CES Leadership

Chief Executive Officer Nina Taylor

Nina Taylor, MA, brings over 20 years of experience in instructional design, scientific research, strategy, organizational readiness, social impact, fundraising, and partnership development. She has held leadership roles at the American Society for Radiation Oncology and the American Psychiatric Association, spearheading initiatives like the Mental Health Innovation Zone and the Psychiatry Innovation Lab. Nina holds degrees from La Roche University and Bowie State University, with certifications in entrepreneurship, clinical trials, and leadership. In her free time, she mentors young entrepreneurs, supports Girls with Impact, and contributes to political campaigns. She joined CES in January 2024. ✉ nina@electionscience.org
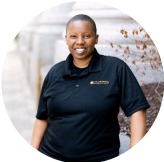
Board Leadership

Michael Ruvinsky, Chair
ACTOR (AKA MICHAEL JAMES BELL) & FORMER DATABASE ENGINEER
Los Angeles, CA
michael@electionscience.org

John Hegeman, Vice Chair
HEAD OF MONETIZATION AT META
Menlo Park, CA
john@electionscience.org

LaShana Lewis, Treasurer
CEO AND FOUNDER, L. M. LEWIS CONSULTING
Los Angeles, CA
lashana@electionscience.org

Justine Metz, Secretary
PRESIDENT, SAPIENTIA STRATEGIC CONSULTING
Denver, CO
justine@electionscience.org

Kristine Reeves, Director
FOUNDER, POLITICAL EQUITY PROJECT & MANAGING PARTNER, STRUO STRATEGIES, LLC
Federal Way, WA
kristine@electionscience.org

Sara Ponzio, Director
DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL, COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
Burlingame, CA
sara@electionscience.org

Staff

Brandi Matthews M.A., J.D.
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
Mustang, OK
brandi@electionscience.org

Allison Sardinas M.A.
DIRECTOR OF MARKETS & PARTNERSHIPS Savannah, GA
allison@electionscience.org
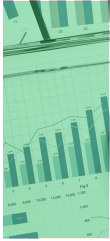
Whitney Hua PhD
DIRECTOR OF APPLIED DATA & RESEARCH Los Angeles, CA - whitney@electionscience.org
Joined 2021

The Center for Election Science is a National, Nonpartisan Reform Organization
CES is a 501(c)(3) fully remote nonpartisan nonprofit organization that advocates for approval voting in state legislatures, educates the public, and advances the study of key and under-researched topics like vote splitting.
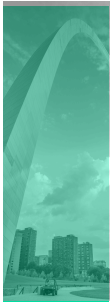
CES Background
& History

CES Was Founded to Analyze Voting Methods

The Center for Election Science (CES) was founded in 2011 to agnostically analyze different voting methods. The goal was to determine if a voting method could balance theoretical voter improvement with real-world demands like cost and complexity. While many other methods, such as ranked choice voting, were in vogue, CES analysis led the organization to support the simple and powerful method of approval voting.

CES Leads Charge to Bring Approval Voting Into American Politics

While approval voting has been around since the 13th century and is used by contemporary organizations like the United Nations and the American Mathematical Society, it had not been used in public governmental elections for some time. In 2018, CES was instrumental in bringing approval voting into American politics, successfully supporting reformers in Fargo, ND (2018), and St. Louis, MO (2020), to bring this voting method to city elections. Since 2020, over 30 races in the two cities have featured approval voting without any issues, and voter support for the new method is high.

CES Advocates for the Adoption of Approval Voting Across America

The Center works with activists, election practitioners, legislators, and politicians across the country to push for legislation, ballot measures, and changes to internal rules to bring approval voting to more localities. CES's goal in the coming years is to expand approval voting to more cities and states.

CES Seeks an End of Vote Splitting in Elections

Our current "choose one" voting system forces voters to select only one candidate, regardless of the number of candidates running. This often leads to vote splitting, where each new candidate divides the votes of those already in the race. This phenomenon can enable a hyperpartisan candidate to win in a field of moderates. Adopting approval voting eliminates vote splitting and provides voters with more choices.

Research & Analysis

The Center for Election Science has a robust research agenda that focuses on key, yet under-studied, topics

- Impact of Vote Split Elections
- Voting Methods and Their Impact on Outcomes
- Voter Attitudes on Election Reform
- Voter Information & News Sources
- Young Voters & Political Engagement