



THE CENTER FOR
ELECTIONSCIENCE

2013 Annual Report

“We make democracy smart.”

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Year three from The Center for Election Science again showed substantial growth. We soared in donations, site traffic, and social media presence.

This year we successfully produced the *first ever* animated explainer video on approval voting. You came through and generously [contributed over \\$12,000](#) to produce the video. At the time of this writing, its view count (between the animator's upload and ours) is over 42,000! It was also featured on both [The Huffington Post](#) and [Upworthy](#). That's awesome!

This year, in addition to articles, we started to do videos. We're breaking down concepts on voting theory in a way that is simply not provided elsewhere. And we've continued producing interviews.

We strive to be your go-to resource on electoral systems. It is our goal to bring you the smart democracy you deserve. Finally, we are proud to present you the highlights of our work from 2013. Thank you for making this possible and for your continued support!

With Great Devotion,

The Center for Election Science



Aaron Hamlin, M.Ed., M.P.H., Esq.

Executive Director, Co-Founder

Board of Directors

Clay Shentrup, Chair

Lauren Payne, Vice-Chair

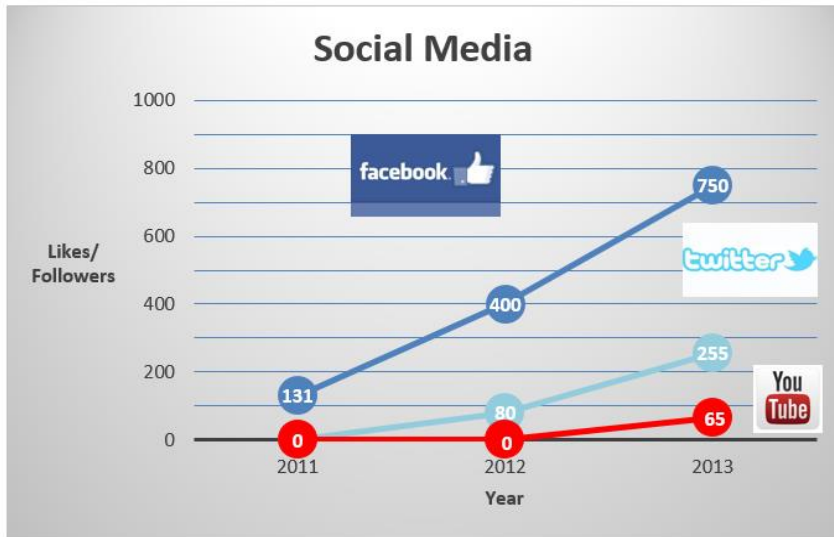
Steve Cobb, Treasurer

Jameson Quinn, Secretary

Eric Sanders, Parliamentarian

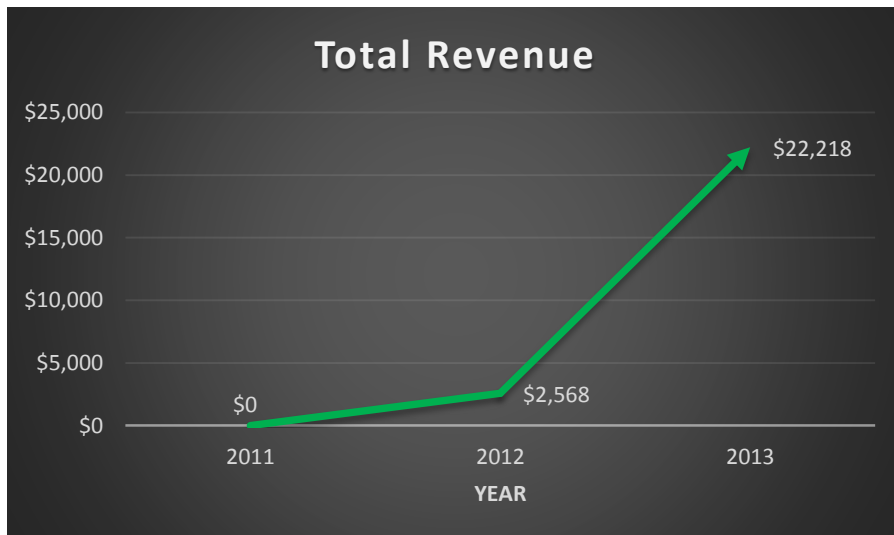
Dr. Andrew Jennings, At-large

Organizational Growth



>2x Total Growth in Social Media

>8x Growth in Unique Web Traffic



>8x Growth in Revenue

Donors

Donations < \$100

Anonymous (x18), William Alder, Richard Arnold, William Bartholomew, Justin Baxter, Patrick Beatty, Bradford Bennett, **Dylan Bickers**, George Blazer, Nevin Brackett-Rozins, Siegfried Bruner, Douglas Cantrell, Seamus Casey, Debra Cleaver, Stephen Collings, Tom Connard, Vaaelea Darkke, Doug Davey, **Jeremiah Delgado**, Noah Easterly, Radha Edwards, Joshua Engel, Kirby Ferguson, John Flanigan, Terry Fonville, David Gadlin, Adam Geller, DJ Goodstadt, Brendan Grossman, Erica Gulseth, Tyler Hains, Michael Halligan, **Lucas Hartsough**, Devin Hillsdon-Smith, Kelli Ireland, Jindal Ajay, Mark Johnson, Rudy Klecka, Aaron Kok, Michael Kolesar, Patrick Kreidi, **Matt Lane**, Sandra Lane, Anders, Lankford, Ryan Lawton, Maxime Levesque, Abdul-Rahman Lomax, Drew M, Adnan Malik, AnneMarie McCartney, Curtis McCartney, William McGonigle, Adil Minocherhomjee, Stephen