

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

2009

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

Open to Public Inspection

The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements.

A For the **2009** calendar year, or tax year beginning **APR 1, 2009** and ending **MAR 31, 2010**

B Check if applicable: <input type="checkbox"/> Address change <input type="checkbox"/> Name change <input type="checkbox"/> Initial return <input type="checkbox"/> Terminated return <input type="checkbox"/> Amended return <input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	Please use IRS label or print or type. See Specific Instructions.	C Name of organization CENTER FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE IN POLITICS Doing Business As PROJECT VOTE SMART		D Employer identification number 85-0364261
		Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite ONE COMMON GROUND		E Telephone number 406-859-8683
		City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4 PHILIPSBURG, MT 59858		G Gross receipts \$ 2,083,128. H(a) Is this a group return for affiliates? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No H(b) Are all affiliates included? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If "No," attach a list. (see instructions) H(c) Group exemption number ▶
F Name and address of principal officer: ONE COMMON GROUND PHILIPSBURG, MT 59858				
I Tax-exempt status: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 501(c) (3) (insert no.) <input type="checkbox"/> 4947(a)(1) or <input type="checkbox"/> 527				
J Website: ▶ WWW.VOTE-SMART.ORG				
K Form of organization: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Trust <input type="checkbox"/> Association <input type="checkbox"/> Other ▶				
L Year of formation: 1988 M State of legal domicile: MT				

Part I Summary

Activities & Governance	1	Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: VOTER EDUCATION: NON-PARTISAN INFORMATION ABOUT POLITICAL CANDIDATES		
	2	Check this box <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.		
	3	Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	9
	4	Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	7
	5	Total number of employees (Part V, line 2a)	5	51
	6	Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	107
	7a	Total gross unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a	0.
	b	Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	7b	0.

			Prior Year	Current Year
			Revenue	8
	9	Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	39,289.	19,846.
	10	Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	24,066.	<11,188.>
	11	Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)		
	12	Total revenue - add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1,369,278.	1,688,244.
Expenses	13	Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)		
	14	Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)		
	15	Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)	1,135,515.	783,346.
	16a	Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)		
	b	Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶ 88,218.		
	17	Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24f)	891,648.	482,634.
	18	Total expenses. Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2,027,163.	1,265,980.
	19	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	<657,885.>	422,264.
Net Assets or Fund Balances			Beginning of Current Year	End of Year
	20	Total assets (Part X, line 16)	2,770,290.	3,291,360.
	21	Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	5,314.	64,230.
	22	Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	2,764,976.	3,227,130.

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here	Signature of officer _____	Date	
	Type or print name and title		
Paid Preparer's Use Only	Preparer's signature	Date 2/4/2011	Check if self-employed <input type="checkbox"/>
	Firm's name (or yours if self-employed), address, and ZIP + 4 PRACTICAL BUSINESS SERVICES INC. 119 S 16TH STREET - P.O. BOX 1240 PHILOMATH, OR 97370-1240	Preparer's identifying number (see instructions) EIN ▶ _____	Phone no. ▶ 541-929-2811

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions) Yes No

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission:
EDUCATION: NON-PARTISAN INFORMATION ABOUT POLITICAL CANDIDATES.

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ? Yes No
If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O.

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services? Yes No
If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O.

4 Describe the exempt purpose achievements for each of the organization's three largest program services by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) trusts are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.
SEE SCHEDULE O FOR CONTINUATION(S)

4a (Code:) (Expenses \$ **747,086.** including grants of \$) (Revenue \$ **9,176.**)
RESEARCH:

PROJECT VOTE SMART DEVOTES CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO RESEARCHING INFORMATION ABOUT ALL CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENTIAL, CONGRESSIONAL, GUBERNATORIAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE OFFICE AND ELECTED OFFICIALS. THIS INCLUDES VOTING RECORDS, BIOGRAPHICAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION, ISSUE POSITIONS, INTEREST GROUP RATINGS, PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND CAMPAIGN FINANCES. ONE OF MANY WAYS THIS IS DONE IS THROUGH A POLITICAL COURAGE TEST WHICH ASKS CANDIDATES WHICH ISSUES THEY WILL SUPPORT AND OPPOSE. VOTERS THUS HAVE ACCESS TO UNBIASED INFORMATION ON CANDIDATES AS WELL AS THOSE SERVING IN ELECTED POSITIONS. MUCH OF THIS RESEARCH IS DONE BY VOLUNTEERS AND PROJECT INTERNS WHO SPEND 10 WEEKS AT THE PROJECT.

