

JD Vance

KEY POINTS

JD VANCE INVESTED IN AN APP THAT SOLD AMERICAN FARMLAND TO CHINESE CITIZENS

- Vance Invested In AcreTrader, A Company That Facilitated Farmland Purchases For Opaque Groups Of Wealthy Investors Who Only Had To Be Accredited Investors And Residents Of The United States
 - Vance Invested Up To \$65,000 In AcreTrader Through Narya Capital.
- AcreTrader Allowed Non-Citizen Investors Who Were Legal Residents Of The US To Invest With Their Platform, Potentially Allowing Chinese Individuals To Purchase American Farmland
- AcreTrader Facilitated International Farmland Investment, Describing It As “A Natural Progression For AcreTrader” That “Has Always Been Part Of AcreTrader’s Long-Term Vision”

HE MOVED TO CALIFORNIA AND MADE MILLIONS INVESTING IN COMPANIES THAT OUTSOURCED TO CHINA

- 2022: Vance Reported Net Worth Between \$3,073,158 And \$9,799,000.
- Vance Led Rise Of The Rest’s First Investment Round, Which Included Investments In Outdoor Gear Company Cotopaxi That Used Chinese Factories For Many Of Its Garments
 - Vance Held Up To \$15,000 Of Stock In Global Uprising, PBC/DBA Cotopaxi
- Cotopaxi Had Two Major Factories In China, One Producing All Of The Company’s Headwear, Another Described As One Of Cotopaxi’s “Principal Suppliers”
- In 2019, Cotopaxi Founder Said That Trump’s Tariffs On China Were The “Largest Tax Increase On The American People” Since 1993, Explained That Cotopaxi Imported 22% Of Its Products From China

HE CREATED A SHAM NONPROFIT THAT SPENT MOST OF IT’S MONEY ON HIS OWN POLITICAL CAREER

- Employees of Vance’s Nonprofit Said They Helped With Starting Political Career, Not Opioids
 - 2022: The New York Times: “Some Of The Nonprofit Group’s Own Workers Said [...] They Had Been Lured By The Promise Of Helping Ohio, But Instead Had Been Used To Help Mr. Vance Start His Career In Politics.”
- Independent Factcheckers Found The Nonprofit Did Little To Combat Opioids, While It Advanced Vance’s Career
- Vance Hired Former Kasich Advisor Jai Chabria, Who Now Works With His Campaign, To Start Nonprofit
 - Our Ohio Renewal Spent More Money on Management Services To Chabria Than It Did On Programs To Actually Fight Opioid Abuse

- Our Ohio Renewal Paid For Management And Other Services, As Well As A Survey, But Did Not Spend On Grants Or Other Programming
 - The Nonprofit Refused To Show The Poll To Prove It Wasn't Done For Political Purposes
- Nonprofit Expert: Our Ohio Renewal "Is A Charade. It's A Superficial Way For Him To Say He's Helping Ohio. None Of That Is Actually Happening, From What I Can Tell."

JD VANCE INVESTED IN AN APP THAT SOLD AMERICAN FARMLAND TO CHINESE CITIZENS

Vance Invested In AcreTrader, A Company That Facilitated Farmland Purchases For Opaque Groups Of Wealthy Investors Who Only Had To Be Accredited Investors And Residents Of The United States

Vance Invested Up To \$65,000 In AcreTrader Through Narya Capital. The table below details Vance's reported investment in AcreTrader, according to Vance's Personal Financial Disclosure:

Company	Investment Avenue	Location	Minimum Value	Maximum Value
Acre Trader, Inc	Narya Capital Fund I, L.P	Fayetteville, AR	\$15,001	\$50,000
AcreTrader, Inc.	Narya Capital GP I, LLC	Fayetteville, AR	\$1,001	\$15,000
Total			\$16,002	\$65,000

[U.S. Senate Financial Disclosures, [8/14/22](#)]

AcreTrader Allowed Non-Citizen Investors Who Were Legal Residents Of The US To Invest With Their Platform, Potentially Allowing Chinese Individuals To Purchase American Farmland

AcreTrader Allowed Non-Citizens To Invest With AcreTrader, As Long As They Were Legal Residents Of The United States. According to AcreTrader's FAQ section on their website, "Can non-citizens invest with AcreTrader? Yes, if they are legal residents of the United States."

acretrader

Why Farmland?

