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SOUTH FLORIDA



## Real estate rallies behind West Palm Beach mayoral frontrunner

Developers have fueled Christina Lambert's \$1M cash pile as industry ally Keith James is term-limited



Christina Lambert with Isaac Toledano, Steve Ross and Jorge Pérez (Getty, Christina Lambert)

Christina Lambert, the frontrunner in West Palm Beach's 2027 mayoral race, has real estate's vote. At least that's what campaign finance filings show.

Lambert has raised more than \$1 million since launching her run for mayor last year, between direct donations and contributions to the political action committee Friends of Christina Lambert. A web of LLCs and political action committees link the funds and Lambert's campaign to some of the biggest developers in Palm Beach County, including Steve Ross, Jorge Pérez, Isaac Toledano and Bobby Julien.

# THE REAL DEAL

REAL ESTATE NEWS

Keith James, the mayor of West Palm Beach since 2019 and longtime industry ally, is term-limited and leaving office next year. The stakes are high for developers as power changes hands, and their political spending reflects as much.

At least \$121,000 of the funds raised came from real estate donors, according to analysis by *The Real Deal*.

Lambert has received donations from the Morrison family's Sympatico Real Estate, Wexford Real Estate Investors and Blair Brandt, top Palm Beach agent Margit Brandt's husband and chief marketing officer. The Morrison family has two condo projects in the works in West Palm Beach: Mr. C Hotel & Residences West Palm Beach in partnership with David Martin's Terra, and the Berkeley, which is a joint effort with developer Al Adelson.

Friends of Christina Lambert raised \$377,000 from Citizens for Law Order and Ethics, a political action committee led by political consultant Rick Asnani, who counts Related Ross among his clients. The PAC's donors include spec developer Joe Farrell and the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

It also receives a large number of contributions from another Asnani-run political action committee with deep real estate ties, Floridians from Economic Leadership. The contributors to that PAC include Ross, Pérez's Related Group, Toledano's BH Group and Julien's Kolter Group. Stefan Soloviev, Two Roads Development and NDT Development, the group building the Nora District in West Palm Beach, are also donors to the PAC, campaign finance records show.

Lambert made waves when she launched her campaign for mayor a year ago, more than two years ahead of the 2027 election. Her campaign claims the \$1 million raised came in at a record pace, according to a news release.

Her challenger, Palm Beach County Commissioner Gregg Weiss, has raised just over \$237,000 since announcing his bid, campaign filings show.