

## ***We've Been Here Before:***

# **Cuomo's Record Must Be a Warning, Not a Promise**

Andrew Cuomo wants to be mayor of the greatest city in the world. History has its eyes on us, looking to see if we forget who he is, what he's done, and what his leadership cost New Yorkers. His campaign wants to convince people that he is a steady hand in uncertain times. But history makes clear that Cuomo governed for the wealthy, punished the working class and unions, and pushed narratives that were the most harmful to lower-income communities and people of color, people he now claims to represent.

**Cuomo's \$4M mayoral campaign haul propelled by max donations from powerful New Yorkers**

**Netflix founder, health care CEO among latest corporate titans spending on Cuomo's mayoral run**

**Jeffrey Epstein Associate Glenn Dubin Donated \$27,000 to Cuomo's Mayoral Run**

Glenn Dubin reportedly continued to associate with Epstein long after he was charged with soliciting a child for prostitution, and now he's backing Cuomo for mayor.

**The Billionaires and Interest Groups Backing Cuomo**

A super PAC supporting former Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's run for New York's mayor has collected dozens of donations of \$100,000 or more, including from those with business before the city.

***The Business Interests Bankrolling Andrew Cuomo's Run for Mayor***

A super PAC supporting Mr. Cuomo has raised \$10 million from business leaders and special interest groups that could benefit from his victory.

**Pro-Cuomo super PAC already raises \$2.3 million from real-estate honchos, power players**

***MAGA Billionaire Donates \$250K to Andrew Cuomo's Mayoral Campaign***

**'Chaos' Candidate? DoorDash Gave \$1M to Super PAC Backing Cuomo, Who Decries Delivery Workers**

**Comeback Attempt By Former Gov. Andrew Cuomo Has Corporate Parallels**

**Latest billionaire backers of Andrew Cuomo's mayoral run: The Rockefellers**

**More Republican money for Cuomo**

Since jumping into the race late on March 1, Cuomo has leaned on billionaire backers, evaded accountability for past abuses, and reminded New Yorkers exactly who he serves. These headlines (clickable) make it plain—he's not running for working families, he's running from his record.



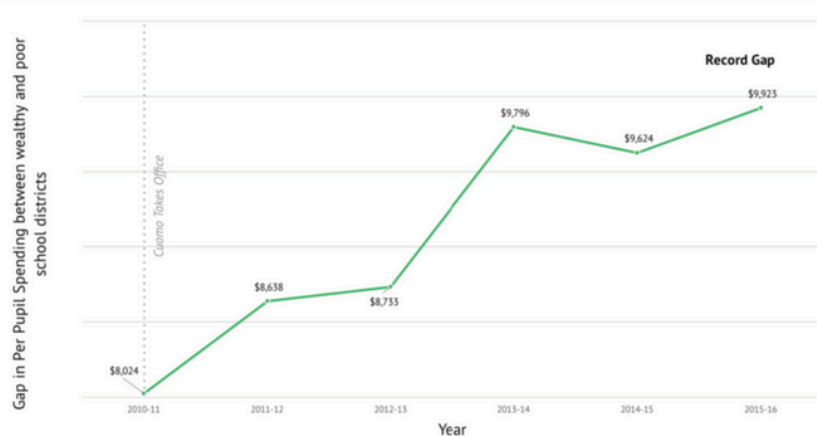
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## Cuomo's Public Education Record Speaks for Itself

In our schools, Cuomo was a barrier to equity. His first act as governor in 2011 was to slash \$1.4 billion from public education funding. For over a decade, he refused to honor New York's constitutional obligation to fully fund Foundation Aid, the formula designed to close long-standing gaps in school opportunity. The result? The spending gap between the richest and poorest school districts grew by 24%, reaching over \$10,000 per student. When he resigned in disgrace as governor, 100% of the state's majority-Black and Latino districts were still owed Foundation Aid and the state had just recommitted to funding foundation aid, only as an attempt to restore his image.

His education agenda rewarded hedge fund billionaires pushing privatization while punishing high-need districts. Many of those same billionaires are now funding his mayoral campaign—the very donors who recently made headlines for using a private WhatsApp group to pressure current Mayor Eric Adams into deploying the NYPD against student protesters at Columbia University. This high-profile group of financiers and executives sought to silence pro-Palestinian activism through force—and Cuomo is once again aligning himself with their agenda.



During Cuomo's tenure as governor (2011-2021), the gap in per-pupil spending between the wealthiest and poorest districts grew dramatically, deepening education inequity across the state; see above left: "[Cuomo's broken promises to New York's students](#)," April 2021. His cuts during the pandemic years disproportionately impacted Black and brown students, compounding decades of disinvestment and revealing a pattern of policy choices that favored the wealthy over the most vulnerable; see above right: "[Set Up to Fail: How Cuomo's School Cuts Target New York's Black & Brown Students](#)," September 2020.

In April 2020, just as Congress passed the CARES Act to provide emergency COVID relief to schools, Cuomo cut \$1.1 billion in aid from the highest-need, lowest-income school districts—including a \$717 million cut to New York City—effectively canceling out the federal funds meant to support our most vulnerable students. These cuts forced already struggling districts to lay off staff and cut essential services during the pandemic, disproportionately harming Black, brown, and lower-income communities that needed the State's support the most.