4b (Code:) (Expenses \$ **340,132.** including grants of \$) (Revenue \$ **7,005.**)
INFORMATION DELIVERY (OUTREACH):

ONCE INFORMATION IS THOROUGHLY RESEARCHED AND SUBSTANTIATED, PROJECT VOTE SMART TAKES IT DIRECTLY INTO COMMUNITIES. THIS IS DONE THROUGH:
1. A STRONG WEBSITE WHERE A COMPREHENSIVE DATABASE ON OFFICIALS CAN BE EASILY ACCESSED.
2. PARTNERSHIPS WITH LIBRARIES TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION.
3. A VOTER'S RESEARCH HOTLINE WHICH CAN BE CALLED TO ACCESS INFORMATION
4. PUBLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE INCLUDING A "VOTERS SELF DEFENSE MANUAL".
5. SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE TO POLITICAL JOURNALISTS TO HELP IN FACT-CHECKING AND BACKGROUND FOR STORIES. THIS INCLUDES "THE REPORTERS SOURCE BOOK" WHICH PROVIDES A CONCISE OVERVIEW OF MAJOR NATIONAL ISSUES AS WELL AS A CONTACT DIRECTORY FOR HUNDREDS OF SOURCES

4c (Code:) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4d Other program services. (Describe in Schedule O.)
(Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4e Total program service expenses ► \$ **1,087,218.**

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Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

		Yes	No
1	Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule A</i>	X	
2	Is the organization required to complete Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors?	X	
3	Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I</i>		X
4	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization engage in lobbying activities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i>		X
5	Section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), and 501(c)(6) organizations. Is the organization subject to the section 6033(e) notice and reporting requirement and proxy tax? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III</i>		
6	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts where donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I</i>		X
7	Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II</i>		X
8	Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III</i>		X
9	Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21; serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X; or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV</i>		X
10	Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in term, permanent, or quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i>	X	
11	Is the organization's answer to any of the following questions "Yes"? <i>If so, complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable</i>	X	
	• Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI.</i>		
	• Did the organization report an amount for investments - other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII.</i>		
	• Did the organization report an amount for investments - program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII.</i>		
	• Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX.</i>		
	• Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X.</i>		
	• Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X.</i>		
12	Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI, XII, and XIII.</i>		X
12A	Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," completing Schedule D, Parts XI, XII, and XIII is optional</i>	Yes X	No X
13	Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i>		X
14a	Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?		X
14b	b Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, and program service activities outside the United States? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Part I</i>		X
15	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or assistance to any organization or entity located outside the United States? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Part II</i>		X
16	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or assistance to individuals located outside the United States? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Part III</i>		X
17	Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I</i>		X
18	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II</i>		X
19	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III</i>		X
20	Did the organization operate one or more hospitals? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H</i>		X

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Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

	Yes	No
21 Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants and other assistance to governments and organizations in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 1? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II</i>		X
22 Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants and other assistance to individuals in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 2? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III</i>		X
23 Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J</i>		X
24a Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25</i>		X
b Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?		
c Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?		
d Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?		
25a Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>		X
b Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>		X
26 Was a loan to or by a current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, highly compensated employee, or disqualified person outstanding as of the end of the organization's tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II</i>		X
27 Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor, or a grant selection committee member, or to a person related to such an individual? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III</i>		X
28 Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties, (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions):		
a A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		X
b A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		X
c An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee of the organization (or a family member) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		X
29 Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>	X	
30 Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>		X
31 Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i>		X
32 Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II</i>		X
33 Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I</i>		X
34 Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Parts II, III, IV, and V, line 1</i>		X
35 Is any related organization a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>		X
36 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>		X
37 Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI</i>		X
38 Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11 and 19? Note. All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O.	X	

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Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

