

# NRSC: Mandela loves dark money

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**Washington, D.C.** – Wisconsin’s presumptive Democrat Senate nominee Mandela Barnes is getting a major boost from a liberal dark-money network despite campaigning on a pledge to crack down on undisclosed funding in politics. And this isn’t the first time.

In case you missed it, read more from [The Washington Free Beacon](#):

*The Family Friendly Action PAC, a group run by Democratic political operatives that [announced](#) a \$23 million election canvassing operation last week, endorsed Barnes, the presumptive Democratic nominee, on Monday and said it plans to spend at least \$5 million to support his race against Republican incumbent senator Ron Johnson. The super PAC is primarily funded by the dark-money organizations Sixteen Thirty Fund and America Votes.*

*The funding is at odds with Barnes’s professed opposition to undisclosed political spending. The candidate has promised to “stand up to the corrupting influence of dark money” and [highlighted](#) the issue as a key plank of his campaign.*

*The Family Friendly Action PAC on Monday announced its endorsement of Barnes and said it was “proud to support him as he runs to replace Ron Johnson.”*

*The super PAC received \$1.4 million from America Votes and \$285,000 from the Sixteen Thirty Fund, according to FEC records.*

*The Sixteen Thirty Fund is one of the largest liberal dark-money organizations and poured hundreds of millions of dollars into the 2020 election. America Votes, another dark-money group, received most of its funding from the Sixteen Thirty Fund in the 2020 cycle, according to Politico.*

*Barnes has not publicly objected to the Family Friendly Action PAC’s endorsement*

*or spending pledge. The super PAC's Wisconsin state director Brita Olsen worked as a consultant for Barnes in 2019.*

*Barnes's campaign did not respond to a request for comment.*

*This isn't the first-time outside groups have moved to help Barnes despite his supposed opposition to dark money and corporate PACs. On June 15, the Democrat posted a note on his website saying he needed help getting positive advertising about his personal background out to the pricey "Milwaukee, Madison and the Green Bay media markets."*

*Days later, a group called the Courageous Leaders PAC—funded by Barnes donor Karla Jurvetson—poured more than \$400,000 into ads promoting the exact message outlined by Barnes, [according](#) to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.*

*Barnes's campaign also hired Marc Elias, one of the Democratic Party's top "dark money" lawyers, the Washington Free Beacon [reported](#) earlier this year. Elias's firm works for Arabella Advisors, a for-profit consulting firm that manages the Sixteen Thirty Fund and similar groups.*

**Statement from NRSC Spokeswoman Lizzie Litzow:** "Mandela Barnes is a fraud. He once promised to stand up to the 'corrupting influence of dark money' but he's just a phony politician. He's gladly accepted it more than once and is silent on the matter, but actions speak louder than words."