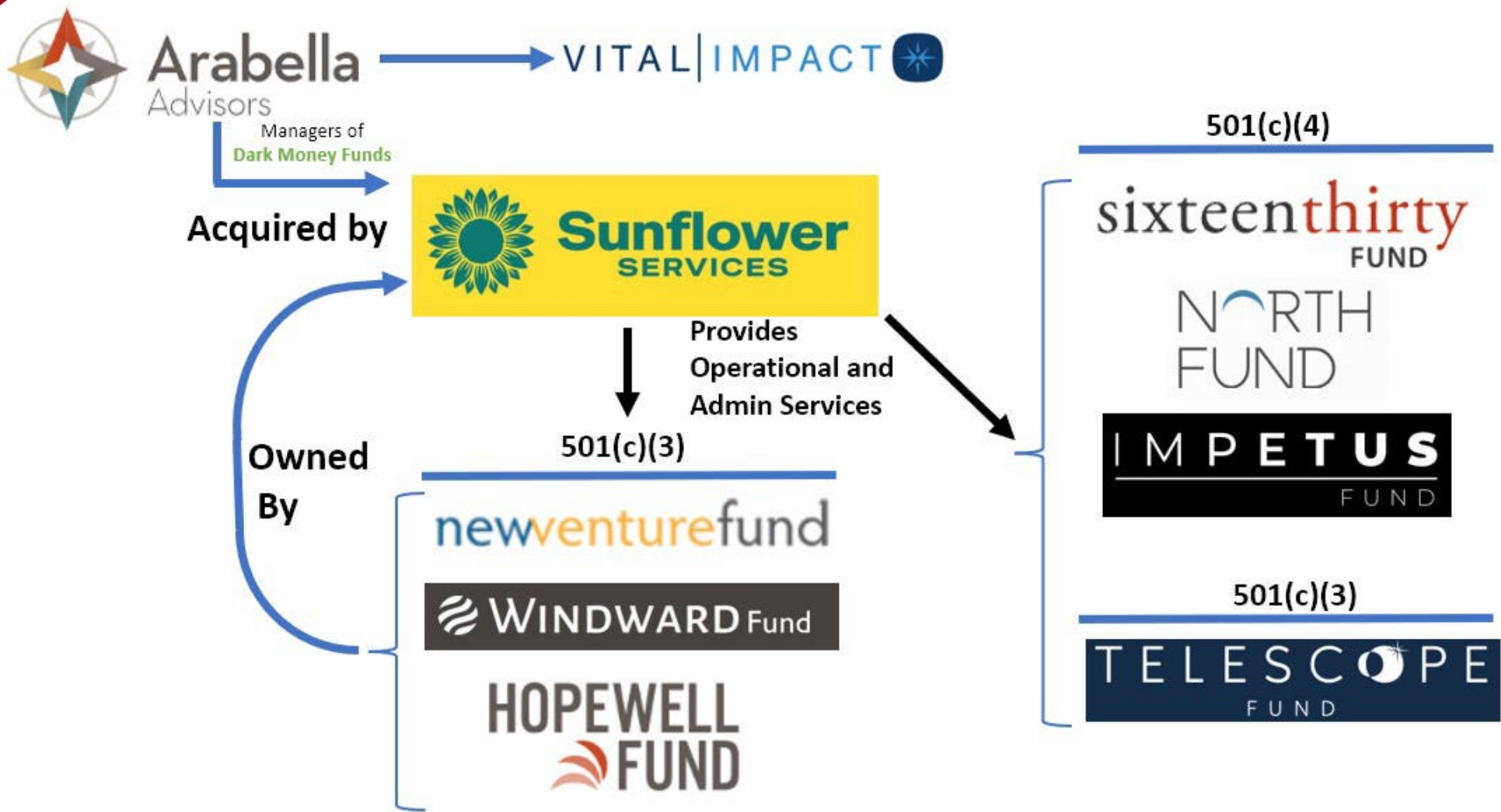
Officials made no mention of politics in cutting ties with a network of nonprofit funds, but Bill Gates has made other moves to insulate the charity from political pressures.

