



THE CENTER FOR
ELECTIONSCIENCE

2017 Annual Report

“We make democracy smart.”

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Proper funding is always a necessity for nonprofits like us to be able to achieve our mission. As you can see from the spike in our income, the end of this past year was quite special. We received a grant of nearly \$600,00 from the Open Philanthropy Project. You can find further details in this report, but it's clear that this funding will allow us to advance better voting methods in a way that was simply not possible earlier.

In previous years, I worked as executive director for two independent nonprofits—simultaneously. Starting in 2018, I'll now have the luxury of working exclusively for The Center for Election Science. We'll also look forward to having a small set of core staff (who are now hired as of this writing). This will undoubtedly have a positive impact on our team's capacity. The next year will be a year of growing and honing in on getting approval voting to its first US city.

Finally, we want to thank you for being with us as we push an uphill but worthwhile battle to fundamentally change our elections. We want voters like you to finally have a meaningful tool to express your voice.

With Great Devotion,



The Center for Election Science

Aaron Hamlin

Executive Director

Board of Directors

Janice Dru, Chair

Jameson Quinn, Vice-Chair

Kerry Keys, Treasurer

Jeff Justice, Secretary

Felix Sargent, Parliamentarian

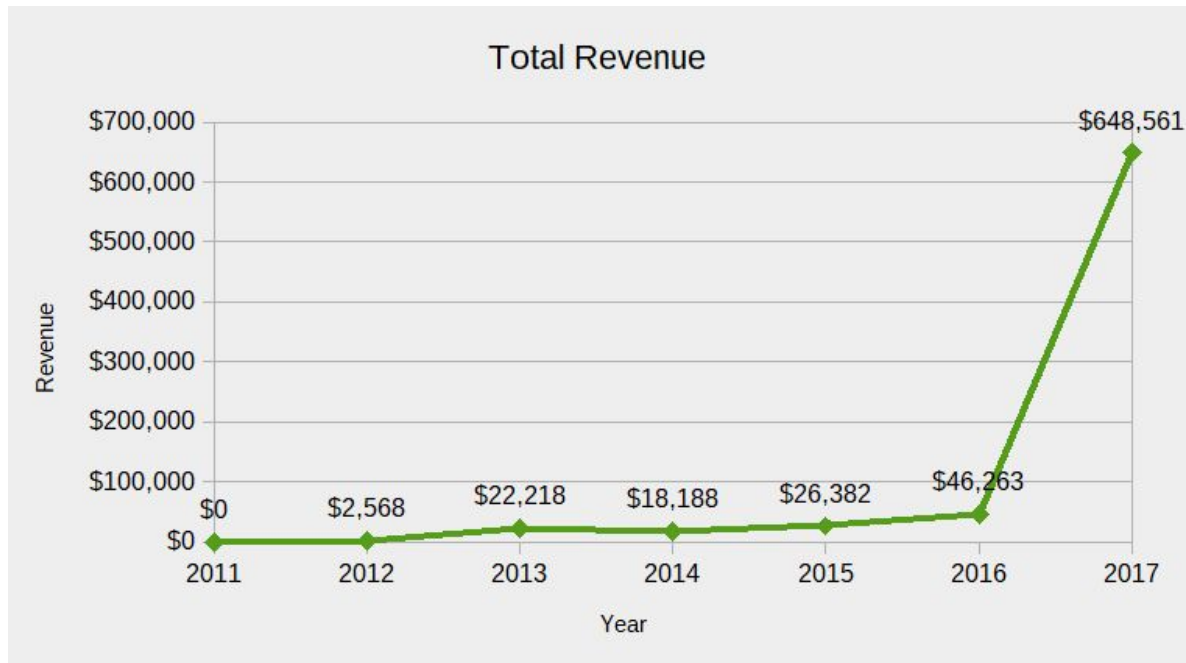
