

Policy Plan

Goals & Activities

The Center for Election Science advances smarter electoral systems to improve social good in the public and private sectors by providing scholarship, election-related resources, and informed advocacy. Our long-term goal is to be the main resource on electoral systems for the public and private sector and to increase implementation of smarter voting methods on a large scale.

In 2018, we were able to hire new staff, giving us greater capacity to take on new projects, including our first campaign to bring approval voting to a city in the United States. We worked with a local group in Fargo, North Dakota to bring awareness to approval voting and help them pass an initiative to implement approval voting beginning in 2020. We also launched a project to update our website, which is the leading website for information on voting methods. Our intent is that this upgrade will help with educational outreach, increase advocacy and implementation for better methods, and bolster support for our work.

Next year, we plan to hire new staff as we expand our activities. We will coordinate educational campaigns to support ballot initiatives to bring better voting methods to at least two new cities in the United States. We also plan to identify and poll on at least three competitive elections to demonstrate how alternative voting methods impact election outcomes.

Finances of the Institution

Funding for The Center for Election Science comes from individual donors, private foundations, and corporations. The Director of Philanthropy takes a comprehensive approach to fundraising—submitting grant proposals, cultivating relationships with large private donors, and soliciting smaller donations through electronic and mailed appeals. For a complete breakdown of funding sources, please visit electionscience.org/transparency.

Finances are managed internally by the Executive Director and the Director of Operations & Programs. The Director of Operations & Programs compiles monthly financial reports to assess activities and make adjustments to ensure that we are sticking to the annual budget.

Asset Management

Assets are managed by the Board of Directors, in accordance with The Center for Election Science's governance policy. The most up to date internal policies are available at electionscience.org/transparency.

Institutional Spending

Each fall, department managers submit itemized budgets to the Executive Director for consideration in the next year's annual budget. The Executive Director and Director of Operations & Programs then compile the organization's budget and present it to the Board of Directors for review and a vote. The organization uses the approved budget to guide its spending for the next calendar year.