



THE CENTER FOR  
**ELECTION** **SCIENCE**

*2015 Annual Report*

***“We make democracy smart.”***

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## **Letter from the Executive Director**

Dear Friends,

We're now finished with year five. This year we designed the voting system for the Webby Awards, ran the straw poll for the Republican Liberty Caucus, successfully proposed a nomination system for the Hugo Award, and reached out to third parties, getting them on board with better voting methods. You'll also find that we've landed some media this year. We hope you enjoy sharing these victories with us because it's your support that helps make this happen.

Some of you have been with us from our very beginning, a loose collective of academics, engineers, and election geeks. I was still in law school the first two years! We've recently become more formal, having developed a strategic plan, identified grant writers, and investigated diverse revenue streams for sustainability. We see the exciting successes of 2015 as a preview of what's to come, particularly in the 2016 election year.

Thank you. We know that, despite voting methods being immensely important, some people find it to be an abstract topic. We thank you for valuing this issue with us and sharing our mission together. We hope you enjoy our 2015 annual report!

With Great Devotion,

**The Center for Election Science**



Aaron Hamlin, J.D.

Executive Director

### **Board of Directors**

Dr. Andrew Jennings, Chair

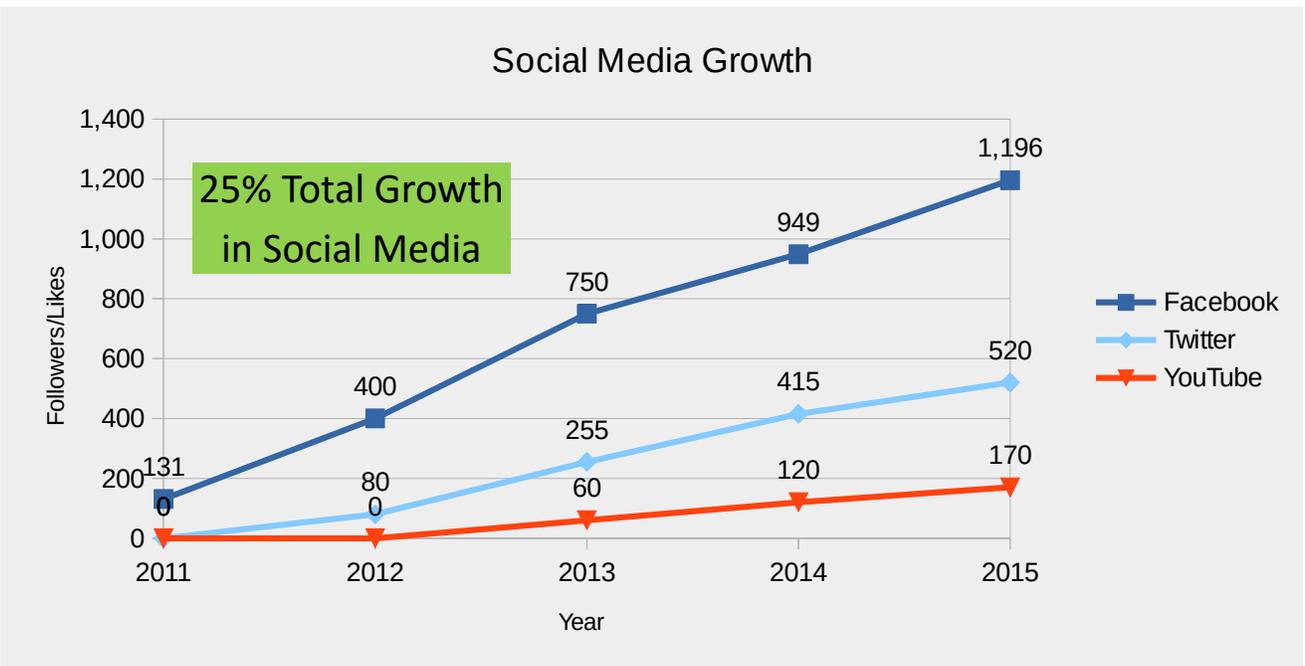
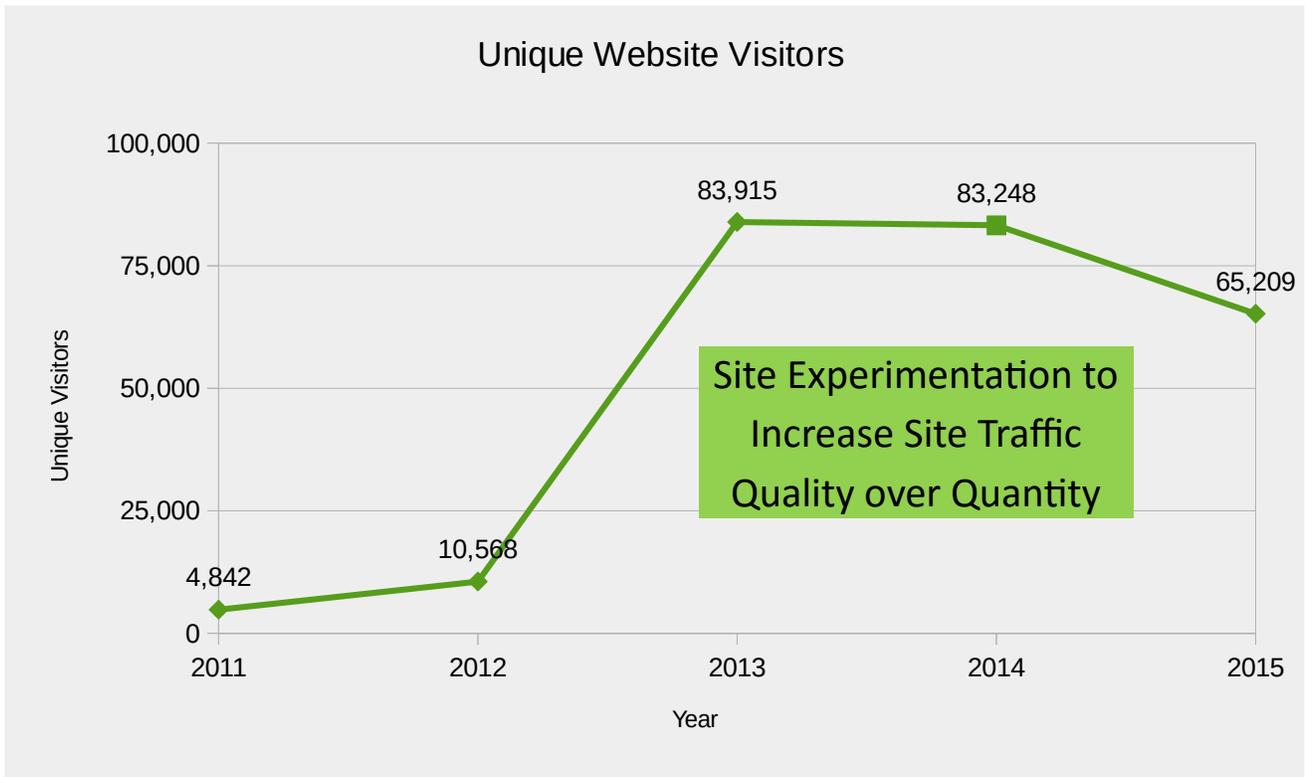
Jameson Quinn, Vice-Chair