Neal McBurnett, At-large

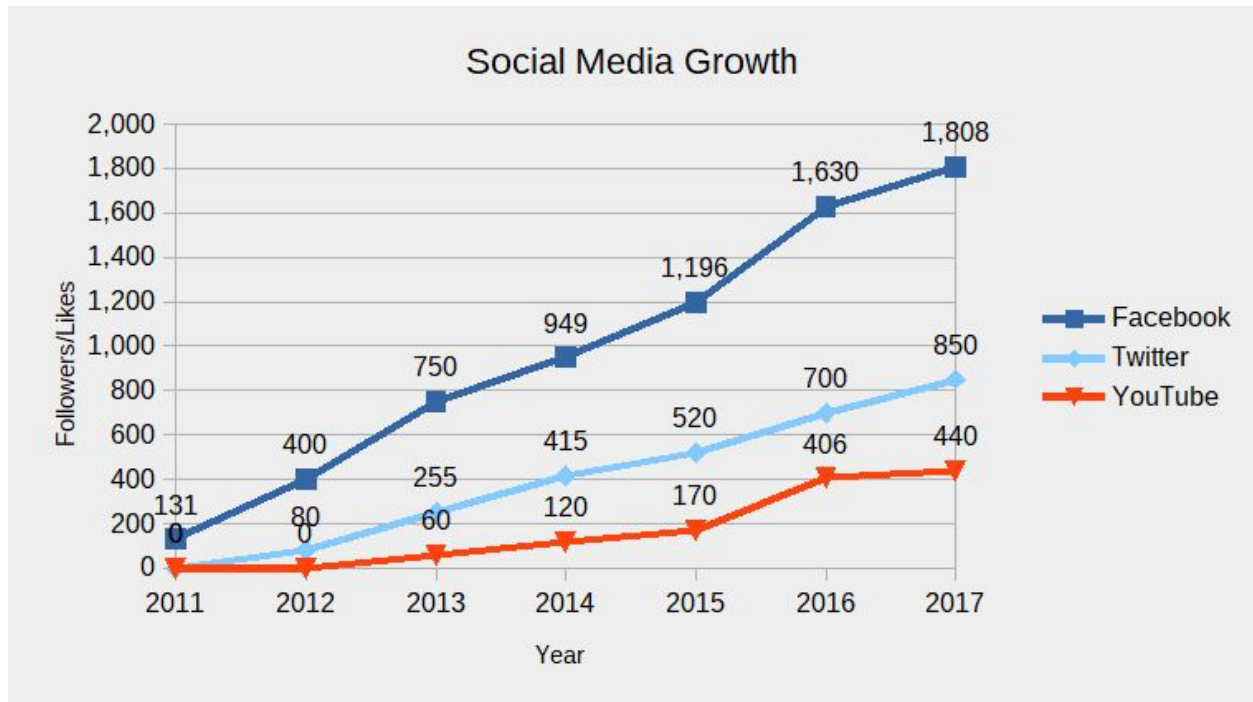
Nathaniel Schwalb, At-large

Jon Roberts, At-large

Jon Gosier, At-large

Organizational Growth





Thank You For Your Generous Giving!

We've changed up how we're presenting donors this year. We're now showing donations within each year rather than in aggregate. To make sure recent folks don't miss out, we've listed out our 2016 donors, too.

2017 Donors

\$100,000+

Open Philanthropy Project

\$10,000+

Robert Norman

\$5,000+

Mark Frohnmayer

\$2,500+

Jonathan Roberts

\$1,000+

Branscomb Family Foundation, Janice Dru, Jeff Justice, Neal McBurnett, Mike Osenar, Helen & Dan Quinn, **Andrea Torres**

\$500+

Frank Atwood, Ben Creasy, Patrick Lawson, Patrik Lundh

\$250+

Steven Brams, Jordon Kalilich, Jan Kok, Jen Marcum, Grey Nearing, Ryan Petersen, **Michael Rowley**, Jonathan Summers, **Tim Swast**, Ben Woosley

\$100+

Jonathan Bright, **Derek Britz**, Neil Castine, Joseph Corliss, Christopher DeSantis, Douglas Dysart, Jeff Gran, Adam Haber, Dylan Hirsch-Shell, Steve Levin, Mark McCartney, **Bob Myers**, Jameson Quinn, Leon Smith, Jim Snow

\$1-\$99

Robert Crowner, Colleen Dempsey, Bonnie Dixon, Jocelyn Dru, Josephine Dru, Brandon Fulcher, Linda Hevenor, Ariel Kirkwood, Rudy Klecka, Bernard Kobes, Eric Leventhal Arthen, Derek Lidow, Elizabeth Maciorowski, John Madeira, Penny Meyers, Vsevolod Onyshkevych, Michael Ruvinsky, **Felix Sargent**, Michael Sauvante, Brian Shank, David C. Sokal, Gerard St-Cyr, Ayodele Talabi, Aaron Tellier, Rob Tyson, Debra Wheatman

