Involves Donald Trump

Paramount's $16 million settlement, then FCC merger approval

B Reported

The settlement and the FCC approval are each reported by the AP and Axios. The court filing and FCC order were not opened here. The payment to the library foundation is read directly from Trump's annual disclosure for 2025 (Schedule 1, line 431.3), which lists the CBS defendants' $16 million as net proceeds paid to the Donald J. Trump Presidential Library Foundation. The Paramount gifts to Chair Carr and Commissioner Trusty are read from their own financial disclosures.

10 sources **3** primary records **7** with an archived copy

REACHED THE FAMILY

Jul 1, 2025

$16,000,000 exact

Paramount says the money goes to Trump's future presidential library, not to Trump personally. Trump's 2025 financial disclosure lists Paramount's $16 million among $56.5 million in net proceeds paid to the Donald J. Trump Presidential Library Foundation, as described in a July 15, 2026 letter from Sen. Warren, Sen. Blumenthal and Rep. Stansbury.

FROM Paramount Global (company)

CHANNEL lawsuit settlement paid to the presidential library

OFFICIAL ACTION

Jul 24, 2025

FCC approved Skydance's acquisition of Paramount, 2-1, after Skydance committed to viewpoint diversity at CBS and to ending DEI programs. In June 2026 the Justice Department said it would not intervene in Paramount Skydance's acquisition of Warner Bros. Discovery, which closed on Oct 6, 2026; AP reports the FCC also approved up to 100% indirect foreign ownership backed by Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE

AGENCY Federal Communications Commission

The action is dated 23 days after the payment.

WHAT HAPPENED

Trump sued CBS's parent company, Paramount, over how "60 Minutes" edited an October 2024 interview with Kamala Harris. CBS denied wrongdoing. While the suit was pending, Paramount needed the administration's approval for its merger with Skydance Media.

On July 1, 2025, Paramount agreed to pay $16 million to settle. It says the money goes to Trump's future presidential library, not to him personally, and that it made no apology. CBS

News' president and the executive producer of "60 Minutes," who opposed settling, had resigned.

On July 24, 2025, 23 days after the settlement, the FCC approved the merger 2-1. Skydance had committed to viewpoint diversity at CBS and to ending DEI programs. The lone Democratic commissioner, Anna Gomez, dissented, saying Paramount "finally got what it wanted" after months of capitulation.

Trump's 2025 financial disclosure lists the $16 million as net proceeds paid to the Donald J. Trump Presidential Library Foundation (Schedule 1, line 431.3). Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Sen. Richard Blumenthal and Rep. Melanie Stansbury wrote in July 2026 that part of the foundation's settlement money is unaccounted for. Paramount told the lawmakers its role was limited to making the payment.

FCC Chair Brendan Carr reported an $11,724 gift from Paramount for the December 2024 Kennedy Center Honors, while Skydance's application was pending, and Commissioner Olivia Trusty reported a $12,390 Paramount gift for the December 2025 Honors; both voted to approve the deal (their financial disclosures; ProPublica). The FCC says its ethics officers cleared the appearances; Paramount says inviting officials of both parties is a decades-long CBS practice.

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

Paramount says the settlement included no apology and no payment to Trump personally. FCC Chair Brendan Carr welcomed Skydance's commitment to make significant changes at CBS. Commissioner Anna Gomez dissented, calling it the result of months of capitulation to the administration. In 2026 Paramount told lawmakers its role was limited to making the payment the settlement required.

SOURCES

Associated Press (via Boston.com) Jul 2, 2025 news
Paramount to pay $16 million settlement with Trump over '60 Minutes' interview
archived copy

Axios Jul 24, 2025 news
FCC approves Skydance-Paramount merger
archived copy

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Sen. Richard Blumenthal and Rep. Melanie Stansbury Jul 15, 2026 congressional
Letter to the Donald J. Trump Presidential Library Foundation on financial disclosures
archived copy

Office of Sen. Elizabeth Warren Apr 20, 2026 congressional
Warren, Blumenthal, Stansbury Press Trump on Missing Millions Donated to Dissolved Trump Library Fund
archived copy

Associated Press (via PBS NewsHour) Oct 6, 2026 news
After tumultuous fight, Paramount completes takeover of Warner Bros to become Hollywood giant Skydance
archived copy

TechCrunch Oct 11, 2026 news
What to know about the landmark Warner Bros. Discovery sale
archived copy

U.S. Office of Government Ethics Jun 30, 2026 primary
Donald J. Trump OGE Form 278e, Annual 2025
archived copy
Read directly Oct 25, 2026 from the filing's text layer, opened in a browser on the editor's computer; Schedule 1, line 431.3 (p. 869)

U.S. Office of Government Ethics (via DocumentCloud) Jun 24, 2025 primary
OGE Form 278e, Brendan Carr, annual report for 2024 (Chairman, FCC)
archive pending
Part 9, line 1, p. 6: Paramount, Kennedy Center 47th Annual Honors Gala and Reception with a guest, $11,724. Found through ProPublica's Trump Team Financials (finding aid); read on the filed form.

U.S. Office of Government Ethics (via DocumentCloud) May 4, 2026 primary
OGE Form 278e, Olivia Trusty, annual report for 2025 (Commissioner, FCC)
archive pending
Part 9, line 1, p. 5: Paramount, 48th Annual Kennedy Center Honors Reception and Performance and Gala with a guest (Dec 7, 2025), $12,390. Found through ProPublica's Trump Team Financials (finding aid); read on the filed form.

ProPublica (via Salon) Jul 16, 2026 news
FCC officials took pricey gifts from Paramount as company awaited merger approval
archive pending ProPublica story republished by Salon; source for the timing and for the FCC and Paramount responses.

Last verified Nov 3, 2026.

REACH CONGRESS

Committees with jurisdiction over this kind of action:

HOUSE Energy and Commerce

SENATE Commerce Science and Transportation

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Both links go to the official finders. This page stores no contact information.