

MELAT KIROS FOR CONGRESS — CO-01

FACT SHEET | JUNE 2026

Who Is Running Attack Ads Against Melat And Why

Diana DeGette, Melat's opponent, has been in Congress since 1997. In that time, she has taken over \$5.5 million from corporate PACs.

Now, outside Super PACs are dumping hundreds of thousands of dollars into the race on ads attacking Melat because she is a threat to the establishment, and the corporate donors they are beholden to.

- One Super PAC, Mile High Accountability, has already spent \$350,000 and was created just two months ago with no public donors. We won't know who is behind these outside PACs until after the Primary, which is convenient, and the definition of dark money.
- Another corporate PAC run by real estate lobby's National Association of Realtors is pouring thousands into the race to stop Melat because she will actually fight for affordable housing in Denver — while DeGette is being bankrolled by the very lobby raising our rents.

Who Would Want To Hide Their Support For Diana DeGette?

\$5.5M+

Amount DeGette has received in corporate PAC money over her career

\$698K+ii

Amount Degette received in Corporate PAC money in the 2024 cycle alone

64%

Percentage of Degette's fundraising from corporate PACs

3.59%

Percentage of DeGette's fundraising from small individual donors

Degette's Biggest Corporate Donors by Industry

Rep. Diana DeGette has held this seat for 30 years. Nearly two-thirds of her campaign money comes from corporate PACs, with Big Pharma and corporate healthcare lobbies making up the bulk of that, while she sits on the very subcommittee that is supposed to regulate the industry. She *pretends* to support Medicare for All while being bankrolled by the very lobbies trying to stop it from passing. Even the National Nurses United said about her: "To win Medicare for All and finally end corporate control over our health care, candidates and elected officials must refuse to be bought/paid for by the pharmaceutical, hospital, and insurance industries." She also takes tens of thousands of dollars from real estate, big tech, and ICE contractors.

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INDUSTRY	TOTAL
Healthcare (doctors, hospitals, medical industry)	\$721,721
Pharmaceutical Companies	\$349,200
Telecom / Cable (Comcast, AT&T, Charter DISH)	\$257,223
Law Firms / Trial Lawyers	\$138,800
Food / Beverage / Agriculture	\$118,700
Real Estate	\$91,300
Technology (including AI/Data)	\$90,200
Insurance (Cigna, Aetna, UnitedHealth)	\$87,500
Energy	\$63,000
ICE Contractors (Comcast, Deloitte, AT&T, L3Harris)	\$66,500

DeGette's Top Individual Mega-Donors

Among DeGette's biggest individual contributors are some of the wealthiest in America:

- Fisher Family (Gap, Banana Republic, Old Navy) — \$174,500 across 8 family members
- Sean & Alexandra Parker (Facebook founding president, net worth ~\$3B) — \$57,600
- Charles & Cantey Ergen (DISH Network/EchoStar founder, net worth ~\$10B) — \$54,400
- Pat Stryker (CO billionaire, heir to Stryker medical device fortune) — \$32,700
- Norman Brownstein (Denver's most powerful lobbyist; former AIPAC national board member) — \$25,700

Who is Melat Kiros?

Melat Kiros is an immigrant raised in Denver, a lawyer who was fired for defending students' right to protest genocide, and the first person to force Diana DeGette into a real primary fight in 30 years. Melat's family immigrated to Denver from Tigray, Ethiopia in 1998. She grew up here with her parents, little sister, and extended family of aunties, uncles, and cousins. Melat earned her law degree from Notre Dame and in 2023, she was fired from her corporate law firm after she publicly defended students' right to protest the genocide in Gaza. After she was fired, Melat moved home to Denver and has been working in a local coffee shop while running for Congress.

IMMIGRANT RAISED IN DENVER

Tigrayan-Ethiopian American. Eaglecrest High School. Her family came to Denver in 1998 and still lives here.

FIRED FOR SPEAKING THE TRUTH

Lost her law job defending students' right to protest Gaza Genocide. Didn't back down

100% PEOPLE-POWERED

Takes zero corporate PAC money. Raising the most from individual donors of any candidate

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WHAT THEY'RE ATTACKING MELAT FOR

Calling to end U.S. funding of Israel's military
Supporting a moratorium on AI data centers
Calling to abolish ICE
Refusing corporate PAC money — including AIPAC and tech lobbyists
Supporting affordable housing policies
Holding establishment Democrats accountable

WHAT A MAJORITY OF DENVERITES BELIEVE

U.S. tax dollars should not fund genocide
AI companies should be regulated, not handed blank checks
ICE has terrorized our communities and must be replaced
Politicians should answer to voters, not donors
Denver deserves a representative who actually shows up

What Melat Will Fight For

Medicare for All

Cut out the insurance middleman and guarantee healthcare to every American

Abolish ICE

Replace it with legal pathways, asylum judges, and community safety

End Israel's genocide in Gaza and Trump's war in Iran

Redirect \$3.8B in military aid to housing, healthcare, and education

Universal childcare and free public education

Self explanatory and fully mandatory

End billionaire handouts

Tax the rich, reverse the Trump tax cuts

No corporate PAC money, ever

Will not vote for any Democrat in leadership who takes corporate PAC money