			Yes	No
1a Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096, Annual Summary and Transmittal of U.S. Information Returns. Enter -0- if not applicable	1a	5		
b Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable	1b	0		
c Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?	1c		X	
2a Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements, filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return	2a	51		
b If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns?	2b		X	
Note. If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file this return. (see instructions)				
3a Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year covered by this return?	3a			X
b If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O	3b			
4a At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in, or a signature or other authority over, a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)?	4a			X
b If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: 				
See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22.1, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts.				
5a Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year?	5a			X
b Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?	5b			X
c If "Yes," to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T, Disclosure by Tax-Exempt Entity Regarding Prohibited Tax Shelter Transaction?	5c			
6a Does the organization have annual gross receipts that are normally greater than \$100,000, and did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible?	6a			X
b If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?	6b			
7 Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).				
a Did the organization receive a payment in excess of \$75 made partly as a contribution and partly for goods and services provided to the payor?	7a			X
b If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?	7b			
c Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282?	7c			X
d If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year	7d			
e Did the organization, during the year, receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?	7e			
f Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?	7f			
g For all contributions of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?	7g			
h For contributions of cars, boats, airplanes, and other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C as required?	7h			
8 Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds and section 509(a)(3) supporting organizations. Did the supporting organization, or a donor advised fund maintained by a sponsoring organization, have excess business holdings at any time during the year?	8			
9 Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.				
a Did the organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?	9a			
b Did the organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person?	9b			
10 Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:				
a Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12	10a			
b Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities	10b			
11 Section 501(c)(12) organizations. Enter:				
a Gross income from members or shareholders	11a			
b Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them.)	11b			
12a Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts. Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041?	12a			
b If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year	12b			

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Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to line 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.

Section A. Governing Body and Management

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body		
1b	Enter the number of voting members that are independent		
2	Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?	X	
3	Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?		X
4	Did the organization make any significant changes to its organizational documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?		X
5	Did the organization become aware during the year of a material diversion of the organization's assets?		X
6	Does the organization have members or stockholders?		X
7a	Does the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who may elect one or more members of the governing body?		X
7b	Are any decisions of the governing body subject to approval by members, stockholders, or other persons?		X
8	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following:		
8a	The governing body?	X	
8b	Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	X	
9	Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O		X

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

		Yes	No
10a	Does the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?		X
10b	If "Yes," does the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with those of the organization?		
11	Has the organization provided a copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?		X
11A	Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990.		
12a	Does the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13	X	
12b	Are officers, directors or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	X	
12c	Does the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this is done	X	
13	Does the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	X	
14	Does the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	X	
15	Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?		
15a	The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official	X	
15b	Other officers or key employees of the organization		X
	If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O. (See instructions.)		
16a	Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?		X
16b	If "Yes," has the organization adopted a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and taken steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?		

Section C. Disclosure

17 List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed **AZ, MT**

18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Forms 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you make these available. Check all that apply.
 Own website Another's website Upon request

19 Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how), the organization makes its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public.

20 State the name, physical address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the books and records of the organization: **THE ORGANIZATION - 406-859-8683**
ONE COMMON GROUND, PHILIPSBURG, MT 59858

Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year. Use Schedule J-2 if additional space is needed.

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation. Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid.

- List all of the organization's **current** key employees. See instructions for definition of "key employee."

- List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee, or key employee) who received reportable compensation (Box 5 of Form W-2 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations.

- List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, and highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

- List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

List persons in the following order: individual trustees or directors; institutional trustees; officers; key employees; highest compensated employees; and former such persons.

Check this box if the organization did not compensate any current officer, director, or trustee.

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week	(C) Position (check all that apply)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
RICHARD KIMBALL PRESIDENT/ EXECUTIVE DIR	60.00	X		X			67,346.	0.	7,825.	
ADELAIDE ELM KIMBALL TREASURER	40.00	X		X			55,577.	0.	8,164.	
SUSAN BRANDIS SECRETARY	5.00	X		X			0.	0.	0.	
JESSICA ARRIGONI BOARD MEMBER	2.00	X					0.	0.	0.	
BRENT STEELE BOARD MEMBER	1.00	X					0.	0.	0.	
KYLE DELL BOARD MEMBER	5.00	X					0.	0.	0.	
JON TRACHTA BOARD MEMBER	5.00	X					0.	0.	0.	
DAN O'NEILL BOARD MEMBER	1.00	X					0.	0.	0.	
WILLIAM CLINTON BOARD MEMBER	1.00	X					0.	0.	0.	