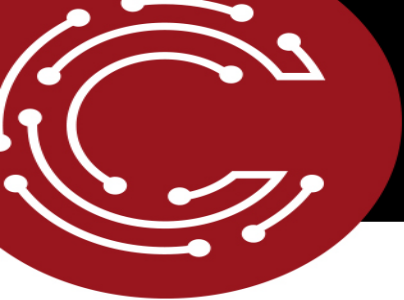






# What we know about Arabella's transformation





# What we know about Arabella's transformation

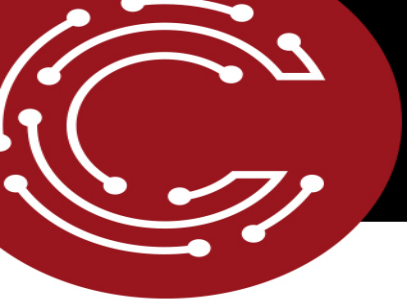
- **Arabella dissolved suddenly on November 17**
- **Apparently splitting into Sunflower Services and Vital Impact**
- **Sunflower is a “public benefit corporation” and purchased the fiscal sponsorship services of the New Venture Fund, Hopewell Fund, and Windward Fund**
- **It now appears that all (c)(4) activity will be moving into the Sunflower entity, complete with fiscal sponsorships**
- **While this is mostly a sham rebranding, it shows how toxic the name had become**



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# Why am I telling you all this???





# Sunlight Makes All the Difference

- **Exposure blows up the “grassroots” patina of this**
- **Reject false narratives**
- **Upcoming lawsuits/investigations**
- **Educate your candidates (we’re a (c)(3) but you guys may not be)**



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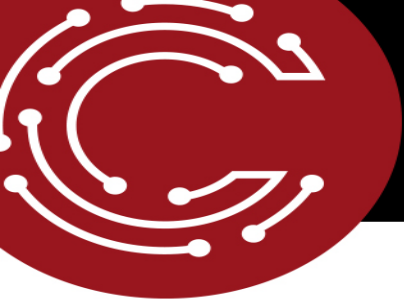
**Questions?**

**Or to receive a book on Arabella or links to  
more Alaska-specific work!**

**Kristen Eastlick**

**[KEastlick@CapitalResearch.org](mailto:KEastlick@CapitalResearch.org)**

**(202) 464-2052**



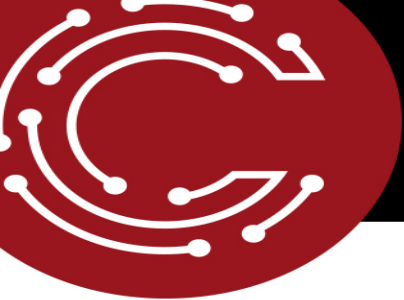
## Alaska standout DOGE worthy grants:

- Alaska Municipal League got \$7.5 million for an “energy audit” of three schools in Alaska
- Wildlife Conservation Society got \$3.4 million for surveillance of SARS virus in Alaskan wildlife
- Catholic Relief Services got \$670k to help refugees in Alaska get more money from the USDA
- The Alaska Village Co-op got \$4.3 million for building a solar panel array near a village called Dillingham (population 2,000)
- \$630k for green fishing boat research



