

POWER ELITE DATABASE, 2010-2011, v1.0

This archive contains information about the "power elite" in the United States in 2010-2011, as defined by the boards of directors of the largest corporations, and members and directors of certain influential policy-oriented nonprofit organizations.

The first version of this data set was compiled by Clifford Staples at the University of North Dakota, and additions and corrections were made by Adam Schneider and G. William Domhoff of the University of California at Santa Cruz. Demographic information was contributed by Richard Zweigenhaft of Guilford College.

The following organizations are included in this version (v1.0) of the database:

- **CORPORATIONS (2,443):** The complete boards of directors of the corporations listed in the 2010 *Fortune* 500 are included. However, four companies were not included because they were acquired or held by other companies in the same list: Pepsi Bottling (held by PepsiCo), Continental Airlines (acquired by United Airlines), Sun Microsystems (acquired by Oracle), and XTO Energy (acquired by Exxon Mobil). Burlington Northern Santa Fe was acquired by Berkshire Hathaway just before the 2010 *Fortune* 500 list was released, and its pre-acquisition board IS included.

[Source: <https://money.cnn.com/magazines/fortune/fortune500/2010/>]

Also included are corporate board seats of non-F500 companies that were held by people who were in a *Fortune* 500 company or another organization in the database. This means that 1,947 additional corporations are represented, but no attempt was made to retrieve the complete boards of directors of these extra companies. (These "extras" are omitted in v1.1.)

- **FOUNDATIONS (54):** The boards of Directors/Trustees of 54 of the top U.S. foundations, as ranked by assets.

[Source: <http://web.archive.org/web/20120309050315/foundationcenter.org/findfunders/topfunders/top100assets.html>]

- **THINK TANKS (34):** The members and directors of 34 of the top Think Tanks as ranked by the University of Pennsylvania's Think Tanks and Civil Society Program.

[Source: <http://web.archive.org/web/20120122090517/www.gotothinktank.com/2011-global-tank-index/>]

- **CORPORATE POLICY GROUPS (6):** Six business-oriented policy groups: the Business Council, the Business Roundtable, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Committee for Economic Development, the Conference Board, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Note: For the think tanks and corporate policy groups, the *full* membership is included, but people's leadership status within the group is noted, so non-directors can be filtered out if necessary. A few groups (U.S. Chamber of Commerce, NBER, and Aspen Institute) had no clearly defined leadership committee.

- **PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSIONS (19):** The membership of 19 Federal Advisory Committees that reported to the White House.

[Source: <https://web.archive.org/web/20111014232627/fido.gov/facadatabase/>]

- **UNIVERSITIES (46):** The trustees of 46 of the top private colleges and universities in the U.S., as ranked by their endowments.

[Source: https://web.archive.org/web/20120611025249/www.nacubo.org/Research/NACUBO-Commonfund_Study_of_Endowments.html]

Structure of the database

There are three plain-text files included:

- **people.txt** — A list of people and their organizations. For policy-planning groups, their leadership positions are noted, if applicable. For *Fortune* 500 directors, there is a also gender/ethnicity column (W = White, B = Black, L = Latino/a, A = Asian, M = Middle Eastern.)
- **organizations.txt** — Metadata about the organizations: category, corporate sector/subsector, revenue or assets, rank within category, location.
- **combined.txt** — A combination of the two other files: it's a list of people and their seats and demographics, with some information about the organizations (category, business sector, rank) included.

— G. William Domhoff & Adam Schneider, <http://whorulesamerica.net/>