Momohundro, Max Montel, Grey Nearing, Noah Jeff, Dominic Paris, Henry Phillips, Elizabeth Quinn, William Quinn, Daypal Reeves, **Justin Rising**, A. Roberts, Marnia Robinson, Thomas Rosenbaum, George Sanders, Frederick Schein, **Andrew Schuler**, Brian Shank, Ralph Shnelvar, Kathy Sleen, Gabriel Small, Bryce Snyder, Corina Solis, Mike Spalding, Carlie Statsky, Christopher Story, Cathy Thorsen, Yvonne Torres, Stephen Unger, Stephanie Vardavas, Jennifer Vautrin, B. Walker, Matt Welland, Connor Weston, Nathan Wisman, JD Woodley, Colleen York, Stephen York, Jeremy Young, **Fun Unlimited (Corp.)**

\$100 ≤ Donations < \$500

Anonymous (x4), Micah Catlin, Drexden Davis, **Barry Donnelly**, **Douglas Dysart**, Tom Fehr, Patrick Gonet, Amy Hardison, Michael Hoyer, **Jordon Kalilich**, Ariel Kirkwood, Andrew Kluger, Anna Kulow, William McArthur, Pushpendra Mohta, Tyson Nuss, Guy Ottewell, Adam Richter, Dale Sheldon-Hess, Dean Stackel, Marie Stein, Andrea Torres, Velvet Voelz, Webster Walker, **Ben Woosley**

\$500 ≤ Donations < \$1,000

Brian Hauer, Robert Jochim, Carl Milsted Jr., Robert Norman, Helen & Dan Quinn, Daniel Sleator, **Leon Smith**, Greg Wolfe

Donations ≥ \$1,000

Frank Atwood, Steven Brams

Board of Directors' Donations

\$5,191

In-Kind Services

Savvy Search Marketing (Adwords Management): \$1,200

Google Grants Adwords: \$84,744.35

***Recurring donors in bold** | Note: Donations listed do not subtract crowdfunding rewards.

Welcome New Board Members

This year we welcomed Lauren Payne (vice-chair), Steve Cobb (treasurer), and Jameson Quinn (secretary) to our board!



Lauren is an attorney originally from the east coast of Florida. She picked up her bachelor's in social psychology from New College of Florida. Afterwards, she completed her J.D. from New England School of Law. Lauren has since been working as a legislative policy analyst on multiple campaigns.



Steve grew up in Southern California and received his B.S. in engineering from Harvey Mudd College and his M.S. in electrical engineering from UCLA. A project manager and business analyst, Steve spent 20 years with a major U.S. defense contractor on both government and commercial projects. This work took place in the former Soviet Union and Germany, where Steve now lives.

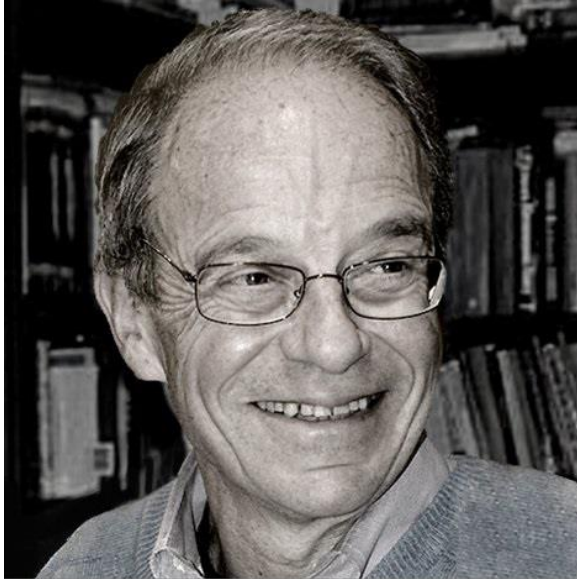
Additionally, Steve co-founded an expanding grass-roots movement with interests in voting reform. And he helped push a legislative effort on approval voting in New Hampshire.