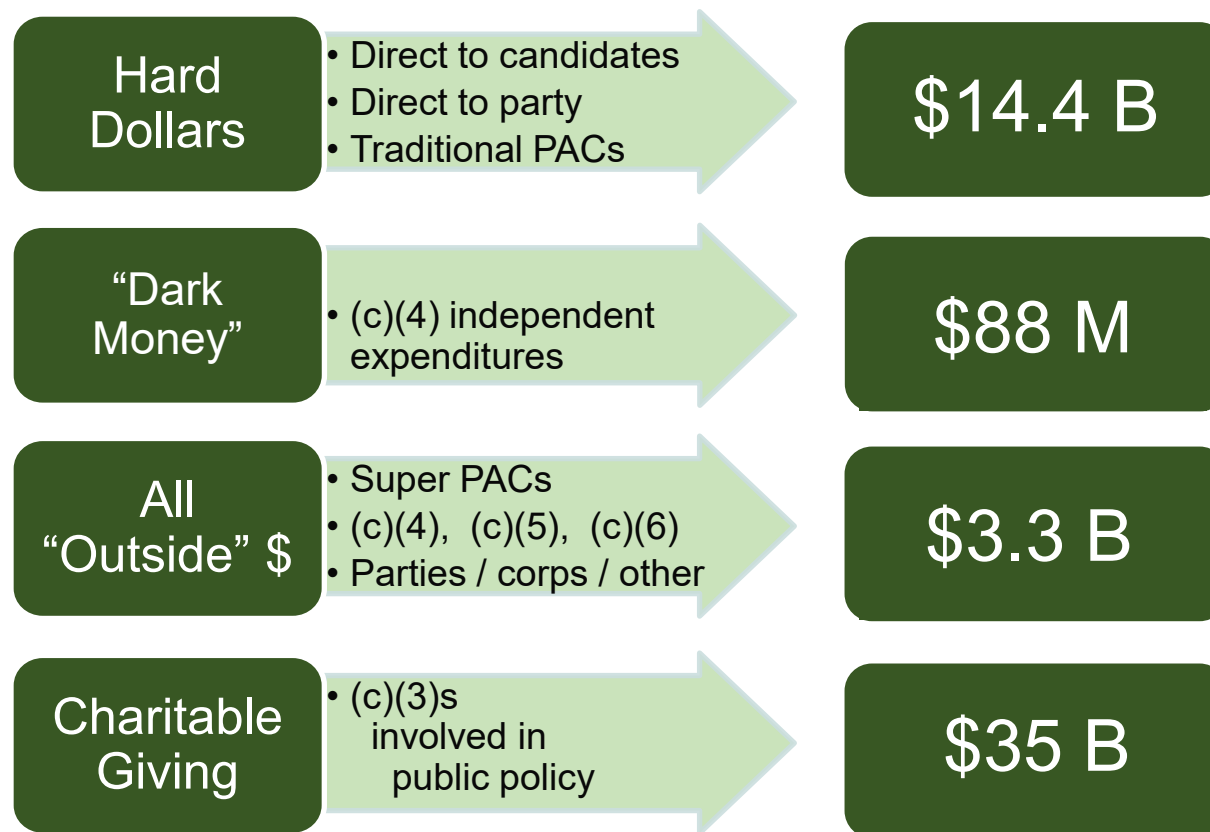
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# **Since 2005, the nonprofit tail has wagged the Democratic Party dog**

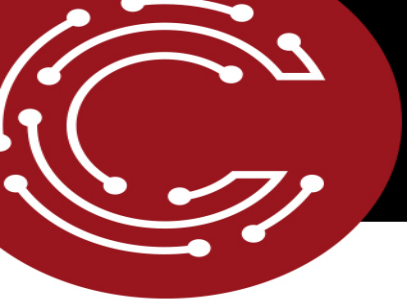


# 3½ Rivers of Political Spending

(2020 Cycle)