Corporate Donors

Google, MediaMath, Microsoft, Pacific Gas & Electric

2016 Donors

\$5,000+

Robert Norman

\$2,500+

Aaron Hamlin

\$1,000+

Branscomb Family Foundation

\$500+

Neli Castine, Eric Cornell, Janice Dru, Blake Huber, Andrew Jennings, Jeff Justice, Patrick Lundh, Tim Swast

\$250+

Jordon Kalilich, Jan Kok, Jenn Marcum, **Bob Myers, Andrea Torres**, Ben Woosley

\$100+

Eric Bischoff, Stephen Cobb, Joseph Corliss, Douglas Dysart, Jeff Gran, Daniel Karlan, Spencer Kearns, Grey Nearing, Jameson Quinn, **Michael Rowley**, Leon Smith, Greg Wolfe

\$1-\$99

William Alder, Frank Atwood, William Bower, Jonathan Bright, Ben Creasy, Bonnie Dixon, Judy Frankel, Michael Fulcher, Wilton Lam, Bethany Landrum, Robert Lanphier, John Lockhart, Rupal Khilari, Guy Ottewell, Dominic Paris, Mahendra Prasad, Barry Rafkind, Michael Ruvinsky, Jamie Schmidt, Arthur Thomas IV, **Michael VanBemmel**, Jonathan Williams

Corporate Donors

Google, Microsoft, Pacific Gas & Electric

Many thanks to our **donors listed in bold** who have **helped us secure matching donations from their employer!** Want to make your donation have twice the impact? Contact Kirsten Elliott, Director of Philanthropy, to find out if your employer has a matching gift program.

Welcome New Board Directors & Advisors!



Kerry Keys, CPA: Treasurer, Director

Falls Church, VA

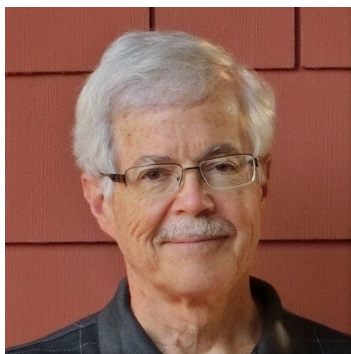
Kerry moved to the DC metro area after earning his Master of Accounting degree from UNC - Chapel Hill, and provides financial management support for federal agencies as an associate for PricewaterhouseCoopers.



Jon Roberts: Director

New York, NY

Jon co-founded Grenian Capital, LLC in 2011, an investment firm trading environmental commodities to finance new renewable energy and green infrastructure projects. Previously, Jon spent 30 years in reinsurance as a senior executive at AIG, MetLife, and founded a new reinsurer backed by Morgan Stanley.



Jeff Justice: Secretary, Director [E-mail]

Palo Alto, CA

Jeff has degrees from Stanford in physics and industrial engineering. Both involved significant study in statistics and decision theory, which directly relate to voting methods. Jeff's career included writing algorithms for experimental data analysis, financial decision making, and data collection from chemical instrumentation. His hobbies include running, videography, and studying physics. You can find his physics videos on the QuantumBaking channel.



Felix Sargent: Director

Brooklyn, NY

Felix is a Director of Engineerings at MediaMath. He's passionate about enabling effective development internally and externally. He also provided engineering functions at Salesforce and Google. He holds a B.A. degree in Economics from San Francisco State University. In his spare time, he enjoys working on open source civic software with BetaNYC and mentoring for The Product Mentor Group.



Nathaniel Schwalb: Director

Boston, MA

Nathaniel is a researcher at Harvard Business School, where he writes on management decisions regarding strategy, finance, and human capital. He is a former strategy consultant and Yale University graduate, where he studied ethics, politics, and economics.

Nathaniel became involved with The Center for Election Science through the Effective Altruism movement, which he has been involved with since 2013. He lives in Boston with his girlfriend.



Jon Gosier: Director

Philadelphia, PA

Jon Gosier has consistently been ranked as one of the most influential technologists of Black/African descent by publications like TIME, USA Today, The New York Times, Business Insider, Pitchbook, MIPAD and Black Enterprise. He's founded or led VC backed companies in various areas of fin-tech, artificial intelligence, big data, media and ad-tech. His work has been recognized with awards totaling in the millions from the Knight Foundation, Mozilla Foundation, the Harvard Initiative for Global Health, and the Information Technology Senior Management Forum (ITSMF).



Herrade Igersheim, Ph.D.: Advisor

Strasbourg, France

Herrade teaches at the University of Strasbourg. Dealing with philosophy and economics, social choice or experimental economics applied to voting, her works aim to examine the concept of liberalism of freedom.

