

What Every Legislator Should Know About

# ALEC

And the **EXTREME  
RIGHT-WING  
Agenda**

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Privatize

Limit Size and Power of Government

Reduce influence of Progressive Groups

Reduce the Power of People vs. Business

Attack Civil Rights

# The RIGHT-WING CLEARINGHOUSE

## The RIGHT-WING CLEARINGHOUSE

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) presents itself as a bipartisan membership association of state legislators seeking to “develop policy solutions to the challenges facing the nation.” It all sounds fairly harmless and above board until you dig a little deeper and discover that ALEC is, in fact, the keystone of the right-wing’s strategy to implement its political agenda in the states. ALEC serves as the clearinghouse for the radical, conservative ideas of national and state “think tanks.” ALEC’s legislative models reflect the interests of corporate sponsors who “pay to play” as voting task force representatives.

Edwin Feulner, President of the Heritage Foundation, acknowledges ALEC’s critical role in advancing free markets and limited government:

*“ALEC and the Heritage Foundation have long been allies in promoting the principles of federalism. In that fight, there is nothing more important than building and maintaining a network of state legislators.”<sup>1</sup>*

The purpose of this brochure is to inform state legislators about ALEC—its history and sponsors, its extremist agenda, and its prominent role in the right-wing movement in America today.

### SUMMARY

- ALEC was founded by Paul Weyrich, who co-founded the Moral Majority and the Heritage Foundation.
- ALEC is funded by corporations and right-wing foundations.
- ALEC partners with ideological national groups like the Eagle Forum, National Right to Work and the Home School Legal Defense Foundation, as well as dozens of right-wing state policy institutions.
- ALEC’s overall agenda is to privatize government services, reduce the size and power of government, minimize the influence of progressive organizations, elevate the power of business over people, and attack civil rights.

### What is ALEC?

Founded in 1973 by Paul Weyrich—who co-founded the Moral Majority and the Heritage Foundation—ALEC is a tax-exempt organization that works to advance a political agenda of free markets and limited government.

ALEC claims a membership of 2,400 including dozens of state legislative leaders.

ALEC is extremely well funded, with an organizational budget of \$6 million and a full-time staff of 28.

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### ALEC FUNDERS INCLUDE:

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association	Amway
Coors Brewing Company	Family Research Council
Seagram	National Rifle Association
DeVos Foundation	Heritage Foundation
Corrections Corporation of America	Scaife Foundation
Daimler Chrysler	Milliken Foundation
Distilled Spirits Council	Golden Rule Insurance Company
	National Association of Bail Insurance Companies

<sup>1</sup> Edwin J. Feulner, remarks delivered at the 2000 ALEC States & Nation Policy Summit, December 8, 2000.

## Right-Wing Foundations

Alec C. Walker Foundation Bradley Foundation Castle Rock Foundation Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation	Claude Lambe Charitable Foundation David H. Koch Charitable Foundation Earhart Foundation E.L. Weigand Foundation	Gordon and Mary Cain Foundation J.M. Foundation John M. Olin Foundation Milliken Foundation	M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust Philip M. McKenna Foundation Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation Roe Foundation	Sarah Scaife Foundation Vernon K. Kriebel Foundation
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## Council for National Policy

American Association of Christian Schools Conservative Campaign Fund Conservative Caucus Concerned Women for America	Eagle Forum Triad Management Free Congress Home School Legal Defense Foundation	Institute of World Politics Leadership Institute National Right to Life Rutherford Institute
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## National Policy Network

Alexis de Tocqueville Institution American Enterprise Institute Americans for Tax Reform Cato Institute Center of the American Experiment Center for Education Reform	CEO America Citizens for a Sound Economy Competitive Enterprise Institute Congressional Institute Education Policy Institute Employment Policies Institute Free Congress Foundation	Heartland Institute Institute for Justice National Center for Policy Analysis National Right to Work National Tax Limitation Committee National Taxpayers Union
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## Right-Wing Religious Organizations

## Heritage Foundation

# ALEC

## American Legislative Exchange Council

## Extreme Right-Wing Legislation in the States

## State Policy Network

Alabama Family Alliance Allegheny Institute for Public Policy Arkansas Policy Foundation Atlas Economic Research Foundation Beacon Hill Institute Buckeye Institute Calvert Institute for Policy Research Capitol Resource Institute	Cascade Policy Institute Center of the American Experiment Center for Education Reform Center for the New West Claremont Institute/Golden State Center Commonwealth Foundation Empire Foundation Ethan Allen Institute Evergreen Freedom Foundation	Georgia Public Policy Foundation Golden Rule Insurance Goldwater Institute Independence Institute Indiana Policy Review Foundation Iowans for Tax Relief James Madison Institute John Locke Foundation	Josiah Bartlett Center for Public Policy Mackinac Center for Public Policy Mississippi Family Council Nevada Policy Research Institute Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs Pacific Research Institute Pioneer Institute Political Economy Research Center Public Interest Institute	Reason Foundation South Carolina Policy Council Southeastern Legal Foundation Sutherland Institute Texas Public Policy Foundation Washington Institute Foundation Wisconsin Policy Research Institute Yankee Institute
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# The EXTREME RIGHT-WING POLICY AGENDA

## ALEC: You Have to Pay to Play

ALEC is designed to link state legislators to the national right-wing movement. Participation comes at a price. Influence in ALEC is directly linked to sponsorship.

The ALEC agenda—issue positions and model legislation—is crafted by nine standing Task Forces. On these Task Forces, each composed of legislators and corporate representatives, right-wing groups have a vote equal to legislators in setting policy. The number of votes non-legislative members cast is based on how much dues they pay. To give you an idea of their influence, the Corrections Corporation of America is a voting member and Co-chair of ALEC's Criminal Justice Task Force.

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The Corrections Corporation of America Co-chairs and sets the policy agenda of ALEC's Criminal Justice Task Force

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### DUES FOR ALEC TASK FORCES

Telecommunications & Information Technology	\$5,000	Criminal Justice	\$2,000
Civil Justice	\$2,500	Health and Human Services	\$2,000
Tax & Fiscal Policy	\$2,500	Energy, Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture	\$2,000
Commerce and Economic Development	\$2,500	Education	\$1,500
		Trade and Transportation	\$1,500

### Privatize

- Schools (ALEC produced the first school voucher legislation)
- Prisons
- Social and welfare services
- Public works, wastewater, sanitation
- Public transportation

### Limit the Size and Power of Government

- Deregulation
- Tax and spending caps
- Line item veto
- Rules restricting legislative action
- Term limits

### Attack Civil Rights

- Limit reproductive choice
- Anti-civil rights
- End affirmative action

### Reduce the Influence of Progressive Groups

- "Paycheck Protection"
- Anti-civil rights
- Open contracting
- Repeal prevailing wage
- At-will employment

### Reduce the Power of People vs. Business

- Preempt lawsuits against the gun industry
- Shift burden of proof in disputes from employers to employees
- Push for elected judges
- Tort "reform" to take power from juries



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