Investments

For Farmers

- Who is eligible to invest with AcreTrader?

- Can non-citizens invest with AcreTrader?

Yes, if they are legal residents of the United States.

[AcreTrader FAQ, accessed [8/9/22](#)]

AcreTrader Required Investors To Be Accredited—Those Who Made Over \$200,000 The Prior Two Years Or Have A Net Worth Over \$1 Million—And AcreTrader Usually Requires At Least A \$10k Minimum Investment. AcreTrader FAQ: "AcreTrader is currently only open to accredited investors. To qualify as an accredited investor, you must meet certain thresholds as defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission under Rule 501 of Regulation D. If you are investing as an individual, you must meet one of the

following criteria: Your net worth, or joint net worth with your spouse or spousal equivalent, excluding your principal residence, is at least \$1,000,000. Your income has been at least \$200,000 for each of the last two years and you expect it to be at least \$200,000 this year. The combined income of you and your spouse or spousal equivalent has been at least \$300,000 for each of the last two years and you expect it to be at least \$300,000 this year.” [AcreTrader, Accessed [10/6/22](#)]

AcreTrader Facilitated International Farmland Investment, Describing It As “A Natural Progression For AcreTrader” That “Has Always Been Part Of AcreTrader’s Long-Term Vision”

2021: HEADLINE: “AcreTrader Expands to International Farmland Investment.” [AcreTrader, [10/11/21](#)]

- **AcreTrader: “International Expansion Is A Natural Progression For AcreTrader And Has Always Been Part Of AcreTrader’s Long-Term Vision.”** “Having funded nearly 70 farms across 13 states in major U.S. farming regions, international expansion is a natural progression for AcreTrader and has always been part of AcreTrader’s long-term vision. The company is proud to help investors achieve truly meaningful portfolio diversification by providing them access to new market regions as well as crops. Burnett River Citrus Orchards represents both.” [AcreTrader, [10/11/21](#)]

AcreTrader Began Offering Access To Timberland In June 2022, And Timber Companies Have Become One Of The Largest Focuses For Foreign Landowners In The US

June 2022: AcreTrader Began Offering Access To Timberland Through Its Platform. “AcreTrader Inc., the land transaction and investment technology company, will now offer investors access to invest in timberland through its platform. This offering provides individuals with the ability to invest in an asset class with historically consistent performance while also helping timberland managers generate additional capital to expand their businesses.” [Agriculture.com, [6/15/22](#)]

- **Timber And Renewable Energy Companies Are The Two Largest Groups Of Foreign Land Investors.** “Timber and renewable energy companies are the two largest groups of foreign land investors. Tax incentives and loan guarantees for biofuel production, hydraulic fracturing (‘fracking’), and solar and wind generation can make a land investment even more lucrative.” [ActionAid, Bigger Is Not Better, The High Cost Of Agribusiness Consolidation, [September 2021](#)]

HE MOVED TO CALIFORNIA AND MADE MILLIONS INVESTING IN COMPANIES THAT OUTSOURCED TO CHINA

2022: Vance Reported Net Worth Between \$3,073,158 And \$9,799,000. Vance reported on his Personal Financial Disclosure filed August 15, 2022 that his net worth was between \$3,073,158 And \$9,799,000. Vance reported that the net value of his assets was between \$4,073,158 and \$10,299,000. Vance reported that his liabilities consisted only of his mortgage, valued between \$500,001 and \$1,000,000. Accordingly, his net worth (assets minus liabilities) was minimum \$3,073,158 and maximum \$9,799,000. That’s (minimum value of assets)-(maximum value of liabilities) and (maximum value of assets)-(minimum value of liabilities). [United States Senate Financial Disclosures, [8/14/22](#)]

2016: SFGate: “Vance Doesn’t Sound Like Much Of A Hillbilly. He Got That Law Degree At Yale. He Lives In San Francisco And He Works ‘As A Principal In A Leading Silicon Valley Investment Firm.” “On paper, Vance doesn’t sound like much of a hillbilly. He got that law degree at Yale. He lives in San Francisco, and he works ‘as a principal in a leading Silicon Valley investment firm.” [SFGate, [9/15/16](#)]