Herrade earned her Ph.D. in economics at the University of Strasbourg in 2004. She then pursued her research at Barcelona, Aix-Marseille and back to Strasbourg. She was a research fellow at Duke University (NC) in 2015/16. Notably, to conduct her experimental research on approval and evaluative voting rules, she led or co-led several projects funded by the French National Research Agency, France Stratégie and the Foundation of the University of Strasbourg.

Articles

- [Honest Voters Had A Preference In 2016](#)
- [Remembering Kenneth Arrow and His Impossibility Theorem](#)
- [The Majority Illusion: What Voting Methods Can and Cannot Do](#)
- [2017 French Presidential Elections: Do They Do It Better?](#)
- [Voting Methods: An Open Target for Effective Altruism](#)
- [Maine Supreme Court Gets It Wrong On IRV](#)
- [What Is A Voting Method?](#)
- [Let the Giving Games Begin!](#)
- [Making Approval Voting A Reality In US Elections](#)
- [Ten Critiques \(And Defenses\) On Approval Voting](#)

Authors: Aaron Hamlin (9), Jameson Quinn (1)

Third Party Publications:

- [Independent Voter Network](#)
- [Democracy Chronicles](#)



Media Spots & Mentions:

- [The Policy](#)
- [Democracy Chronicles](#)
- [Independent Voter Network](#)
- [Seattle Transit Blog](#)
- [The Tim Corrimal Show](#)
- [WPRO News Talk Radio](#)
- [Friends of Kevin Radio Show](#)
- [BlueGrass Broadside](#)
- [Reporter Herald \(Colorado\)](#)
- [Times Call \(Colorado\)](#)

Volunteer Spotlight



Rupal Khilari - Lead Software Developer (Polling App)

San Francisco, CA

Rupal just graduated with a Masters in Computer Science at San Francisco State University. Prior to this, she worked at Rhythm and Hues Studios, an Animation and Visual Effects studio, as a software developer. She designed workflows for its computer graphics production pipeline to facilitate artists' work. Apart from programming, Rupal enjoys painting, playing the piano, and exploring virtual reality. Rupal leads our [polling app project](#).



Nicholas Wilson - Digital Media & Advertising (Facebook)

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Nic studied international political economy at the Colorado College. His background is in public affairs, communication strategy, election campaigns, and data science. As the Head of Strategy & Media at a digital marketing agency based in Dubai, he currently develops social media strategy and ad campaigns for public and private sector clients in the Middle East. He is also actively involved with tech startups and entrepreneurs based in emerging and frontier markets. Nic helps us with Facebook Ads.



Andy Schuler - Graphics/Comic Artist

Minneapolis, MN

Andy has done comics for High Class Comics since 2009 and has been drawing long since. You can find Andy's work in our articles and social media.

Corporate Volunteer Support



SavvyK - Online Marketing

White Rock, British Columbia, Canada

SavvyK provides marketing services in pay-per-click advertising, SEO, and non-pay-per-click advertising. These fine folks have been helping us manage our adwords account through Google Grants.

Projects & Activities

Fargo & Approval Voting

We spent a lot of time this year behind the scenes providing support for local residents in Fargo. Fargo elections task force member Jed Limke initially reached out to us to learn about voting methods to do his due diligence on the task force. Following that, he became a big supporter of approval voting, and so did the task force. But rather than listen to the task force, the commission repeatedly created delays. Consequently, Jed Limke will be running the organization Reform Fargo in 2018 to make sure Fargo residents have a voice on the matter. If successful in 2018, Fargo will be the first US city to pass approval voting to elect someone for government office.

Fargo residents provide input on election reform

By [Kim Hyatt](#) on Dec 13, 2017 at 9:51 p.m.



Open Philanthropy Project & Effective Altruism

It's hard not to notice the spike in donations for 2017. This is a culmination of two elements. One is our longstanding supporters who have been a base for our work to get us where we are. The second element is the relationships we've been able to build within the effective altruism community.



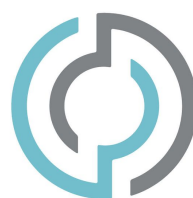
[Effective altruism](#) focuses on using reasoning and evidence to maximize good. Our executive director first spoke with individuals in the community in June of 2017 at EA Global Boston and then at EA Global San Francisco in August 2017. Following a conversation with one of the community leaders, [Will MacAskill](#), we went through a months-long vetting process and were recommended for a grant

through the [Open Philanthropy Project](#). We received the grant at the end of December 2017. Unlike other effective altruism funding sources, this organization focuses on projects that have some risk. That is, working to implement approval voting isn't as sure to have specific outcomes as would providing bednets to save people from getting malaria. But they recognize the potential for our work to have quite an enormous impact over time.

