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Netflix CEO and Walmart Heir are attempting to buy the Texas State Board of Education

Anti-public school candidate Omar Yanar bought by Charter Schools Now PAC for over \$200,000

El Paso, TX – New Texas Ethics disclosures show Netflix CEO Reed Hastings and Jim Walton of the Walmart family invested a combined \$2 million dollars for their preferred Texas political outcomes [Texas Ethics Commission: [Hastings, Walton](#)]. On the political menu, Omar Yanar. [Charter Schools Now bought big stock in Yanar’s candidacy for State Board of Education - \\$206,908.11 worth of political obedience](#)

Why? It’s about Business. Pay to Play. “Board members can veto or endorse the Texas education commissioner’s recommendation of new charter school applicants... A Charter Schools Now board member said they are contributing to Yanar’s campaign because of his charter school background.” [El Paso Matters, [Feb 24, 2022](#)]

The Waltons and the Hastings are no strangers to extreme education positions and on funding the assault on public neighborhood schools. Reed Hastings supports the [abolition of publicly elected school boards](#). He also serves on the board of charter school business [KIPP](#) and previously on [Rocketship](#), both of whom do business in Texas and who are overseen in part by the State Board of Education.

Texas State Representative Mary Edna Gonzalez, Ph.D. said:

"As a State Representative I have always stood up for charter school accountability and oversight. I think it's dangerous for SBOE candidates to take six-figure donations from PACs pushing the privatization agenda. This money is coming from out-of-state billionaires that want to defund our great El Paso public schools. I stand with former paraprofessional Laura Márquez

in her race because she's the grassroots choice of parents and educators; she won't be bought off by billionaires."

Texas State Board of Education District 1 Candidate Laura Márquez said:

“Omar Yanar is bought and paid for by the rich and powerful charter school industry, and he has made it clear that he is part of the major problems facing our public school system. The charter school industry seeks to dismantle our public schools and lessen the quality of education our children receive each day. Wealthy billionaires, like the Walton family, do not have our border community's best interest at heart and I call on voters across State Board District 1 to reject the ultra-wealthy's attempts to destroy Texas' public education system.”

Additional Background:

“Charter Schools Now PAC contributed \$206,908 in in-kind donations to Omar Yanar’s campaign for the board’s District 1 seat, according to Yanar’s Feb. 22 campaign finance report covering the Jan. 21-Feb. 19 fundraising period. The contributions include political advertising, campaign consulting services and a town hall teleforum... **Yanar did not return requests for comment.**” [El Paso Matters, [Feb 24, 2022](#)] In fact, Charter School Now appears to be running the entirety of the Yanar campaign spending hundreds of thousands in just 30 days to get him elected, while Yanar’s own campaign has spent a grand total of \$5,345 throughout the entire campaign.

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