Vance Led Rise Of The Rest’s First Investment Round, Which Included Investments In Outdoor Gear Company Cotopaxi That Used Chinese Factories For Many Of Its Garments

2019: Washington Business Journal: “‘Hillbilly Elegy’ Author And Rise Of The Rest Managing Partner J.D. Vance Had Helmed The First Fund.” “The investor list isn't surprising — the minimum investment for the Rise of the Rest Seed Fund II LP was \$250,000 from outside investors. As in its first fund, which has invested in more than 100 companies based outside of Silicon Valley, this latest iteration is slated to inject an initial \$500,000, on average, in individual companies. While ‘Hillbilly Elegy’ author and Rise of the Rest Managing Partner J.D. Vance had helmed the first fund, that job now goes to Managing Partner David Hall for the second. Hall, who was a 2018 Minority Business Leader Awards honoree, joined Revolution in 2006 and will work with Partners Anna Mason and Mary Grove to manage the second fund.” [Washington Business Journal, [10/28/19](#)]

2018: ROTR Announced That Its First Round Of Funding Went To Nine Companies, Including Cotopaxi, AppHarvest, Losant, And ZenBusiness. “The first startups to receive an investment from the ROTR Fund represent cities across the country from Pikeville, KY to Columbus, OH to Salt Lake City, UT. These companies are further proof that there are compelling businesses starting and scaling outside of Silicon Valley, New York City, and Boston. The list of the new investments includes:

- AppHarvest (Pikeville, KY) is building and operating large-scale, high-tech greenhouse farms to cut distance from the produce supply chain.
- Catalyte (Baltimore, MD) uses artificial intelligence to identify anyone who has the aptitude to become a great software developer, regardless of background.
- Cotopaxi (Salt Lake City, UT) designs and produces innovative outdoor gear and apparel. Through its supply chain, retail sales, and experiential offerings, the company helps fund social impact projects.
- ENGAGE Talent (Charleston, SC) develops AI recruiting technology for companies to identify and engage with passive candidates.
- Losant (Cincinnati, OH) is an IoT enterprise platform that makes creating end-to-end experiences easy.
- SafeChain Inc. (Columbus, OH) is creating a 30-second property transaction using blockchain technology.
- SEEVA (Seattle, WA) creates visibility systems for vehicle mobility with applications for autonomous vehicles and advanced driver assistance systems for passenger and trucking vehicles.
- ZenBusiness (Austin, TX) makes it free for anyone to start a business as a LLC or Corporation and ensure it's easy and affordable to manage it year-round.
- Zylo (Indianapolis, IN) is a SaaS optimization platform that enables companies to discover, manage, measure, and optimize cloud subscriptions across the enterprise.

The new ROTR Fund investments join a strong list of Rise of the Rest investments made over the past four years by Steve Case personally through the Rise of the Rest pitch competitions and related activities.”

[Revolution.com, [2/14/18](#)]

2021: In His Personal Financial Disclosure Vance Reported Holdings In Five Companies From ROTR's First Round: AppHarvest, Cotopaxi, Losant, ZenBusiness, Zylo. [United States Senate Financial Disclosures, [8/14/22](#)]

Vance Held Up To \$15,000 Of Stock In Global Uprising, PBC. According to Senate filings, Vance held up to \$15,000 of stock in Global Uprising, PBC. [JD Vance Person Financial Disclosure Amendment 1, [4/1/22](#)]

- **Global Uprising DBA Cotopaxi Designed And Sold Gear, Including Backpacks, Water Bottle, T-Shirts.** “Global Uprising PBC Corporation, doing business as Cotopaxi, designs and sells out gear products. The Company offers backpacks, water bottles, T-shirts, and other accessories.” [Bloomberg, accessed [4/20/22](#)]
- **Cotopaxi Had Some Garments Made In A Factory In China, “Which Prioritizes The Wellbeing Of Its Workers By Providing Daily Transportation As Well As An Organic Garden To Supplement Lunches.”** “Similar to the women's version, this lightweight windbreaker is designed to pack into itself—just stuff it into its own kangaroo pocket for easy storage. It's made in a factory in Tianjin, China, which prioritizes the wellbeing of its workers by providing daily transportation as well an organic garden to supplement lunches.” [Forbes, [3/18/22](#)]

Cotopaxi Had Two Major Factories In China, One Producing All Of The Company's Headwear, Another Described As One Of Cotopaxi's "Principal Suppliers"

2020: Cotopaxi Described Its Factory In Tianjin, China, As "One Of Cotopaxi's Principal Suppliers."

