Involves Donald Trump

Nikola founder pardoned after $920,000 to Trump's 2024 committee

B Reported

The pardon is a primary record. The contributions are reported by CNBC, which links the FEC filings, and by the Financial Times. The FEC filings were not opened here.

6 sources **1** primary record **6** with an archived copy

REACHED THE FAMILY

Oct 2024 month precision

$920,000 exact

Milton's own contribution to the Trump 47 Committee in October 2024, per FEC records linked by CNBC. Counting his wife, the couple gave more than $1.8 million to a Trump fundraising committee less than a month before the 2024 election, according to the Associated Press, citing the FEC, and AFP, citing the Wall Street Journal's review of campaign finance records. The amount stays at Milton's own $920,000 because the FEC records were not opened here to confirm each spouse's share. Milton also gave $750,000 to the MAHA Alliance super PAC in September 2024. These went to political committees, not to the family's businesses.

FROM Trevor Milton (individual)

CHANNEL campaign contributions

OFFICIAL ACTION

Mar 27, 2025

Full pardon for securities and wire fraud convictions; he had been sentenced to four years and ordered to pay $680 million in restitution to Nikola shareholders

AGENCY President; Department of Justice Office of the Pardon Attorney

No day count is calculated because at least one of the two dates is known only to the month or year.

WHAT HAPPENED

Trevor Milton founded the electric truck company Nikola. In 2022 a federal jury convicted him of defrauding investors, and in 2023 he was sentenced to four years in prison and ordered to pay $680 million in restitution to shareholders. He remained free while appealing.

In 2024, a year when federal records show he made six-figure political contributions for the first time, Milton gave $920,000 to the Trump 47 Committee in October and $750,000 to the MAHA Alliance super PAC in September, according to CNBC, which linked the FEC filings.

On March 27, 2025, Trump granted him a full pardon, wiping out the sentence and restitution. Milton says he was railroaded by prosecutors. House Judiciary Democrats list his pardon among those they say followed political giving.

POTENTIAL VIOLATION

No legal question has been raised by anyone with standing or expertise in the sources reviewed, so this field is left blank rather than supplied by the ledger.

THEIR RESPONSE

Milton maintains he was railroaded by prosecutors and says his case resembled those brought against Trump. His statement says his lawyer Brad Bondi, brother of then-Attorney General Pam Bondi, did not work on the pardon application.

SOURCES

U.S. Department of Justice Sep 9, 2026 primary
Clemency Grants by President Donald J. Trump (2025-Present)
archived copy

CNBC (via NBC New York) Mar 28, 2025 news
Nikola founder Trevor Milton says Trump pardoned him in securities fraud case
archived copy

Yahoo News (citing Financial Times) Mar 28, 2025 news
Trump Pardons Musk Rival Represented by AG Pam Bondi's Brother
archived copy

House Judiciary Committee Democrats Aug 2026 congressional
Pardons Inc. (staff report)
archived copy

Associated Press (via KSAT) Mar 28, 2025 news
Convicted founder of electric vehicle startup Nikola pardoned by Trump
archived copy AP story read on KSAT

AFP (via Malay Mail) Mar 29, 2025 news
Trump pardons Nikola EV founder who donated US$1.8m to re-election campaign
archived copy AFP story read on Malay Mail; AFP cites the Wall Street Journal's review of campaign finance records

Last verified Oct 21, 2026.

REACH CONGRESS

Committees with jurisdiction over this kind of action:

HOUSE Judiciary, House Administration, Oversight and Government Reform

SENATE Judiciary, Rules and Administration, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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