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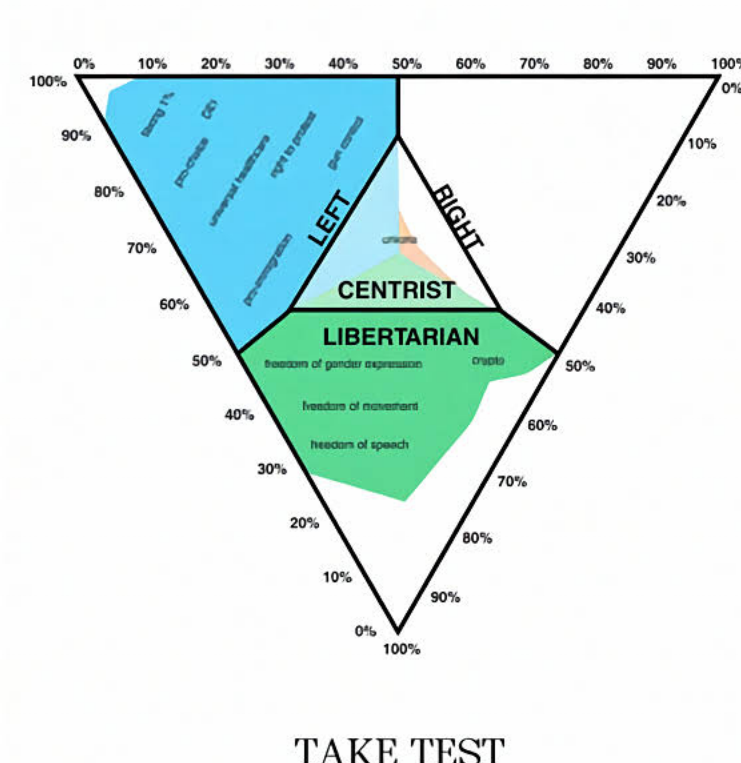
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Twenty-dollar bills are counted. | AP Photo/Elise Amendola

YOUR POLITICAL PROFILE



By MATT DIXON
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TALLAHASSEE — Trish Duggan, a wealthy Florida Scientologist, has become one of the GOP's top donors, including giving \$4 million alone to a pro-Donald Trump super PAC, campaign finance records show.

Duggan and a trust in her name have each given \$2 million to America First Action, the biggest Trump-aligned super PAC of the 2020 cycle. The group has spent more than \$40 million on TV ads and airtime reservations so far this cycle in key swing states, including Florida.

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Duggan divorced her husband, billionaire venture capitalist Bob Duggan, in 2017. The Tampa Bay Times reported in 2019 that the couple had donated more than \$360 million to the Church of Scientology, which has a huge footprint in Clearwater and [has long clashed with city leaders](#).

The couple's massive wealth came, in part, from a 2015 sale of a pharmaceutical company that Bob Duggan led. [As part of the sale, he made \\$3.5 billion, according to Forbes](#).

Trish Duggan's status as a top federal donor is new to the 2020 election cycle. She has not previously given federal contributions under her name, federal campaign finance records show.

She did not return a request seeking comment sent through both American First Action and the Church of Scientology.

Beyond the \$4 million to the pro-Trump super PAC, Duggan this cycle has also given \$589,600 to Trump Victory, a joint fundraising committee helping the president's campaign raise money, and \$45,000 to the Republican National Committee.

Duggan has not been a major donor in past election cycles, but has made appearances at some of the nation's biggest political events. In 2017, she attended Trump's inauguration and got [a photo to with him](#), and was seen [talking to prominent administration officials like Kellyanne Conway](#).

America First Action is led by Brian Walsh, the former head of the American Action Network and the Congressional Leadership Fund. Contacted about Duggan, he said the group does not comment on donors but would pass POLITICO's questions on to Duggan.

The group has spent nearly \$7 million on Florida ads and airtime reservations, the third most of any state. It is also funding ads in North Carolina (\$9 million), Pennsylvania (\$7 million), Arizona (\$5.7 million), Georgia (\$5.1 million), Iowa (\$4.8 million) and Wisconsin (\$3.4 million).

POLITICO reported last month [the group was trying to keep focus on the economy](#), and off Trump's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

"One of the things we're seeing in the polls right now is people are becoming more focused on the economy," Walsh told POLITICO at the time. "It's been Covid, Covid, Covid, but now people are starting to say, 'OK what's the plan for the next four years?'"

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