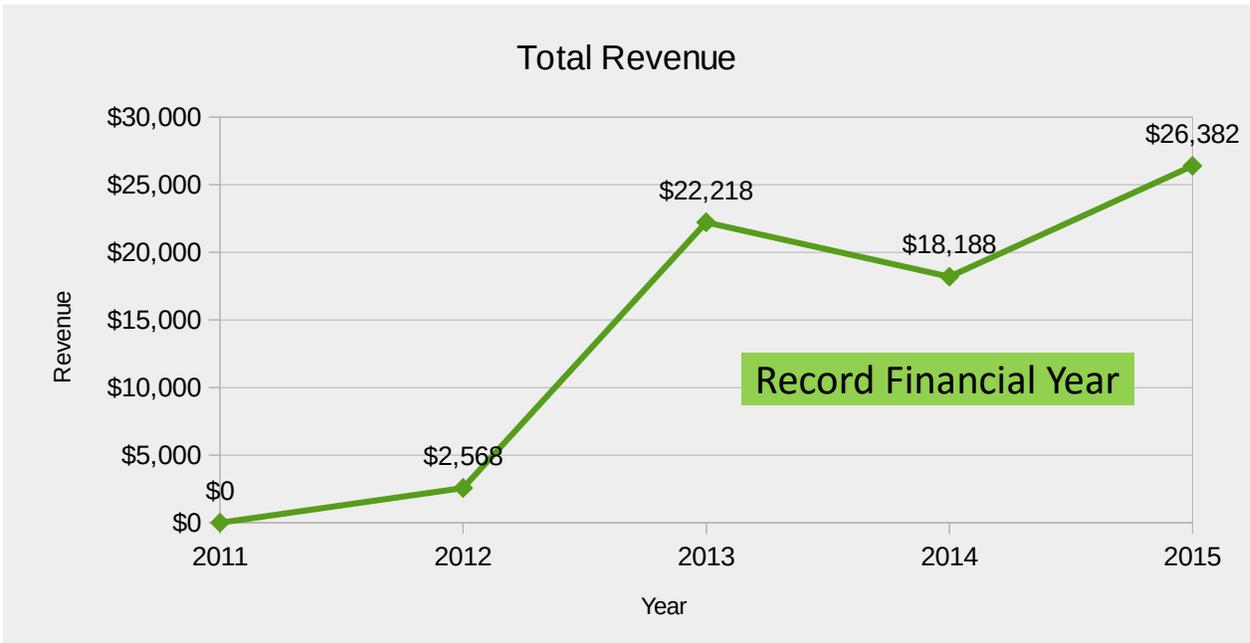
Stephen Cobb, Treasurer

Dr. Patrik Lundh, Secretary

Janice Dru, Parliamentarian

## Organizational Growth





**Thank You For Your Generous Giving!**

Aggregate Giving through 2015

*Donations < \$1,000*

150+ Donors

*\$1,000 - \$4,999*

Frank Atwood, Steven Brams, Harvie Branscomb, Steve Cobb,  
 Andrew Jennings, Jordon Kalilich, Leon Smith,  
 Jameson Quinn, Greg Wolfe

*Donations \$5K +*

Mark Frohnmayer, Robert Norman, Clay Shentrup

## Welcome New Directors & Advisers!

### Board of Directors



Patrik Lundh, Ph.D.

Patrik grew up in Stockholm, Sweden. He received his undergraduate degree in anthropology from San Francisco State University and his Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of California, Santa Cruz. His doctorate research focused on civil and human rights advocacy in Russia.

Since 2007, Patrik has been an education researcher at SRI International where he conducts research on math and science learning and partners with K-12 policy makers in California and nationally. He lives in San Francisco with his wife and children. He enjoys spending his free time writing fiction and playing guitar.

### Advisory Board



Robert Norman, Ph.D.

Dr. Robert Norman is an emeritus professor of mathematics at Dartmouth College. He chaired the Program in Mathematics and the Social Sciences from 1972 to 1992. His research interests include combinatorics, as well as applications in sociology, psychology, and social choice theory.

He is currently focusing on comparing voting systems, their assets and their faults, both on a theoretical basis and as they might be considered by public and private organizations as they seek to adopt voting systems that are better than plurality or plurality with runoff. His most recent publication was in the journal *Public Choice* focusing on monotonicity failure in instant runoff voting.

