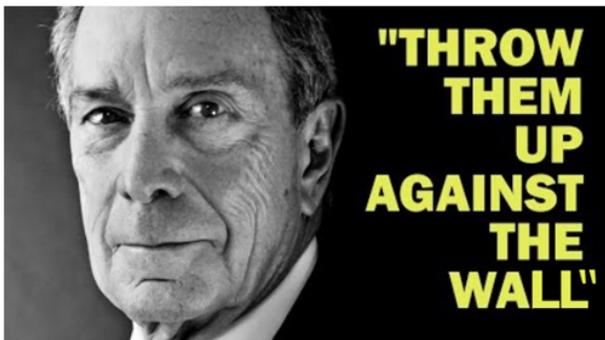


# Some Facts about Michael Bloomberg from RootsAction.org

## Support for Republicans

- Was a registered Republican from 2001-2007, and changed registration to Democrat in 2018.
- Was elected New York City mayor three times as a Republican; narrowly won his first term over a Democrat in 2001 with [crucial support](#) from Republican Mayor Rudy Giuliani.
- While mayor, Bloomberg's lavish funding of Republicans and GOP party committees in New York state helped maintain [Republican control](#) of the state senate.
- Spoke at the 2004 Republican National Convention, where [he voiced strong support](#) for re-electing President George W. Bush.
- Funded and endorsed Massachusetts [GOP Sen. Scott Brown](#) for reelection in 2012 [over Elizabeth Warren](#).
- Spent millions through his PAC on TV ads to [re-elect Michigan Republican Gov. Rick Snyder](#), in 2014, the year Flint's drinking water crisis began thanks to a Snyder-appointed Emergency Manager. (Bloomberg [praised Snyder](#) as "an extremely competent guy who took on the unions.")
- Spent [nearly \\$12 million](#) in 2016 to help conservative Republican Sen. Pat Toomey [defeat Democrat Katie McGinty](#) (by less than 1.5 percent) in the swing state of Pennsylvania.
- While mostly funding Democrats for Congress in 2018, funded two incumbent New York-area [Republican congressmen in close races](#), including victorious Rep. Peter King.



## Policing

- Dramatically expanded the policy of "Stop and Frisk" during his years as mayor – which resulted in stopping and frisking [685,000 people](#) in 2011 alone, only 9 percent of them white.
- For [years after leaving office](#), defended Stop and Frisk [deceptively](#) and consistently up to a month before entering the presidential race. In 2015, he said: "We put all the cops in minority neighborhoods. Yes, that's true. Why do we do it? Because that's where all the crime is. . . And the way you get the guns out of the kids' hands is to throw them up against the wall and frisk them."
- His actions were ruled racially discriminatory and [unconstitutional](#) in federal court in 2013, after [data showed](#) that in 98.5 percent of the stop-and-frisk cases during eight years no weapon was found.
- Militarized New York's police – [once boasting](#) (falsely) that his NYPD "army" was "the seventh biggest army in the world" – and oversaw brutal [mass arrests](#) and [surveillance](#) of nonviolent protesters at the 2004 Republican convention, and of [journalists](#) and [activists](#) at Occupy Wall Street in 2011.
- Conducted extensive warrantless [spying](#) on ordinary [Muslim Americans](#), their businesses and mosques in New York City and beyond.

## Economics

- As mayor, [sued the City Council](#) in 2012 after it overrode his veto of legislation raising the pay of construction and building service workers to \$11.50 per hour.
- Has [repeatedly advocated](#) cuts in Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid benefits (but not military spending) – once calling for [higher Medicaid co-pays](#) so poor people would "think twice before they use services."
- Promoted the [right-wing line](#) that the Wall Street meltdown was caused not by greed, fraud or predatory lending but by the curtailment of racially discriminatory lending known as "redlining."
- Regularly promotes misleading health-insurance industry [attacks](#) on Medicare for All.

## Foreign Policy & Trade

- Campaigning in January, said he [doesn't regret](#) his strong support of Bush's 2003 Iraq invasion – claiming, despite a [well-documented record](#) of deceptions, that war advocates had made a “mistake” and “did it honestly.” (In 2007, he [chastised Democratic leaders](#) in Congress for efforts to wind down the war.)
- Has [unwaveringly defended](#) Israeli actions (even [disproportionate](#) attacks on people living in Gaza).
- Opposed Obama's 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran.
- Has been as stalwart as establishment Republicans in supporting corporate-oriented trade pacts like NAFTA and TPP, which he endorsed in a [column](#) co-written with the CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

## Sexism

- At the company he founded, dozens of sex discrimination and sexual harassment lawsuits have been filed against him and his firm by 64 women. According to an in-depth [Business Insider report](#), “women who worked there have called it a toxic, sexually charged nightmare.”
- As an employer, he had a [long history](#) of inappropriate sexual comments and remarks about women's appearances.



## Personal Finances

- No presidential campaign in history has spent so much in so short a time – on track to break all records.
- Although his opponents have revealed their financial details, Bloomberg was [granted an extension](#) on his financial disclosure filing until March 20, after most delegates will have been chosen.
- While not accepting donations to his own campaign, has courted “wealthy donors” to [fund the Democratic National Committee](#), which in turn changed its rules to favor Bloomberg.
- His foundation has [hidden](#) hundreds of millions of dollars in offshore accounts.

## Rigging the Rules

- Changed New York City [election law](#) so he could run for a third term as mayor, and opposed efforts to put the law change before voters in a referendum.
- Days before his November 2019 presidential campaign launch, made a [major donation](#) to the DNC, which later amended its debate requirements to allow Bloomberg's inclusion.

## Donald Trump

- Commented on national TV in 2011 when asked about Trump possibly running for president: “I know Donald Trump. He's a great guy . . . I'm a big fan of Donald Trump.”

Background:

- >> [The hubris is unbelievable!: Dems seethe over Bloomberg GOP donations](#) (*Politico*, 11/26/19)
- >> [Stop-And-Frisk Data](#) (New York Civil Liberties Union)
- >> [Why is Bloomberg's Long History of Egregious Sexism Getting a Pass?](#) (*GQ*, 2/13/20)