*State disclosures show that the newly created “Coalition for Opportunity in Education” – the biggest lobbyist for Cuomo’s proposed education tax credit– is funded overwhelmingly by wealthy conservatives.<sup>[11]</sup>*

### ***Exposing Hedge Fund Politics in New York***

**Revealed: super-rich donate to Cuomo as he rejects tax hikes for billionaires**

**Tax breaks given to buyers of yachts, private planes in New York State budget**

### ***Tax the Ultrarich? Cuomo Resists, Even With a \$14 Billion Budget Gap***

State Democratic lawmakers are pressuring Gov. Andrew Cuomo to approve a tax on the wealthy, fearing that budget cuts will hurt those most in need.

**Andrew Cuomo Is Clinging to Power and Rewarding His Billionaire Loyalists**

**Business lobbying group spends \$12 million lobbying Gov. Cuomo, Legislature**

As Governor, Cuomo protected his ultra-wealthy donors while slashing resources from Black, brown, and lower-income students—especially when they needed it most. These headlines from his time in office tell the story: he governed for the rich, working families paid the price, and nothing will change if he’s elected mayor.

### **Cuomo Protects Billionaires, Not Kids**

Cuomo’s worldview is shaped by his proximity to wealth and power. He openly mocked the idea of taxing the rich—“Tax the rich, tax the rich, tax the rich—we did that. God forbid the rich leave.” Even during a crisis, he refused to raise taxes on the wealthy to fund public education, instead making devastating cuts to public schools.

His donor base of hedge fund executives and real estate interests dictated his agenda, from fighting rent protections to fast-tracking the expansion of charter schools. As Governor, Cuomo didn’t just ignore our communities, he actively undermined them.



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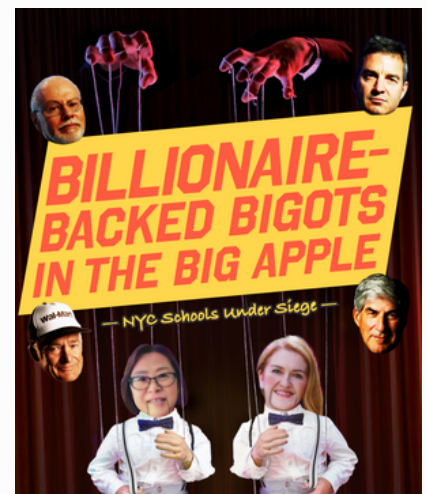
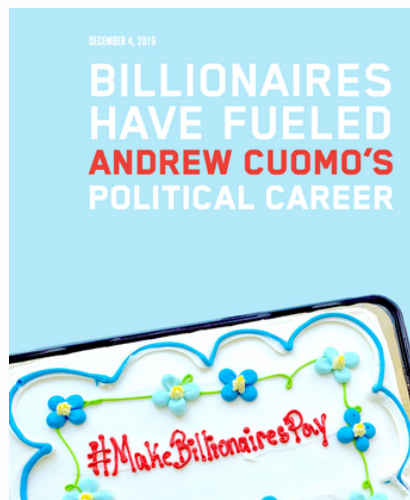
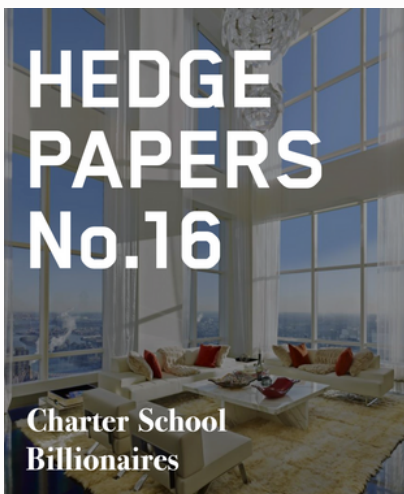
## Don't Let Cuomo Back In—Even as Your Fifth Choice

In New York City's Democratic Primary for mayor, ranked choice voting means you can rank up to five candidates in order of preference. We urge you to only rank candidates who share your values and who will fight for a city where all children thrive, where communities are invested in (not criminalized), and where the well-being and future of working communities comes first.

**Do not rank Cuomo. Not first. Not fifth. Not at all.**

We hope these receipts make it clear that this moment calls for clarity, courage, and commitment. Don't settle for the lesser of evils. Don't help Cuomo slip back into power. Make a plan now to vote for a future that reflects your values and the hopes you have for your community.

Cuomo had a decade to show us who he was—and he did.



## Just a few of the *many* receipts for the damage Cuomo left behind...

From Hedge Papers #16 (2015) to Billionaires Have Fueled Andrew Cuomo's Political Career (2019) and Billionaire-Backed Bigots in the Big Apple (2024), these reports highlight the power of the coalition work that AQE has engaged with in the course of its 25-year history. Together, we've exposed how billionaire interests have consistently undermined working class New Yorkers, especially racialized communities of color.

**Our solidarity is key to resisting the forces that seek to privatize public education and exploit the communities that rely on it.**



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