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## Articles



## Authors (Ordered by authorship number)



Aaron Hamlin  
CES Executive Director



Robert Harris  
Oregon Outpost  
Co-founder & Editor



Jameson Quinn  
CES Board Member



Chris Loer  
Founder of Uxor  
Navium Labs



Darryl Perry  
Owner & Managing  
Editor of Free Press  
Publications

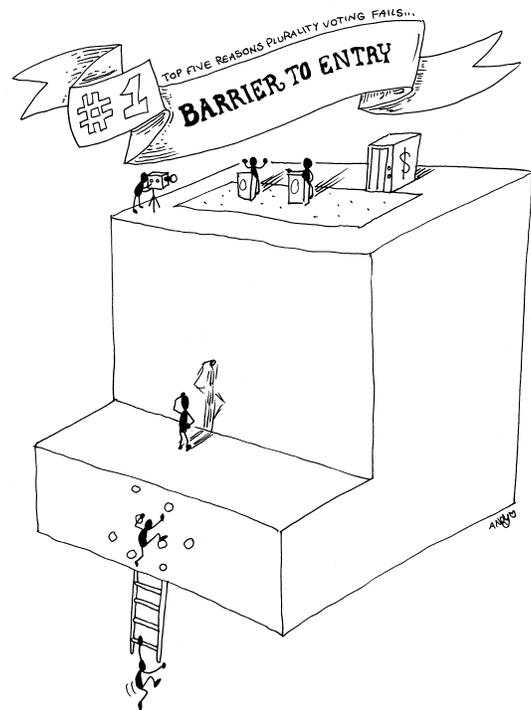
## 2015 Article Titles & Links

- [Trudeau's Proportional Representation Promise](#)
- [November Radio Blitz](#)
- [CES Conducts the Republican Liberty Caucus Straw Poll](#)
- [IVN Shows Why Approval Polls Matter](#)
- [Let Trump Run Independent If He Wants](#)
- [Pollsters Struggle As Republicans Field Enough Candidates To Fill Two Baseball Teams](#)
- [Behind the Webby Curtain](#)
- [Who Gets To Debate?](#)
- [What matters more when selecting multiple winners: overall support or minority representation?](#)
- [Better Ballot Access](#)
- [Whose Debate Is It?](#)
- [Top 5 Ways Plurality Voting Fails](#)
- [Are Award Ceremonies Meaningful?](#)
- [Approval Voting to Select the "Best" News Source](#)
- [Approval Voting Coming to Portland](#)

We also give a special thank you to volunteer Andy Schuler for his article illustrations in “Top 5 Ways Plurality Fails.” (See “Barrier to Entry” illustration to the right.)



Many of our articles have been syndicated by Independent Voter Network and Democracy Chronicles to reach a larger audience. We thank them for their support in sharing our work.



## Media

### Online & Print

MSNBC.com: [5 Ways to Make the First GOP Debate More Inclusive](#)

“Fox’s first misstep is that they use polls that ask people whom they will vote for, which isn’t relevant in deciding who debates. Plus, their polls force respondents to pick only one candidate. When you can only pick one, support artificially divides among similar candidates. This blurs any real meaning from the results,” said Aaron Hamlin, the director of the Center for Election Science. ‘For debate inclusion, the best polling question to use is, ‘Would you like to see this candidate in the debates?’ Then let people answer, ‘Yes,’ ‘No,’ or ‘No Opinion.’ If people say yes more than no for a candidate, then let that candidate debate. This asks a relevant question and lets people give a full response. Candidates that walk on stage will be there only because people wanted them there.”

- *Interview with MSNBC.com*

Washington Examiner: [Rand Paul snags libertarian straw poll, Cruz gets second](#)

“Andrew Jennings, board chair of the Center for Election Science, a nonprofit group which conducted the poll, praised its unconventional style because it would ‘prevent spoilers and let all candidates see their true level of support’ by preventing the vote from being split in a crowded Republican field.”

- *Interview with Washington Examiner on our Republican Liberty Caucus poll.*

### Radio & Podcast Interviews

- Free Talk Live
- 1380AM The Big
- Phil Hullet & Friends
- Jim Brown's Common Sense
- Doug Stephan's Morning Show

Our media outreach was made possible through the initial work of CES board member Janice Dru.

## **Projects & Activities**

### **Conferences & Events**

#### Voting Methods & Election Integrity Symposium

Executive director Aaron Hamlin spoke on a panel discussing voting methods with other experts and state officials in Colorado. This trip was co-coordinated with CES chair Dr. Andrew Jennings and was made possible by Frank Atwood. This event was hosted by Free and Equal and televised by Free Speech TV. ([Symposium Video](#))



*Executive Director Aaron Hamlin talking at the Voting Methods & Election Integrity Symposium*

#### Liberty Forum

Executive director Aaron Hamlin gave a talk to convention attendees on the benefit of approval voting to third parties and major parties. Both Aaron Hamlin and Jameson Quinn tabled for the event.

