

# Dark Money

- Vast sums of money poured into American politics through campaign finance, political organizations, or non-profits, by the wealthy few





# Education Anti-government Extremist Groups in Maine



**The Mid-Coast Region - MAINE Parents' Rights In Education**

Public group · 123 members



**MEPIE (Maine Parents Involved in Education)**

Public group · 104 members

# MOMS FOR LIBERTY LEADERSHIP POSES WITH PROUD BOYS AND FLASHES “WHITE POWER” SIGN

By **Robert Burns** - November 13, 2023







# A Tale of Two Headlines

June 2023

**The Washington Post**  
*Democracy Dies in Darkness*

## Moms for Liberty didn't exist 3 years ago. Now it's a GOP kingmaker.

Five GOP presidential candidates attended the group's Philadelphia convention this weekend

By [Hannah Knowles](#) and [Hannah Natanson](#)

November 2023

**Newsweek**

## Moms for Liberty Annihilated in School Board Elections

Nov 09, 2023 at 7:06 AM EST

# What is Moms for Liberty?

ANNALS OF EDUCATION

## THE RIGHT-WING MOTHERS FUELLING THE SCHOOL-BOARD WARS

*Moms for Liberty claims that teachers are indoctrinating students with dangerous ideologies. But is the group's aim protecting kids—or scaring parents?*

By Paige Williams

October 31, 2022

“In late October, a spokesperson for the Moms told me that the organization—ostensibly a charity—is a **media company**.”

# MEDIAMATTERS

F O R A M E R I C A



## How right-wing media launched Moms for Liberty

☰ 07/28/22 3:55 PM EDT





Tina Descovich, co-founder of Moms for Liberty, poses for a portrait outside Descovich's home in Indialantic, Fla. (Zack Wittman/for The Washington Post)









### **Summary:**

Just as the Christian gospel was designed to succeed by acclaim, not by coercion, so must be our every effort. Therefore, these strategies are designed to reform state-level public education, by calling for the elimination of the worst abuses in current state systems. Far better is the promotion of a gradual, voluntary return at all levels to free-market private schools, church schools and home schools as the *normative American practice*.



**The Snider Foundation — Form 990PF (2022)**

**Donors Trust Inc — Form 990, Schedule I (2021)**

**Searle Freedom Trust — Form 990PF (2021)**

**The Snider Foundation — Form 990PF (2022)**

**Donors Trust Inc — Form 990, Schedule I (2021)**





**MOMS** *for*  
★ **LIBERTY** ★



ANSWER SHEET

# Voters drub Moms for Liberty ‘parental rights’ candidates at the ballot

In Pennsylvania, Iowa, Virginia, Minnesota, New Jersey and elsewhere, the education culture war fell flat



By [Valerie Strauss](#)

November 10, 2023 at 6:00 a.m. EST

# Lessons from Research and Election Day

- Stick to our values and what we want for education. Our frame, not their frame. Narrative. Personalize. Humanize. Repeat, Repeat, Repeat.
- Safe high achieving academic environment for all students.
- Public support for 85% who choose to go to public schools.
- Schools=community.
- They want Control over students and educators—what they read, what they can say, how they play, what they think
- Acting for rich white men

# More Lessons

- Look for people in middle, who are staying home and intimidated.
- Not party, but public education.
- Unions, teachers, librarians, students, parents, LGBTQ+, faith groups, non-profits.
- Rally against the haters—they hate bad publicity.
- Thank and support your school board members, librarians, administrators, and teachers.

# “Control” Narrative

Dunnavant accused her opponent of being willing to expose kids to such materials. But VanValkenburg took this head-on, running ads attacking that law and castigating book bans, while reassuring voters that as a high school teacher, he knows “the difference one book can make for a child.”

VanValkenburg said he encountered many voters who perceived the right’s culture wars as not just a gratuitous attack on schools, but a broader effort to expand government intrusion into kids’ education. “The reason the book-banning is so visceral is that it hits on both those things,” he told me.

