

To: City of Milwaukee Common Council
From: Wisconsin Working Families Party
Date: April 28, 2025
Re: NCG Hospitality Owner David Lenz is a MAGA Mega-Donor

State and federal Republican politicians have pursued an aggressive agenda that has harmed Milwaukee and its people. For at least 15 years, Walker Republicanism has scapegoated Milwaukee and its people and pursued regressive policies like slashing shared revenue and undermining local control. At the federal level, power-hungry Republicans are eliminating or slashing vital services. City leaders must defend our city and its people by using every tool available to reject toxic, reactionary Republican policies and those who have aided its rise, from Elon Musk and extremist Republican donors like the Uihleins, to more homegrown sponsors of MAGA.

North Central Group, Inc. founder, chairman, and principal owner David Lenz, is a Republican mega-donor. He has given almost half a million dollars to the very GOP politicians who have attacked Milwaukee and our residents. Lenz has contributed \$407,465 to Republican candidates and PACs at the state (\$92,740) and federal (\$314,725) levels.

At a time of tremendous upheaval, uncertainty and fear over the authoritarian pursuits of the Trump administration, our leaders should be aware of those who have financed its rise. Lenz gave **Donald Trump** \$3,450 on his way to the White House. But he also maxed out to MAGA luminaries including the insurrectionist **Derrick Van Orden** and Transportation Secretary **Sean Duffy**. Lenz even donated \$14,600 to Wisconsin embarrassment and MAGA mouthpiece Senator **Ron Johnson**. Additionally, Lenz has given \$186,000 to Republican party committees (\$151,000 to the RNC, \$23,000 to the House and Senate Republican committees, \$12,000 to the RPW federal account).

Prior to his mega-donor sponsorship of the MAGA Republican movement, Lenz gave heavily to conservative movement politicians, donating against Democrats like President Barack Obama and Senator Tammy Baldwin. In addition to maximum individual contributions to the presidential campaigns of **George W. Bush** and **Mitt Romney**, Lenz donated \$2,100 to an opponent of Senator Tammy Baldwin who had no chance of winning. Lenz gave \$5,750 to sworn enemy of Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security **Paul Ryan** (back when he was aligned with MAGA).

In addition to his direct contributions to Republican candidates for federal offices, Lenz has pumped \$62,225 into Republican business PACs. Overall, Lenz contributed \$314,725 to Republicans running for federal office making him one of the largest **GOP donors from the State of Wisconsin — without whose support the MAGA trifecta in the House, Senate, and White House would not be possible.**

David Lenz has played a key role financing the worst of Wisconsin Republicans seeking state offices, injecting \$92,740 into their campaign coffers. Most notably, Lenz funneled \$37,700 to the bane of

Milwaukee's existence **Scott Walker**, who was responsible for inflicting more damage on the city than any single political figure in recent history.

Lenz did not stop there, though. He contributed to the failed candidacies of **Rebecca Kleefisch** (\$30,590) and **Tim Michels** (\$5,000) in their attempts to unseat Governor Tony Evers. Lenz has also worked to elect reactionary Wisconsin Supreme Court justices like **Dan Kelly** (\$4,000) and **Brad Schimel** (\$1,750). The balance of Lenz's donations to Wisconsin Republicans went to state legislative candidates who rubber-stamped Walker's agenda, slashed our funding, and steadfastly opposed Governor Tony Evers.

Lenz is the 85% owner of North Central Group, the parent company of NCG Hospitality and managing member of DD Lodging Investors, LLC (the Trade Hotel, proposed Moxy Hotel).

David Lenz financed his lavish support of Republicans and became a GOP mega-donor from the profits made on hotel developments staffed by low-wage labor. As a right-wing ideologue, Lenz sponsored the rise of extremist Republicanism that has harmed and continues to threaten Milwaukee and its people.