We thank those in the effective altruism community and the Open Philanthropy Project for believing in our vision.



Effective Altruism



Open
Philanthropy
Project

Various Conferences & Talks



Much of our ability to be effective is dependent on growing our network and communicating our message to key groups. This year, board member Neal McBurnett did a talk for the Boulder County League of Women Voters. Neal's talk surrounded legislation on approval voting in Colorado. Unfortunately, legislation at the state level for voting methods tends to stall until there are local successes first. We also spoke at the 2017 Free and Equal event and the 2017 Electoral Reform Symposium where there was a focus on voting methods.

For conferences, we were at the EA Global in Boston and SF. We were also at Mathfest in Chicago and the IndependentVoting.org conference in New York.

Social Events

As we find ourselves doing more conferences, we thought this might be a way to efficiently do social events for our supporters. We also saw this as a way to engage prospective donors by hosting charity dinners. We were excited to meet supporters and steward new donors, so we plan to continue this in future years.



CES 2017 Financial Report (Statement of Activities)

	TOTAL	
	JAN - DEC 2017	JAN - DEC 2016 (PY)
Revenue		
4000 Direct Public Support		
4010 Individual Contributions		
4011 Contributions	18,510.81	25,741.51
4012 Donated Stock	20,643.07	6,312.60
Total 4010 Individual Contributions	39,153.88	32,054.11
4015 Board Contributions		
4016 Contributions	1,000.00	1,471.00
4017 In-Kind Goods	243.10	
Total 4015 Board Contributions	1,243.10	1,471.00
4020 Corporate Contributions	25.95	4,046.87
Total 4000 Direct Public Support	40,422.93	37,571.98
4200 Direct Public Grants		
4220 Foundation and Trust Grants	7,500.00	1,000.00
4230 Nonprofit Organization Grants	600,564.25	
Total 4200 Direct Public Grants	608,064.25	1,000.00
5100 Program Income		
5180 Program Service Fees		11,500.00
Total 5100 Program Income		11,500.00
5300 Investments		
5310 Dividend, Interest (Securities)	74.74	576.13
Total 5300 Investments	74.74	576.13
Total Revenue	\$648,561.92	\$50,648.11
GROSS PROFIT	\$648,561.92	\$50,648.11
Expenditures		
7200 Payroll		
7210 Salaries	34,457.94	10,311.03
7230 Reimbursements		
7235 Utilities Reimbursement	883.00	1,204.24
Total 7230 Reimbursements	883.00	1,204.24
7250 Payroll Taxes	2,603.34	3,691.96
7260 Payroll Fees	540.00	380.00
Total 7200 Payroll	38,484.28	15,587.23
7500 Contract Services		
7510 Fundraising Fees	4,020.00	175.00
7520 Accounting Fees	90.00	362.50
7570 Marketing Fees	60.94	12,178.81
Total 7500 Contract Services	4,170.94	12,716.31
8100 Operations		
8110 Materials & Supplies		472.29
8140 Postage, Mailing Service	14.15	

	TOTAL	
	JAN - DEC 2017	JAN - DEC 2016 (PY)
8141 Donated Postage, Mailing Serv	243.10	
Total 8140 Postage, Mailing Service	257.25	
8150 Computer Software	658.87	571.94
8170 Printing & Copying		3,739.59
8180 Books, Subscriptions, Reference	403.02	
8190 Web/Hosting Fees	291.17	780.68
Total 8100 Operations	1,610.31	5,564.50
8300 Travel and Meetings		
8310 Transportation	195.89	800.54
8320 Meals	286.08	914.14
8330 Lodging	739.41	1,118.73
8340 Airfare	444.20	2,945.79
8350 Conference, Convention, Meeting	929.50	1,520.45
Total 8300 Travel and Meetings	2,595.08	7,299.65
8500 Other Types of Expenses		
8520 Insurance - Liability, D and O		1,150.00
8540 Staff Development/Training		1,247.50
8541 Memberships and Dues		245.00
8560 Processing Fees	57.92	155.66
8570 Advertising Expenses	1,744.08	1,682.63
8590 Business Registration Fees	1,190.00	28.99
Total 8500 Other Types of Expenses	2,992.00	4,509.78
Total Expenditures	\$49,852.61	\$45,677.47
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$598,709.31	\$4,970.64
NET REVENUE	\$598,709.31	\$4,970.64