"Located in northeastern China, this factory is one of Cotopaxi's principal suppliers. An independently owned factory that champions progressive and thoughtful leadership, it produces our jackets and insulation pieces. Beyond developing excellent product using responsibly sourced down (RDS certified), the factory's owner, George Huan, prioritizes the well-being of his workers through a variety of offerings that are not found among most competitors. One of the many reasons we're honored to partner with George and his team stems from their commitment to addressing the needs of their employees. For example, most factory workers face the hardship of needing to reside near their work at the expense of living with their families. George chose to resolve this issue by providing transportation for all workers to and from the factory. In addition to this internal program, Cotopaxi was also able to work with factory employees to provide an on-site, organic garden to supplement their lunches with additional healthy produce." [Cotopaxi via WayBack Machine, Archived [9/24/20](#)]

2020: Cotopaxi Said Its Shanghai, China Factory Was Producer Of All Of Company's Headwear, Was The "First Fair Trade Certified™ Factory In China."

"All of our headwear comes from Shanghai and is made in the first Fair Trade Certified™ factory in China. One of the most advanced and largest headwear manufacturers in the world, this partner leverages their position to advocate for the highest standards of corporate social responsibility. Additionally, the facility's lean manufacturing practices allow them to produce high quality products with minimal environmental impact. Leadership actively accounts for the factory's carbon footprint by using energy efficient machines, going paperless, and contributing to local conservation efforts. The factory's leaders are also committed to workers' rights protection, health and safety, career growth programs, democratic management through a sanctioned, trade union committee, and additional vocational training." [Cotopaxi via WayBack Machine, Archived [9/22/20](#)]

Cotopaxi Had Some Garments Made In A Factory In China, "Which Prioritizes The Wellbeing Of Its Workers By Providing Daily Transportation As Well As An Organic Garden To Supplement Lunches."

"Similar to the women's version, this lightweight windbreaker is designed to pack into itself—just stuff it into its own kangaroo pocket for easy storage. It's made in a factory in Tianjin, China, which prioritizes the wellbeing of its workers by providing daily transportation as well an organic garden to supplement lunches." [Forbes, [3/18/22](#)]

Cotopaxi Had Some Garments Made In A Factory In Cambodia. "Made in Cambodia, at a factory that's setting new standards for sustainability and energy efficiency, these leggings are cut from a quick-drying blend of 79% recycled polyester and 21% spandex. The design has multiple pockets, including side drop-in hand pockets a back internal stash pocket for storage when you're on the move." [Forbes, [3/18/22](#)]

Cotopaxi's Packs And Bags Are Made In A Factory In The Philippines, And The Company Claimed The Factory Is Committed To Fair Social Labor And Environmentally Sound Practices.

"Located in Bataan, Philippines, this factory is Cotopaxi's principal pack maker. Known for producing best-in-class technical items, it partners with us in reducing fabric waste through our Del Día products. Here's how it works: the factory collects the unused material produced by other brands in its facilities, and we turn those scraps into backpacks. Beyond working with us in a win-win effort to advance sustainability, this factory also completed the Higg Index facility module, which means they are committed to fair social labor and environmentally sound practices. The Higg Index measures everything from water usage to workers' wages, and facilities who complete the module demonstrate a commitment to operating beyond both compliance and transparency. In addition to our remnant program, Cotopaxi also has a standing relationship with the workers who produce our Del Día products. Every Del Día bag is unique because we leave the color choices and final creative decisions to our sewers, who we see as integral makers." [Cotopaxi, accessed [4/20/22](#)]