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**The Washington Post**  
*Democracy Dies in Darkness*



# Not all Publicity Is Good



Reactionary anti-student inclusion groups such as **Moms for Liberty**, Moms for America, Parents Defending Education that the SPLC lists as **extremist groups** are, by their very nature, responding



influenced a book ban. **The most influential of these groups, Moms for Liberty**, is connected to 58% (n=170) of all advocacy-led book bans around the country (n=294). These 170 bans occurred in six



HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
CAMPAIGN®

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## LGBTQ+ AMERICANS UNDER ATTACK:

Moms for Liberty

# Welcome to Milwaukee



AUG. 16, 2023

The original location for that town hall was The Italian Community Center, but the center backed out of hosting it. As of right now, Moms for Liberty still has not found another venue to host.

“We are changing our event from a candidate town

AUG. 18, 2023 hall format on the 23rd into a discussion format with

Sen. Ron Johnson

The Southern Poverty Law Center classified Moms for Liberty as a hate group.

The location was not disclosed but is being sent to those who RSVP to [Marleigh@CavalryStrategies.com](mailto:Marleigh@CavalryStrategies.com).

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

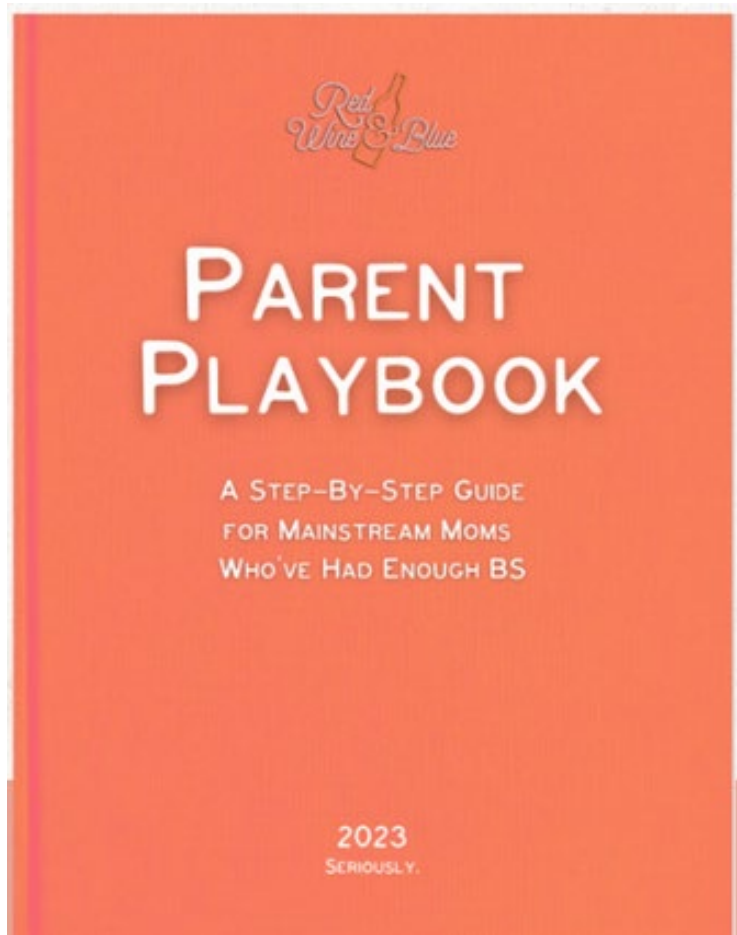
Published 11:42 a.m. CT Aug. 22, 2023 | Updated 6:34 a.m. CT Aug. 24, 2023

## Conservative groups hold advocacy training at Pfister

The [Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association](#), the union representing [Milwaukee Public Schools](#) staff, handed out flyers outside the Pfister Hotel to protest an event for hosted there Tuesday by the conservative [Leadership Institute](#) and [Moms for Liberty](#) co-founder [Bridget Ziegler](#).

About 12 people, most from Wisconsin, attended the event at the Pfister when it began at 9 a.m.

In an interview Aug. 10, Ziegler said she was expecting about 80 to 100 people to attend the training, though it would depend on the capacity of the room. She said she believed part of the reason the group moved from the Saint Kate hotel to the Pfister was that there was more flexibility to expand, depending on the crowd. She said the response to the event at that point had been “overwhelming.”



Red Wine & Blue



