

# Big Ballroom Donation Divulged by Health Care Company Vantive

Jan 29, 2026, 12:31 PM EST

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White House East Wing ballroom construction.

Photo by Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

## Summary by Bloomberg AI

- Vantive, an organ therapy company, donated \$2.5 million to the White House ballroom project as it lobbied on Medicare billing and other issues.
- The company's donation was disclosed in a semi-annual contribution filing with Congress for registered federal lobbying entities.
- Democrats and ethics watchdogs have questioned the motivations of donors to the ballroom project, citing concerns about the appearance of seeking to buy influence.

Vantive, an organ therapy company, donated \$2.5 million to the White House ballroom project last year, as it lobbied on Medicare billing and other issues, a new disclosure revealed.

Vantive US Healthcare LLC dated the donation to Oct. 13, ahead of an Oct. 15 dinner at the White House to fete donors who had given big sums. The company publicly divulged the dollar amount and date in a **semi-annual contribution filing** with Congress for registered federal lobbying entities due Friday, giving a rare public glimpse into a fundraising project that has generated controversy among congressional Democrats and ethics watchdogs in Washington.

The White House has previously disclosed the identities of some donors to the multimillion-dollar ballroom project. Donors contribute to the ballroom through the Trust for the National Mall, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that isn't required to disclose most donors.

Vantive's outside lobbying firms include Ballard Partners, Washington's biggest lobbying firm last year, which has ties to the Trump administration. Founder Brian Ballard said he has helped raise money for the ballroom.

Vantive's other lobbying firms include Akin, one of the city's largest, and Checkmate Government Relations, another firm with links to the administration and lawmakers.

Democrats on Capitol Hill have questioned known ballroom donors, including tech giants such as Microsoft, about their motivation in giving money to help construct an expanded East Wing ballroom, spearheaded by President Donald Trump.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) launched an investigation last year to examine whether "corporate donors funding Trump's ballroom are seeking favors with the Administration," she wrote on the platform X.

Company representatives have told lawmakers in written statements the contributions were intended to be corporate philanthropy, not a quid pro quo.

"Microsoft's donation was offered without any intent to influence or affect any issue, proceeding or business Microsoft has before the federal government," the company **wrote** in December.

Trump has championed the project.

"President Trump is generously donating his time and resources to build a beautiful White House ballroom, a project which past presidents only dreamed about," said White House spokesman Davis Ingle, in an email statement to Bloomberg Government. "Since announcing this historic plan, the White House has been inundated with calls from generous Americans and American companies wishing to contribute."

Vantive didn't respond to a request for comment beyond its public filing.

The health care company, in a separate filing earlier this month, disclosed lobbying the Executive Office of the President, the Health and Human Services Department, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Senate, and the House. It spent more than \$2 million on federal lobbying in 2025, according to disclosures.

Reimbursement for end-stage renal disease, physician reimbursement for remote patient monitoring, and legislation (H.R. 4441) to expand Medicare coverage of new medical devices were among the issues the company said it lobbied on.

Government ethics watchdogs have said the contributions by those with a lobbying agenda may give an appearance of seeking to buy influence.

"Donations to the ballroom are a problem because they support this pay-to-play narrative of the administration that these donations make it appear that you must provide the president with some contribution or donation or gift in order to get any benefit from the administration's policies and actions," said Kedric Payne, senior director of ethics at the Campaign Legal Center. "So the ethical concern is that these donations may translate into official actions that benefit these companies and individuals for their contribution."

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