

WEINSTEIN WATCH: WHO IS MICHAEL WEINSTEIN?

Michael Weinstein is the [controversial founder and president](#) of the non-profit AHF. Under Weinstein's direction, AHF has grown to a \$2.3 Billion real estate empire using taxpayer dollars that are supposed to be used to treat low-income patients.

BEHIND WEINSTEIN'S FACADE OF PHILANTHROPY LIES A TRAIL OF CONTROVERSY.

Weinstein has been accused on numerous occasions of [exploiting the federal drug discount program](#) to finance his personal political agenda. That agenda is focused on stopping construction of affordable and market-rate housing across California. Weinstein has been accused of diverting taxpayer funds to [purchase luxury condominiums](#). He has bankrolled numerous failed lawsuits to block [affordable housing laws](#), while funding multi-million dollar ballot measure campaigns aimed at [blocking housing construction](#). While collecting those taxpayer dollars, Weinstein's organization put an [elected politician](#) on payroll, all while building his real estate empire, by acquiring billions of dollars worth of low-income multi-tenant housing complexes and [operating them as slums](#).

Let's look at how Michael Weinstein uses AHF as a vehicle to finance his political agenda.

TENANTS IN TERROR: THE 'SLUMLORD' CONDITIONS IN AHF PROPERTIES

Last year, the Los Angeles Times [released an investigative report](#) revealing the "slum" like conditions at [multiple AHF properties](#). As many as 1,300 residents live in "squalid conditions," and many are under the threat of eviction.

The investigative report documented the horrendous stories of how "Roaches and bedbugs infest rooms. Electricity, heating and plumbing systems fail. Elevators malfunction. Code enforcement and public health complaints at foundation buildings are more than three times higher than those owned by other Skid Row nonprofits."

But, these allegations are nothing new. In 2021, Knock LA, a nonprofit community journalism project, reported that tenants at AHF properties [accused the organization of 'Slumlord' conditions](#), and were organizing to demand

better living conditions. Stand for Housing Justice, a group of tenants and advocates, issued a statement to AHF:

"Take care of your tenants and staff and stop using poor people of color to push your self-interest. Tenants and the Unhoused are not political props and they deserve dignity, respect, and a clean and safe place to live."

Despite ongoing controversy, investigative reports, lawsuits, and fines, AHF persists in expanding its real estate empire. However, the State of California is [opposing the sale of more housing to AHF, based on its troubled history as a landlord](#).

"Most big campaign spenders are billionaires, corporations, political action committees or unions. Think George Soros, the Koch brothers, the NRA. But the biggest L.A.-based spender on the 2016 election is a nonprofit—the AIDS Healthcare Foundation."

[LA Weekly, November 5, 2016](#)

AHF FINANCING MICHAEL WEINSTEIN'S POLITICAL AGENDA

Under Weinstein's direction, AHF has squandered over \$100 million on ballot measures and issue advocacy campaigns at both the state and local level. AHF spent more than \$4.6 million to [stop high-density housing construction in Los Angeles](#) because, according to opponents, planned construction would have blocked his views of the Hollywood Hills.

AHF is the lead proponent for the third time in four elections to [put rent controls on all residential rental properties](#), including single family homes. Additionally, AHF has funded other initiatives like mandating condoms in pornography and placing price controls on pharmaceuticals.

AHF's political agenda extends beyond the ballot box and into the California State Capitol. Under Weinstein's direction, AHF spent millions on [lobbying efforts and issue advocacy campaigns](#) to oppose some of the most [progressive and equitable affordable housing legislation in the country](#).

Despite facing repeated rejections by voters, Weinstein continues to pour staggering sums of money into these endeavors, diverting resources that could otherwise be allocated to patient care.



WORKERS MISTREATED: AHF'S POOR LABOR RECORD

Michael Weinstein and AHF have a long history of serious labor violations and mistreatment. They have paid out millions in settlements, been sued for retaliation, fought against the unionization of employees, received a dozen OSHA violations, and bankrolled a Los Angeles ballot measure that would have eliminated 12,000 good paying jobs.

In 2017, AHF settled a class action lawsuit in a San Diego Court, paying out \$1.6 million to over 1,000 AHF employees. The settlement addressed many grievances, including allegations of "unfair competition," "failure to pay overtime wage," "failure to provide meal periods," "failure to provide rest periods," "failure to provide accurate itemized statements," and "failure to provide wages when due." This case was known as *Salazar v. AIDS Healthcare Foundation* (Court Case # 37-2017-33482).

In 2020, AHF reached a \$880,000 settlement in a class-action lawsuit filed in a Los Angeles Court. The settlement compensated nearly 1,500 AHF employees for allegations of unpaid overtime. This case was titled *Joshua Seidel v. AIDS Healthcare Foundation* (L.A. Superior Court, Case #20 STCV31938).

In 2021, Michael Weinstein's personal assistant sued him and the company for numerous violations. These include misclassifying her as an exempt employee and regularly working her 60-80 hours in a week without overtime pay

and cutting short meal and rest breaks. Additionally, she accused them of forcing her to work on political campaigns that overwhelmed her to the point of seeking "the advice of a medical professional." On that advice, she took time off and was terminated "in retaliation." *Teresa Gonzalez v. AIDS Healthcare Foundation and Michael Weinstein* (Gonzalez and AHF entered a Confidential Settlement Agreement in 2022.)

In 2013, [AHF opposed an attempt by employees to unionize under National Union of Healthcare Workers \(NUHW\)](#). Weinstein "contested the validity" of the union drive, while employees complained clinics were understaffed, lacked Spanish interpreters, and that AHF was "not really carrying out their mission." [NUHW accused Michael Weinstein of filing "frivolous legal challenges...to delay the vote."](#) [AHF staff continued to complain of inadequate staffing](#) despite exponential growth in the organization's profits.

Between 2007 and 2018, AHF racked up 12 [OSHA violations](#), resulting in more than \$10,000 in fines.

In 2017, Weinstein and AHF bankrolled to the tune of [\\$5 million a Los Angeles local citywide ballot initiative](#) known as Measure S. The measure was rejected by voters, but had it been approved, it was estimated to result in the loss of [12,000 well-paying jobs](#). Measure S was strongly opposed by [organized labor including the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council](#).

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