

The Extremist Right-Wing Network

WANTED

For Crimes Against Working Families and Conspiracy to Kill Off Unions

- The Koch brothers, David and Charles, were born into privilege.

Their father, Fred Chase Koch, made his fortune by founding the Wood River and Refining Co. in 1940. His company profited handsomely by helping Hitler and Stalin establish oil refineries in their countries. Fred Koch was a founder of the extreme right John Birch Society. He opposed the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act.

- The family company is now known as Koch Industries. Besides oil refining, the company's operations include agriculture, fertilizer, petroleum, chemicals and consumer goods (Dixie cups, Brawny paper towels, and Quilted North toilet paper).

Together, the Koch brothers were worth \$102.4 billion in 2017. The Koch family is the second wealthiest family in the United States.

- David and Charles have a long history of political involvement in which they have worked with right-wing politicians and other allies to push for restrictions on unions, tax cuts for corporations and the rich, extremist free-market policies, small government and the establishment of conservative beachheads in the universities.

They spent \$412 million in the 2012 election cycle. This dwarfed what the top ten labor unions spent (\$153.4 million). They projected they would spend \$889 million in the 2016 elections.

- In the 1980 election, David Koch ran as the candidate for vice president of the Libertarian Party.

The party's platform targeted many federal agencies and programs for elimination: the CIA, FBI, Dept.



David Koch



Charles Koch

of Environmental Protection, the Securities and Exchange Commission, Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare. The platform also called for the abolition of public schools.

- The Koch brothers are financial backers of right-wing efforts to weaken—or even destroy—public employee unions.

They supported the legislative and political attack on public employee unions in Wisconsin, where Gov. Scott Walker pushed for legislation

that deeply weakened unions' collective bargaining power and ability to represent members.

Membership in teachers and other public employee unions plummeted. Wisconsin has become the model for supporters of the nationwide war on public service worker unions and government services.

- The Koch brothers are major financial backers of the Right to Work Foundation, whose legal arm is behind anti-union court cases, including *Janus v. AFSCME*, which is before the U.S. Supreme Court. The case aims to cripple public employee unions by restricting their ability to collect dues used to provide services and benefits.

- The Kochs have poured millions of dollars into the anti-government and anti-union right-wing campaign of their network of dozens of conservative public policy think tanks and institutions. These groups include the Cato Institute, the Reason Foundation, Americans for Prosperity, and the American Legislative Exchange Council, which provides model legislation for conservative politicians around the country.

We must resist.
Join the union fight for a shared prosperity!



Facebook.com/
District Council 37



@DistCouncil37



Instagram.com/
dc37afscme



Youtube.com/
dc37comm