In 2019, Cotopaxi Founder Said That Trump's Tariffs On China Were The "Largest Tax Increase On The American People" Since 1993, Explained That Cotopaxi Imported 22% Of Its Products From China

2019: Cotopaxi Founder Davis Smith Described Trump Administration Tariffs On China As “The Largest Tax Increase On The American People, As A Percentage Of” GDP Since 1993. “The pain is also real for Utah businesses. Take a company like Cotopaxi, which sells outdoor gear — coats, jackets, packs and so forth. While Cotopaxi only imports about 22 percent of its products from China, it will still end up costing the company \$1.3 million in 2020, unless it raises prices for consumers or stops carrying certain items. ‘Let’s call these tariffs what they are: The largest tax increase on the American people, as a percentage of [gross domestic product], since I was in middle school in 1993,’ said Davis Smith, CEO and founder of Cotopaxi (who, yes, is that young). Often overlooked but also affected, Smith notes, are the Chinese workers who make their products and, he said, ‘have become like family to us.’ The workers have taken English classes, have planted a community garden and have been able to buy their first cars. ‘Ultimately a trade war is good for no one,’ he said. ‘It hurts American businesses, American consumers, and it hurts some of the most vulnerable people who are living and working in countries that need our help.’ Smith said some have suggested companies should start making goods in the United States, but overhauling a supply chain takes 18 months or longer. And that’s if it can be done at all.” [Salt Lake Tribune, [5/29/19](#)]

- **Salt Lake Tribune: Cotopaxi Imported 22% Of Its Products From China, And Trump Tariffs “Will Still End Up Costing The Company \$1.3 Million In 2020, Unless It Raises Prices For Consumers Or Stops Carrying Certain Items.”** [Salt Lake Tribune, [5/29/19](#)]

Vance is Invested In Walmart, Which He Criticized For Using Chinese Slave Labor

HEADLINE: “Ohio Candidate J.D. Vance Calls Out Walmart For “Slave Labor” — And Heavily Invests In Its Stock.” [Salon, [12/17/21](#)]

Vance Accused WalMart of Using Slave Labor To Make Cheap Products That Undermine American Jobs, While Owning As Much as \$100K In WalMart Stock. “Ohio Republican Senate candidate [J.D. Vance](#) has accused Walmart of using “slave labor” to make cheap products that undermine American jobs. But his latest personal financial disclosure shows he owns at least \$50,000 in Walmart stock. Vance, who made a fortune as a venture capitalist before writing the best-selling book “Hillbilly Elegy,” submitted his personal financial disclosure last month after [missing](#) the original filing deadline. It indicates that he owns between \$50,000 and \$100,000 in Walmart stock. (Such disclosure forms list ranges, rather than precise amounts.)” [Salon, [12/17/21](#)]

- **Salon: “Now That He Is Seeking the Republican Nomination [...] Vance Has Taken To Criticizing The Company And its Reliance On China.”** “Now that he is seeking the Republican nomination for an open Ohio Senate seat — and [hoping](#) to land former President Donald Trump's endorsement — Vance has taken to criticizing the company and its reliance on China, which has become a popular GOP target. During an event in Dover, Ohio, in October, Vance blamed politicians from both parties for shipping “a lot of our manufacturing base off to China.” ‘The thought was we get a lot of cheap stuff in return,’ he said. “They make it more cheaply because they were relying on slave labor. So maybe you go to Walmart and things don't cost as much. But in the process, a lot of middle-class people lost those good jobs that enabled them to support them.” [Salon, [12/17/21](#)]

Vance Is Invested In A Solar Panel Company That Imports Parts From China

Vance Held Up To \$15,000 Of Stock In Edisun Microgrids, Inc. According to Senate filings, Vance held up to \$15,000 of stock in Edisun Microgrids, Inc. [JD Vance Person Financial Disclosure Amendment 1, [4/1/22](#)]

- **Edisun Microgrids, A Pasadena, California-Based Company, Was Established As A Solar Technology Company And Purportedly Served Customers Worldwide.** “Edisun Microgrids, Inc. operates as a solar technology company. The Company develops patented dual-axis tracker and other energy storage technologies for commercial rooftops and solar carports which reduces the cost of solar photovoltaic modules. Edisun Microgrids serves customers worldwide.” [Bloomberg, accessed [4/19/22](#)]