#### National Green Party Convention

Executive director Aaron Hamlin spoke on how using approval voting internally for the Green Party would be beneficial. This trip was made possible by Dr. Donald Rucknagel. ([Presentation Video](#))

## Consulting

### Republican Liberty Caucus Straw Presidential Straw Poll

CES board members Dr. Andrew Jennings and Stephen Cobb implemented polling comparing multiple voting methods under a secure paper ballot system with voter verification. Thanks to volunteer Blake Huber for his help with the poll.

As a consequence of the poll, approval voting received significant media attention, including in [Politico](#), [The Washington Times](#), and [The Hill](#).



*Dr. Andrew Jennings shown here running the polling station at the Republican Liberty Caucus National Convention*

### The Webby Awards

The Webby Awards recognizes the best content on the internet. CES board member Jameson Quinn led an effort with multiple CES team members and volunteers to [help the Webby awards](#) develop a queuing algorithm for judging Webby candidates.

### Hugo Awards

The Hugo Awards are used to recognize the best in science fiction writing. CES board member Jameson Quinn offered an innovative solution for the Hugo Award nomination process, which was implemented. This trip was made possible by a collective of supporters.

## Sponsorship

### Ethics and Economics Education (E<sup>3</sup>ne)

Ethics & Economics Challenge is a program for New England high school students providing an introduction to moral questions relating to business and economic policy. CES provided the book *Gaming the Vote* for their entire 2016 fall class. This coordination was made possible by Dr. Jason Sorens, president and co-founder of [E<sup>3</sup>ne](#).



## **CES 2015 Financial Report**

### Income Statement

#### The Center for Election Science For the 12 months ended 31 December 2015

	Dec-15	Dec-14	Dec-13	Dec-12
<b>Revenue</b>				
Donation In Kind	11,318	-	1,387	-
Donations	9,366	3,914	16,288	2,568
Donations, Recurring	3,148	5,453	-	-
Grants	2,417	8,821	-	-
Interest Income	1	1	22	-
Other Revenue	132	-	2,777	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>26,382</b>	<b>18,188</b>	<b>20,474</b>	<b>2,568</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>26,382</b>	<b>18,188</b>	<b>20,474</b>	<b>2,568</b>
<b>Operating Income / (Loss)</b>	<b>26,382</b>	<b>18,188</b>	<b>20,474</b>	<b>2,568</b>
<b>Other Income and Expense</b>				
Advertising	-	-	(545)	-
Bank Service Charges	(256)	(302)	(1,208)	(30)
Conferences	(350)	(400)	-	-
Consulting & Accounting	-	-	(58)	-
Dues & Subscriptions	-	-	(13)	-
General Expenses	(75)	(1,031)	(564)	(24)
Human Resources	(1,296)	(1,444)	-	-
Information Technology	(1,594)	(1,305)	-	-
In-Kind Expense	(1,000)	-	-	-
Net Wages and Salaries	(7,805)	(7,074)	(2,212)	-
Office Expenses	(174)	-	-	-
Outreach	(3,210)	-	(10,943)	-
Payroll Tax Expense	(2,521)	(2,255)	(825)	-
Printing & Stationery	(503)	-	-	-
Promotional merchandise cost	(434)	-	-	-
Telephone & Internet	(112)	-	(409)	(74)
Travel	(5,227)	(1,998)	(539)	-
Travel Meals and Incidentals	(366)	-	-	-
<b>Total Other Income and Expense</b>	<b>(24,922)</b>	<b>(15,809)</b>	<b>(17,316)</b>	<b>(128)</b>
<b>Net Income / (Loss) before Tax</b>	<b>1,461</b>	<b>2,380</b>	<b>3,158</b>	<b>2,440</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>1,461</b>	<b>2,380</b>	<b>3,158</b>	<b>2,440</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>1,461</b>	<b>2,380</b>	<b>3,158</b>	<b>2,440</b>