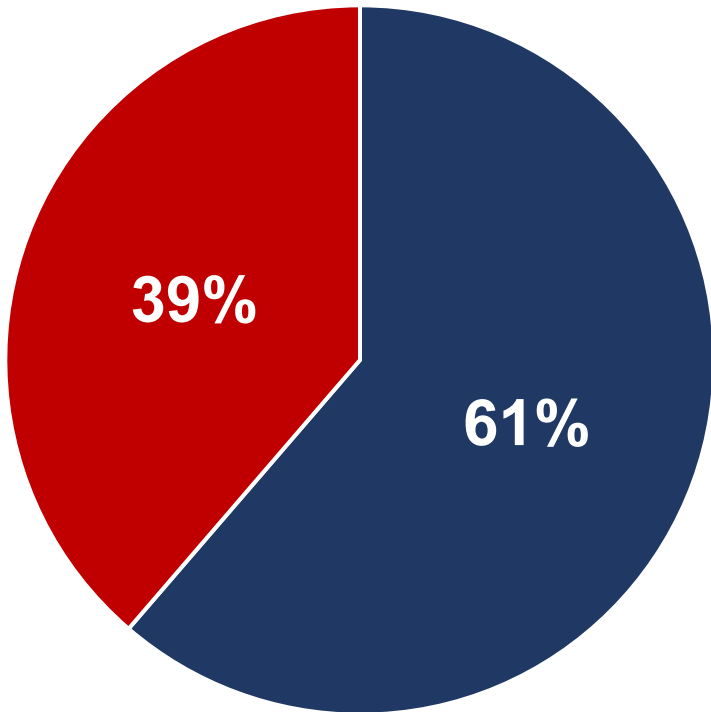




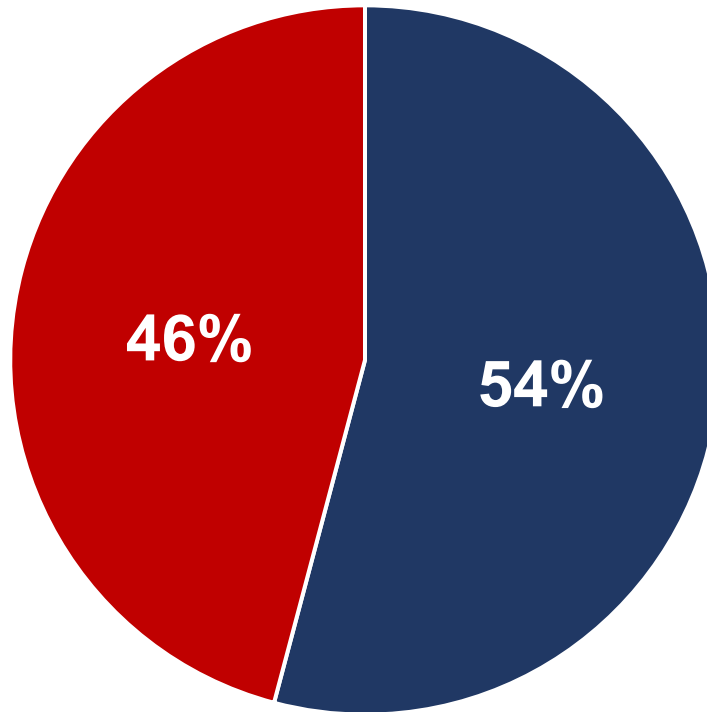


# Partisan Split

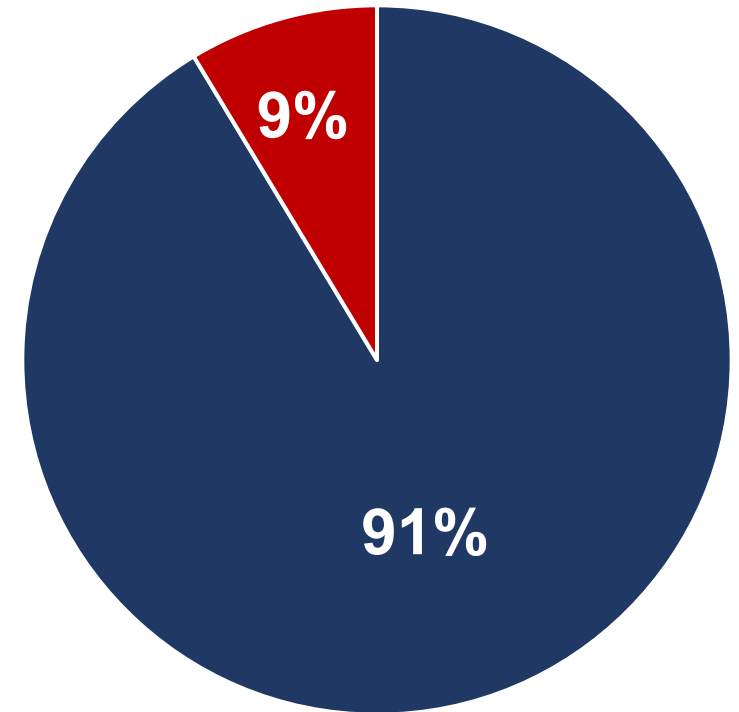
(2020 Cycle)