- **Edisun Microgrids Claimed They Were Aiming To Drive Down The Cost Of Solar Energy To Make Clean Power More Affordable Than Fossil Fuels.** “At Edisun Microgrids, we believe solar can be a major source of the world’s energy because every day the sun provides more than 10,000 times the energy the world needs. The key is making solar cost-effective and available on-demand. Edisun’s solutions address these hurdles and through them, we are aiming to drive down the cost of solar energy to make clean power more affordable than fossil fuels.” [Edisun Microgrids, accessed [4/19/22](#)]
- **An SEC Report Linked To An External Site That Showed Edisun Microgrids Had Received Shipments From China As Recently As 2019.** According to import records linked to in an SEC report, Edisun Microgrids received a shipment from Hefei Konlon Bearing Co., Ltd via Shanghai, China on March 16, 2019. The shipment contained a swivel plate. Edisun Microgrids also received a shipment from Qingdao Sinoy Enterprise Co., Ltd via Tsingtao, China on February 16, 2019. The shipment contained solar mirror regular glass. Edisun Microgrids also received a shipment from Jinan Leader Glass Co., Ltd via Shanghai, China on January 21, 2022. The shipment contained mirror ultra clear glass. [SEC, accessed [4/19/22](#); Bill of Lading Import Record, [3/18/19](#); Bill of Lading Import Record, [2/18/19](#); Bill of Lading Import Record, [1/22/19](#)]

HE CREATED A SHAM NONPROFIT THAT SPENT MOST OF ITS MONEY ON HIS OWN POLITICAL CAREER

Employees of Vance’s Nonprofit Said They Helped With Starting Political Career, Not Opioids

2022: The New York Times: “Some Of The Nonprofit Group’s Own Workers Said [...] They Had Been Lured By The Promise Of Helping Ohio, But Instead Had Been Used To Help Mr. Vance Start His Career In Politics.” “But some of the nonprofit group’s own workers said they had drawn a different conclusion: They had been lured by the promise of helping Ohio, but instead had been used to help Mr. Vance start his career in politics. During its brief life, Mr. Vance’s organization paid a political consultant who also advised Mr. Vance about entering the 2018 Senate race. It paid an assistant who helped schedule Mr. Vance’s political speeches. And it paid for a survey of ‘Ohio citizens’ that several of the staff members said they had never seen.” [The New York Times, [10/8/22](#)]

- **The New York Times: “Vance’s Organization Paid A Political Consultant Who Also Advised Mr. Vance About Entering The 2018 Senate Race. It Paid An Assistant Who Helped Schedule Mr. Vance’s Political Speeches.”** [The New York Times, [10/8/22](#)]
- **The New York Times: “Our Ohio Renewal Also Paid A Salary To Mr. Vance’s Personal Assistant, Who Scheduled Mr. Vance’s Appearances At Events Including Republican Gatherings.”** “Our Ohio Renewal also paid a salary to Mr. Vance’s personal assistant, who scheduled Mr. Vance’s appearances at events including Republican gatherings. Mr. Chabria defended that practice, saying that Mr. Vance had often mentioned Our Ohio Renewal at those talks.” [The New York Times, [10/8/22](#)]

2022: The New York Times: “His Group Was Set Up As A “Social Welfare Organization” — Called A 501(C)(4) [...] Politicians Often Treat These Groups As A Kind Of Incubator For Their Next Campaigns, Using Them To Attract Donors, Pay Staff Members And Test Out Messages.” “His group was set up as a “social welfare organization” — called a 501(c)(4), after the relevant section of the federal tax code — that is allowed to do more political advocacy than a traditional charity. Politicians often treat these groups as a kind of incubator for their next campaigns, using them to attract donors, pay staff members and test out messages in between elections.” [The New York Times, [10/8/22](#)]

Independent Factcheckers Found The Nonprofit Did Little To Combat Opioids, While It Advanced Vance’s Career