Jameson grew up in the San Francisco Bay area and earned his bachelors in cognitive science from Oberlin College in Ohio. After college, he lived in southern Mexico and Guatemala for 12 years. There, he founded and taught at a public middle school in a rural community of returned refugees. Additionally, he has spent roughly a decade as a professional programmer.

Jameson is now a statistics Ph.D. candidate at Harvard University where his research focuses on voting systems. Jameson lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts with his partner and daughter.

Endorsements



"I heartily endorse the efforts of The Center for Election Science to apply scientific methods to the study of voting procedures and to assess their applicability to real-world elections. Unlike many academics, members of the Center have been willing to advise election officials and politicians on the implementation of better procedures, which helps advance the practice as well as the theory of democracy."

-Dr. Steven Brams
(Professor of politics at New York University, Approval Voting pioneer)



"The Center for Election Science is an island of common sense, clarity, and open-mindedness in a field where those commodities have been in limited supply. Given the importance of voting to every free society, they deserve our support."

- William Poundstone
(Bestselling author of *Gaming the Vote*, *Carl Sagan*, *Prisoner's Dilemma*, and *Are You Smart Enough to Work at Google?*)

Articles

[The Academy Awards: World’s Greatest Democracy?](#)

By Clay Shentrup

The Center for Election Science

[Single-Choice Plurality: A voting System Built for Warfare](#)

By Eric Sanders

The Center for Election Science

“The only real “winner” or “loser” at the end of an election is the entire group of voters—all of whom are affected by the outcome, and whose wishes may or may not have been quantified by the voting system they employed to make their collective decision.”

-Eric Sanders

[Approval Voting Breaks Duverger’s Law: Gives Voters More Options](#)

By Aaron Hamlin

Independent Voter Network

[The GOP Can Find Its Center with Approval Voting](#)

By Aaron Hamlin

Independent Voter Network

Interviews

[Follow-up with TJ Frawls of Make Voting Count](#)

By Aaron Hamlin

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[Citizen Jury Extended Interview with Dr. Kamenova & Dr. Goodman](#)

By Aaron Hamlin

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Dr. Kamenova, University of Alberta (left),
Dr. Goodman, McMaster University (right)

Presentations

[Why Is Plurality So Bad, and What Can We Do About It?](#)

By Aaron Hamlin

Votenet, Washington, D.C.



[Why You Should Care About Alternative Voting Methods](#)

By Aaron Hamlin

Left Forum (Make Voting Count Panel), New York City

"I find it bizarre that when offer so little information and we put our ballot in the ballot box, we expect something magical to happen. We expect our voting method to spit out a result that represents us. And yet we're dismayed when it doesn't happen. The mere fact that we go through the motions of democracy is not good enough. That's a fantasy."

-Aaron Hamlin

[Approval Voting Testimony before Arizona House Committee](#)

By Dr. Andrew Jennings

Phoenix, Arizona



Videos

[Approval Voting](#)

By The Center for Election Science



[Why is Ranked-Choice Voting Bad for Third Parties?](#)

By Clay Shentrup

The Center for Election Science

[Clay Shentrup on Bayesian Regret and Approval Voting](#)

(Originally Presented in 2012)

By Clay Shentrup

Potrero Hill Democrati Club, San Francisco

[Favorite Betrayal in Plurality and Instant Runoff Voting](#)

By Dr. Andrew Jennings

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[Comparing Voting Methods and Election Criteria](#)

By Aaron Hamlin

The Center for Election Science

[Score Voting Success Story at the San Francisco Harvey Milk Club](#)

By Clay Shentrup

San Francisco, CA

[Proportional Approval Voting in Google Spreadsheets](#)

By Clay Shentrup

The Center for Election Science

[What Is Vote Splitting?](#)

By Eric Sanders and Aaron Hamlin

The Center for Election Science

[What Is Duverger's Law?](#)

By Eric Sanders and Aaron Hamlin

The Center for Election Science

[Is Your Vote Expressive?](#)

By Eric Sanders and Aaron Hamlin

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