**Hard Dollars**



**Soft Dollars**



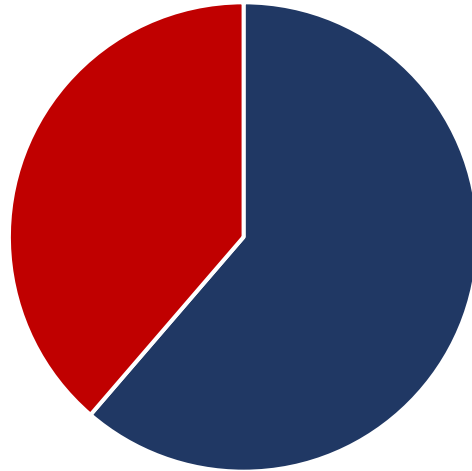
**Public Policy (c)(3)s**



# Political Giving, in Scale

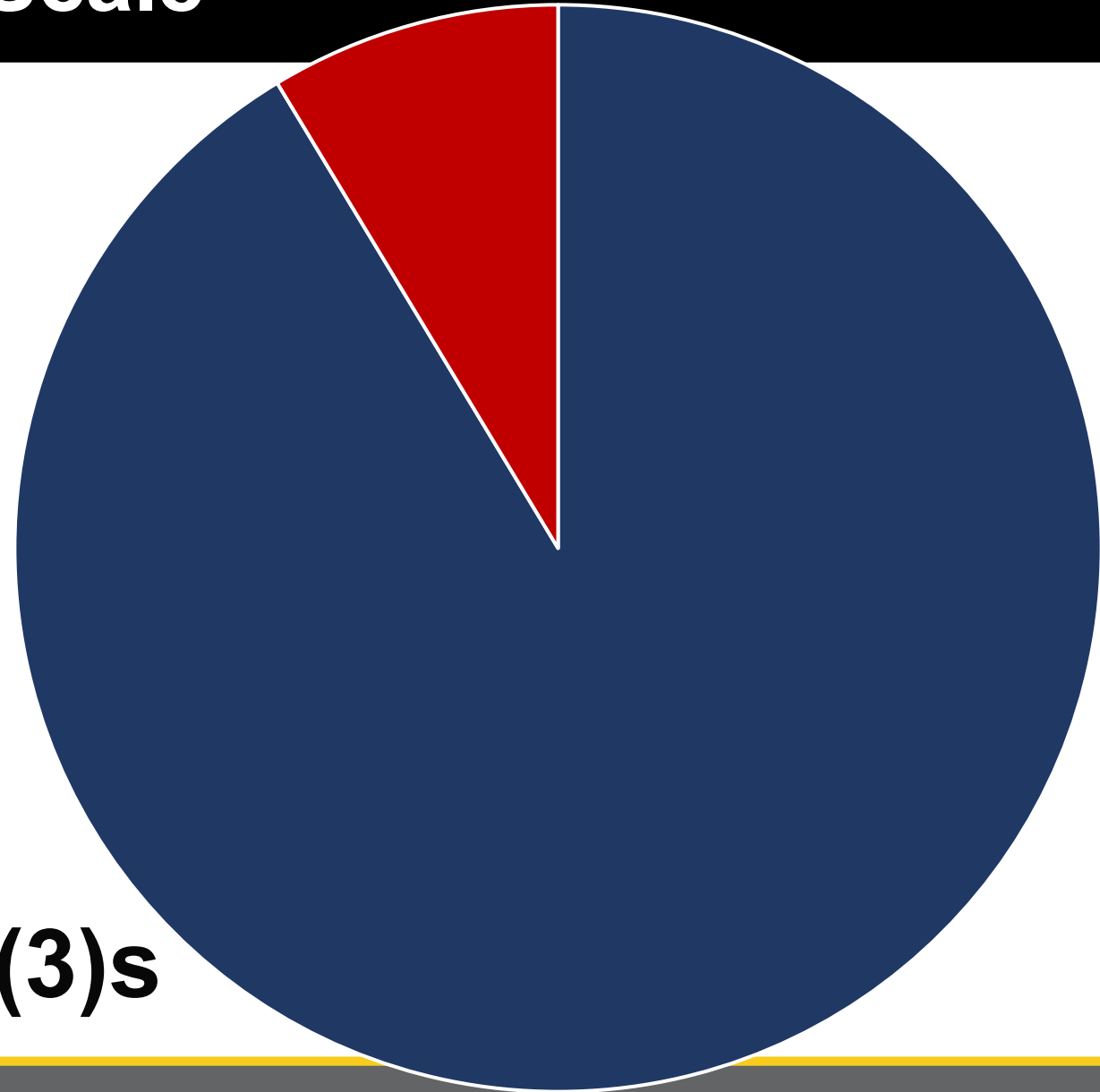
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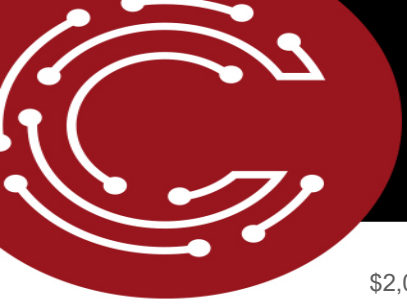
  