2022: HEADLINE: PolitiFact: “GOP Senate Hopeful JD Vance Paid Political Adviser To Run Nonprofit That Did Little To Fight Opioids.” [PolitiFact, [7/27/22](#)]

- **PolitiFact: “It Spent Nearly Half Of The Money It Took In To Pay Its Executive Director, Who Was — And Remains — A Vance Political Adviser, And To Pay For A Survey. The Survey Was Done While Vance Was Considering A Run For The U.S. Senate.”** “In 2017, the year the nonprofit was most active, it spent nearly half of the money it took in to pay its executive director, who was — and remains — a Vance political adviser, and to pay for a survey. The survey was done while Vance was considering a run for the U.S. Senate, though it’s not clear the survey was undertaken for Vance’s political benefit.” [PolitiFact, [7/27/22](#)]
- **PolitiFact: “Ryan Said That Instead Of Fighting Opioid Addiction, A Nonprofit Founded By J.D. Vance Paid His ‘Top Political Adviser’ And Funded Polling. [...] We Rate Ryan’s Claim About Vance Mostly True.”** “Ryan said that instead of fighting opioid addiction, a nonprofit founded by J.D. Vance paid his ‘top political adviser’ and funded polling. Vance’s nonprofit, which was founded partly to fight opioid abuse, paid Chabria \$63,425 in 2017 to be its executive director. Chabria was a key political adviser to Vance and remains on Vance’s 2022 Senate campaign. The nonprofit also spent \$45,000 for a survey of the ‘social, cultural and general welfare needs of Ohio citizens.’ We could not find evidence documenting the survey’s exact questions. We rate Ryan’s claim about Vance Mostly True.” [PolitiFact, [7/27/22](#)]

Vance Hired Former Kasich Advisor, Who Now Works With His Campaign, To Start Nonprofit

2017: Vance Hired Jai Chabria, Former John Kasich Advisor, As An Advisor. “It is amazing how many people got excited about him running for Senate, but it just isn’t the right time for his family,’ said Jai Chabria, a former adviser to Ohio Gov. John Kasich who is advising Vance. Vance has small children and his wife is a clerk for Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts. The couple split their time between Washington, D.C., and Columbus. Director Ron Howard is planning to make a movie out of Vance’s book, and Vance is also working with Steve Case’s ‘Rise of the Rest’ initiative to foster entrepreneurship in America’s heartland, said Chabria. ‘J.D. has a lot of upside as a candidate or as someone who can influence the process from the outside,’ Chabria said. ‘He may or may not run for office, but he is going to be a hugely important voice in the Republican party for decades to come.’” [Dayton Daily News, 9/18/17]

- **Vance Hired Jai Chabria, Previously A Kasich Advisor, As Adviser To Political Career Since 2018, As Well As Adviser To 2022 Senate Campaign.** On Vance’s political career in 2018: “J.D. Vance is now seriously considering a US Senate campaign in Ohio and discussing the prospect with Republicans in Washington, following overtures from party donors and leaders who believe he would be their best candidate. [...] ‘The phone hasn’t stopped ringing since Friday,’ said Jai Chabria, an adviser to Vance who joined him in Washington this week for meetings with those encouraging his candidacy. ‘The amount of support for J.D. Vance is incredible,’ Chabria told BuzzFeed News.” On Vance’s 2022 Senate campaign: “People are starting to realize he has the best message to beat [Democratic incumbent] Sherrod Brown. J.D. is giving serious consideration toward this, because there are very serious people asking him to run. In its first year, according to an Insider review of its public tax filings, the nonprofit brought in \$221,135. Jai Chabria, the nonprofit’s principal officer, earned more in management fees — \$63,425 — than the company spent on programming, which totaled about \$50,000. Chabria, a former senior advisor to John Kasich and an employee of Lehman Brothers and Barclays Capital, is now advising Vance’s Senate campaign.” [Business Insider, [8/31/21](#); BuzzFeed News, [1/10/18](#)]

Our Ohio Renewal Spent Barely Any Money On Programming, Instead Mostly Paying Jai Chabria For Management Services

