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


### $100 ≤ Donations < $500


### $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

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<tr>
<th>Board of Directors’ Donations</th>
<th>In-Kind Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5,191</td>
<td>Savvy Search Marketing (Adwords Management): $1,200</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Google Grants Adwords: $84,744.35</td>
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*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

“...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

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**Single-Choice Plurality: A voting System Built for Warfare**

By Eric Sanders

The Center for Election Science

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**Approval Voting Breaks Duverger’s Law: Gives Voters More Options**

By Aaron Hamlin

Independent Voter Network

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**The GOP Can Find Its Center with Approval Voting**

By Aaron Hamlin

Independent Voter Network

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Interviews

**Follow-up with TJ Frawls of Make Voting Count**

By Aaron Hamlin

The Center for Election Science

**Citizen Jury Extended Interview with Dr. Kamenova & Dr. Goodman**

By Aaron Hamlin

The Center for Election Science

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*

**Comparing Voting Methods and Election Criteria**
*By Aaron Hamlin*

The Center for Election Science

**Why is Ranked-Choice Voting Bad for Third Parties?**
*By Clay Shentrup*

The Center for Election Science

**Score Voting Success Story at the San Francisco Harvey Milk Club**
*By Clay Shentrup*

San Francisco, CA

**Clay Shentrup on Bayesian Regret and Approval Voting**
*(Originally Presented in 2012)*

*By Clay Shentrup*

Potrero Hill Democrats Club, San Francisco

**Proportional Approval Voting in Google Spreadsheets**
*By Clay Shentrup*

The Center for Election Science

**Favorite Betrayal in Plurality and Instant Runoff Voting**
*By Dr. Andrew Jennings*

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*

The Center for Election Science