Soft  
Money



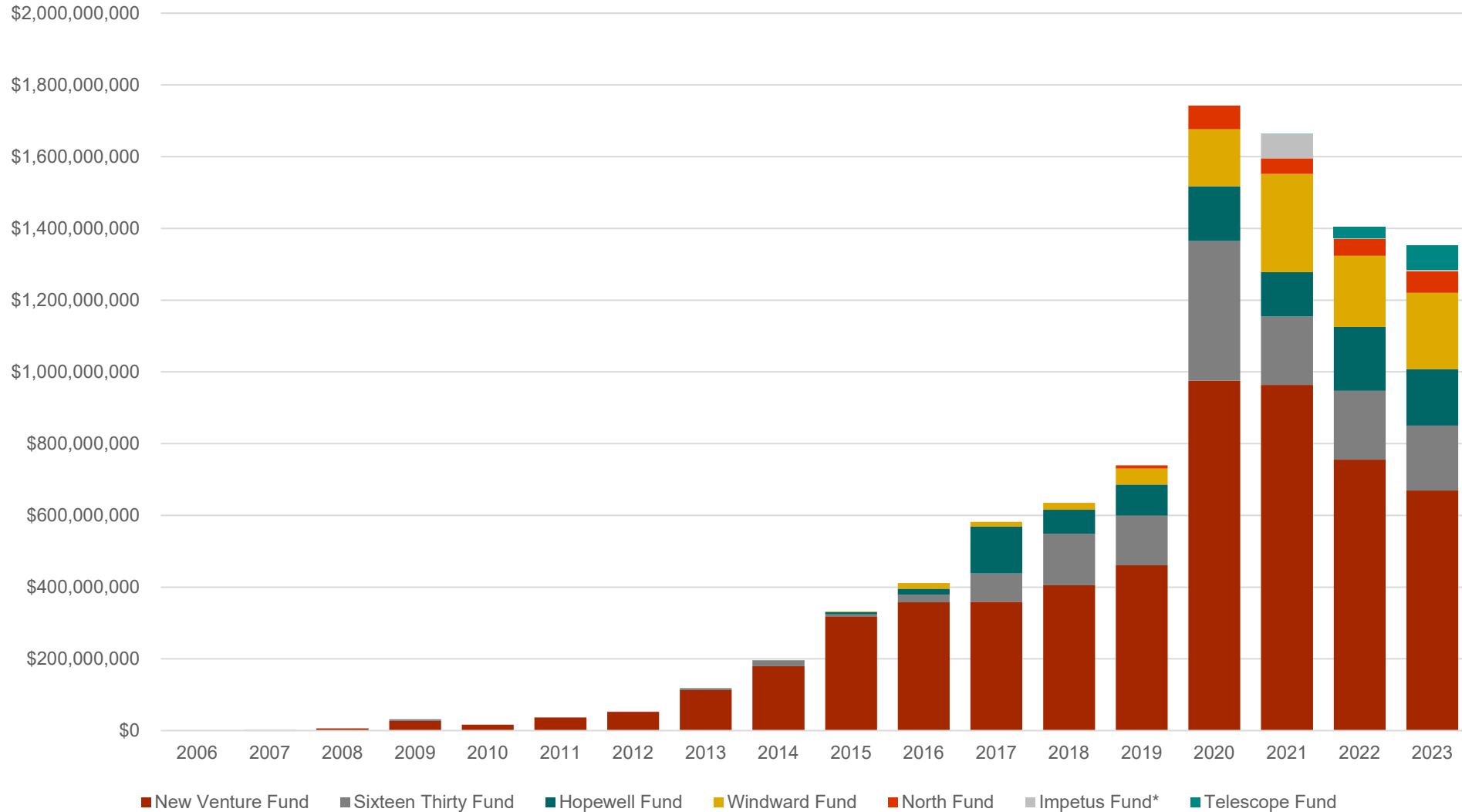
Hard  
Money

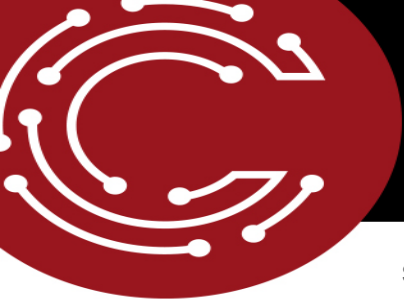
## Public Policy (c)(3)s



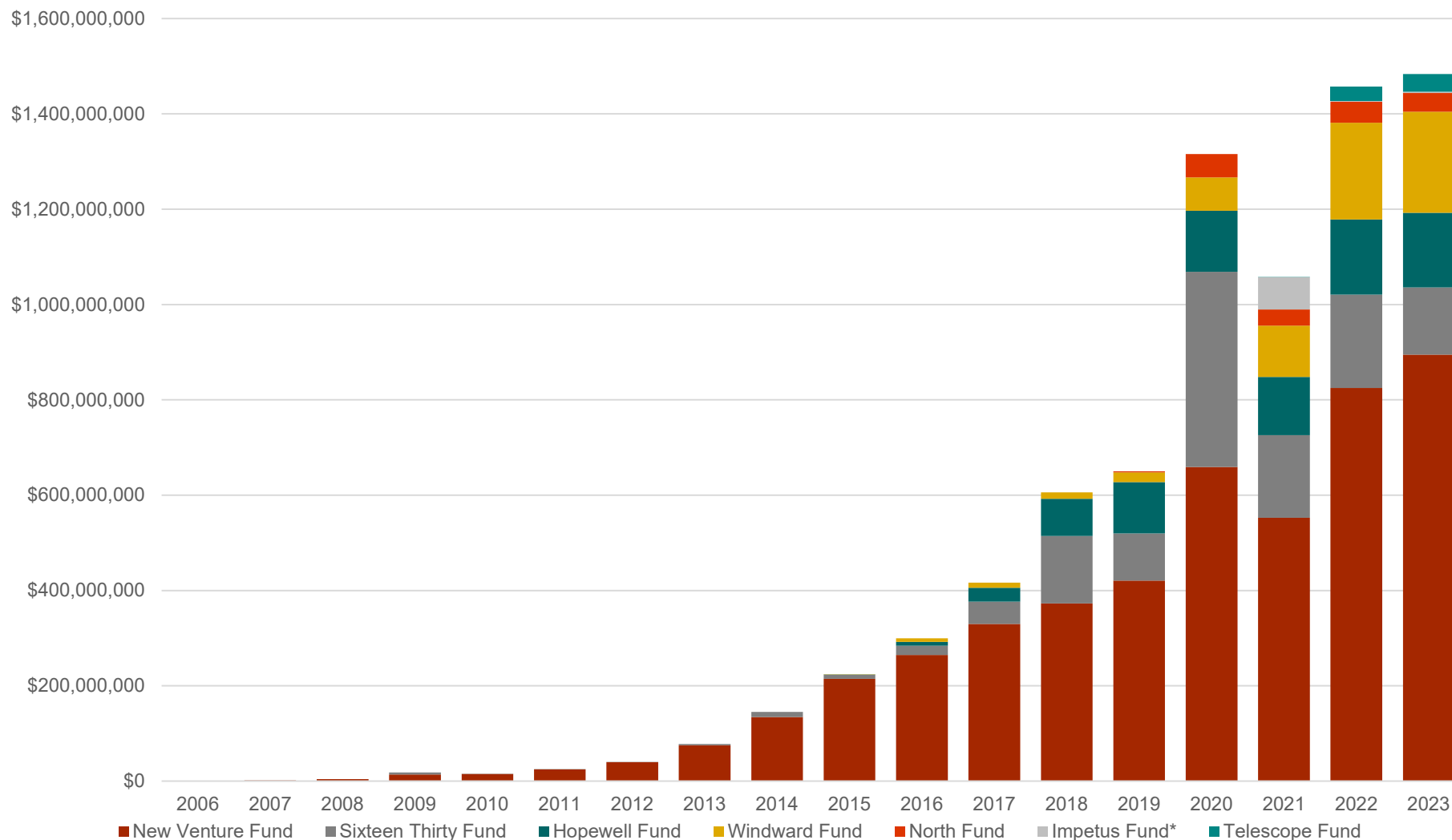