Our Ohio Renewal Spent More Money on Management Services To Chabria Than It Did On Programs To Actually Fight Opioid Abuse. “A review by Insider of the nonprofit’s tax filings showed that in its first year, Our Ohio Renewal spent more on “management services” provided by its executive director Jai Chabria — who also serves as Vance’s top political advisor — than it did on programs to fight opioid abuse. In its first year, according to an Insider review of its public tax filings, the nonprofit brought in \$221,135. Jai Chabria, the

nonprofit's principal officer, earned more in management fees — \$63,425 — than the company spent on programming, which totaled about \$50,000. Chabria, a former senior advisor to John Kasich and an employee of Lehman Brothers and Barclays Capital, is now advising Vance's Senate campaign.” [Business Insider, [8/31/21](#)]

Our Ohio Renewal Paid For Management And Other Services, As Well As A Survey, But Did Not Spend On Grants Or Other Programming

2017: Our Ohio Renewal Reported Spending \$0 On Grants And Other Programming. Our Ohio Renewal reported spending \$0 on grants and other programming in its tax filings, clipped below:

Form 990 (2017)

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses		
<i>Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations</i>		
<i>Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX .</i>		
<i>Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.</i>	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21 . . .	0	0
2 Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22	0	0
3 Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16 . . .	0	0
4 Benefits paid to or for members	0	0

[Our Ohio Renewal, Form 990, [2017](#)]

Business Insider: Our Ohio Renewal Raised So Little From 2019-2021 That It Wasn't Even Required To File Tax Returns With The IRS. “Charities, by necessity, frequently devote much of their money to administrative staff and expenses. But Our Ohio Renewal's biggest problem wasn't its spending; it was its lack of fundraising. The nonprofit raised so little in each of the last three years — less than \$50,000 a year — that it wasn't even required by the IRS to disclose its activities and finances.” [Business Insider, [8/31/21](#)]

The Nonprofit Refused To Show The Poll To Prove It Wasn't Done For Political Purposes

2022: The New York Times: “In 2017, Our Ohio Renewal Said In Annual Filings That It Had Paid An Unnamed Pollster \$45,000 For A Survey ‘On Social, Cultural And General Welfare Needs Of Ohio Citizens.’” “Tax-law experts said that was most likely permissible, given the looser rules around this type of nonprofit group. Also in 2017, Our Ohio Renewal said in annual filings that it had paid an unnamed pollster \$45,000 for a survey ‘on social, cultural and general welfare needs of Ohio citizens.’ That survey was one of the most expensive things Our Ohio Renewal ever paid for. But several employees said they had never seen it. ‘I don’t have any recollection of a survey and don’t have a copy of one,’ Jennifer Best, who was both the group’s accountant and the treasurer of its board, said in an email message. Mr. Chabria saw the survey, but he said he no longer had a copy to share. He said it had tested messages about Our Ohio Renewal’s work and ‘did not ask questions on any potential candidacy’ by Mr. Vance himself.” [The New York Times, [10/8/22](#)]

- **The New York Times: “That Survey Was One Of The Most Expensive Things Our Ohio Renewal Ever Paid For. But Several Employees Said They Had Never Seen It.”** [The New York Times, [10/8/22](#)]
- **The New York Times: “‘I Don’t Have Any Recollection Of A Survey And Don’t Have A Copy Of One,’ Jennifer Best, Who Was Both The Group’s Accountant And The Treasurer Of Its Board, Said In An Email Message.”** [The New York Times, [10/8/22](#)]
- **“Mr. Chabria Saw The Survey, But He Said He No Longer Had A Copy To Share.”** [The New York Times, [10/8/22](#)]

A Nonprofit Expert, In Reviewing The Tax Returns, Said The Nonprofit Was A “Charade,” And Was “Sitting Around Doing Nothing”

Nonprofit Expert: Our Ohio Renewal “Is A Charade. It’s A Superficial Way For Him To Say He’s Helping Ohio. None Of That Is Actually Happening, From What I Can Tell.” “‘This is a charade,’ said Doug White, a nonprofit expert and former director of the master’s program in fundraising management at Columbia University, who reviewed Our Ohio Renewal’s tax filings for Insider. ‘It’s a superficial way for him to say he’s helping Ohio. None of that is actually happening, from what I can tell.’” [Business Insider, [8/31/21](#)]