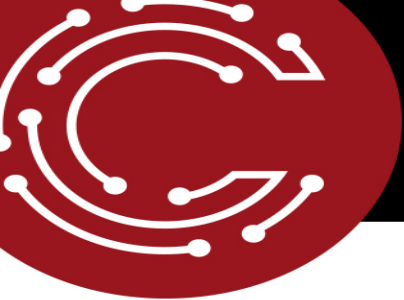
# Billions in Funding



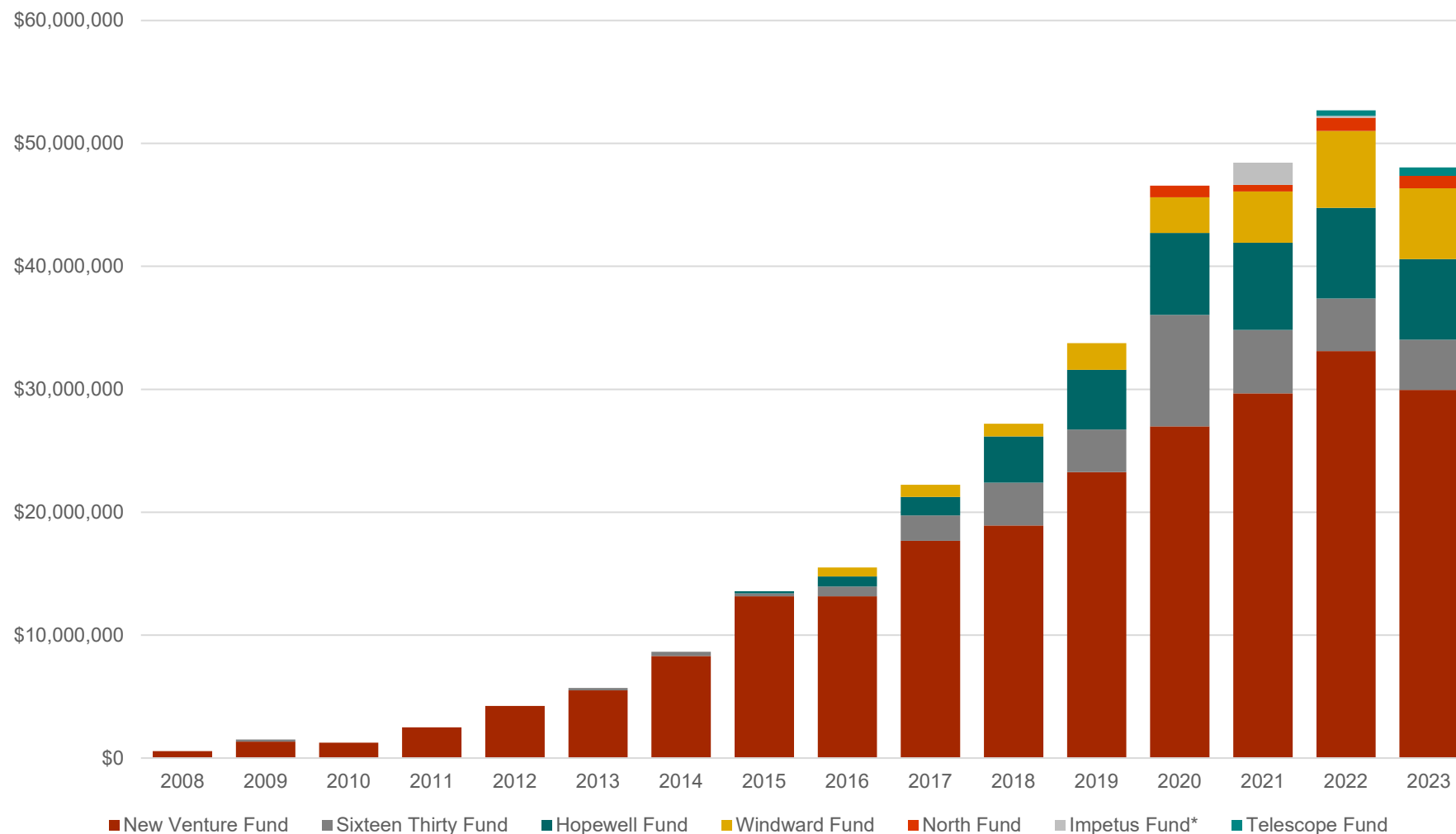


# \$1.5 Billion Annual Expenses

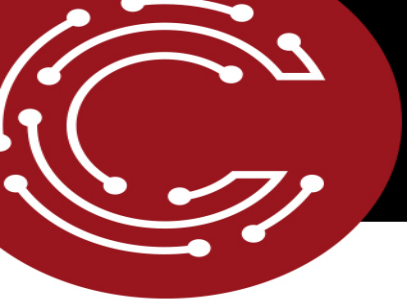




# \$50M per Year in Management Fees to Arabella







# Arabella's Billions



**Arabella**  
Advisors

- **Just 2022 revenues: \$1.4 Billion**
- **Just 2023 revenues: \$1.35 Billion**
- **Just 2024 revenues: \$1.53 Billion**