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Part VIII Statement of Revenue		(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512, 513, or 514	
Contributions, gifts, grants and other similar amounts	1 a Federated campaigns	1a				
	b Membership dues	1b				
	c Fundraising events	1c				
	d Related organizations	1d				
	e Government grants (contributions)	1e				
	f All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f 1,679,586.				
	g Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f: \$	351,827.				
	h Total. Add lines 1a-1f	▶ 1,679,586.				
	Program Service Revenue	2 a <u>STUDENT WORK STUDY REI</u>	Business Code 611710	9,176.	9,176.	
b <u>DEBATE FEES</u>		611710	7,005.	7,005.		
c <u>HEALTH INSURANCE REIMB</u>		611710	3,056.	3,056.		
d <u>OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PR</u>		611710	609.	609.		
e						
f All other program service revenue						
g Total. Add lines 2a-2f		▶ 19,846.				
Other Revenue	3 Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)	▶	21,413.		21,413.	
	4 Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds	▶				
	5 Royalties	▶				
	6 a Gross Rents	(i) Real				
		(ii) Personal				
		b Less: rental expenses				
		c Rental income or (loss)				
	d Net rental income or (loss)	▶				
	7 a Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities				
		(ii) Other				
		b Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses				
		c Gain or (loss)				
	d Net gain or (loss)	▶	<32,601.>	<32,601.>		
	8 a Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18	a				
		b Less: direct expenses	b			
c Net income or (loss) from fundraising events		▶				
9 a Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19	a					
	b Less: direct expenses	b				
	c Net income or (loss) from gaming activities	▶				
10 a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	a					
	b Less: cost of goods sold	b				
	c Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory	▶				
Miscellaneous Revenue		Business Code				
11	a _____					
	b _____					
	c _____					
	d All other revenue					
	e Total. Add lines 11a-11d	▶				
12 Total revenue. See instructions.	▶	1,688,244.	<12,755.>	0.	21,413.	

**CENTER FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE IN
POLITICS**

Form 990 (2009)

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Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

**Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns.
All other organizations must complete column (A) but are not required to complete columns (B), (C), and (D).**

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to governments and organizations in the U.S. See Part IV, line 21				
2 Grants and other assistance to individuals in the U.S. See Part IV, line 22				
3 Grants and other assistance to governments, organizations, and individuals outside the U.S. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16				
4 Benefits paid to or for members				
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	149,919.	112,035.	15,801.	22,083.
6 Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)				
7 Other salaries and wages	508,657.	457,868.	22,070.	28,719.
8 Pension plan contributions (include section 401(k) and section 403(b) employer contributions)				
9 Other employee benefits	59,176.	53,250.	2,682.	3,244.
10 Payroll taxes	65,594.	56,949.	3,706.	4,939.
11 Fees for services (non-employees):				
a Management				
b Legal				
c Accounting	16,668.		15,668.	1,000.
d Lobbying				
e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17				
f Investment management fees				
g Other				
12 Advertising and promotion	1,088.	603.	485.	
13 Office expenses	14,615.	12,689.	826.	1,100.
14 Information technology	11,464.	9,953.	648.	863.
15 Royalties				
16 Occupancy	38,548.	33,467.	2,178.	2,903.
17 Travel	23,943.	20,759.	1,184.	2,000.
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings	8,664.	8,664.		
20 Interest				
21 Payments to affiliates				
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	93,346.	84,432.	3,821.	5,093.
23 Insurance	14,610.	12,321.	1,221.	1,068.
24 Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above. (Expenses grouped together and labeled miscellaneous may not exceed 5% of total expenses shown on line 25 below.)				
a PRINTING AND POSTAGE	127,280.	110,505.	7,191.	9,584.
b CONSULTANTS / CONTRACT	47,253.	45,603.	1,500.	150.
c FOOD / KITCHEN	31,827.	27,633.	1,798.	2,396.
d TELEPHONE	23,195.	20,136.	1,310.	1,749.
e DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	14,243.	13,234.	1,009.	
f All other expenses	15,890.	7,117.	7,446.	1,327.
25 Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24f	1,265,980.	1,087,218.	90,544.	88,218.
26 Joint costs. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation ...				

**CENTER FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE IN
POLITICS**

Form 990 (2009)

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Part X Balance Sheet

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year		
Assets	1 Cash - non-interest-bearing	70,248.	1	62,803.		
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments	409,992.	2	591,970.		
	3 Pledges and grants receivable, net		3			
	4 Accounts receivable, net		4			
	5 Receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees. Complete Part II of Schedule L			5		
	6 Receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B). Complete Part II of Schedule L			6		
	7 Notes and loans receivable, net			7		
	8 Inventories for sale or use			8		
	9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges			9		
	10a Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D	2,451,760.				
	b Less: accumulated depreciation	781,416.				
			1,764,402.	10c	1,670,344.	
	11 Investments - publicly traded securities	525,648.	11	958,554.		
	12 Investments - other securities. See Part IV, line 11		12			
	13 Investments - program-related. See Part IV, line 11		13			
	14 Intangible assets		14			
15 Other assets. See Part IV, line 11	0.	15	7,689.			
16 Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)	2,770,290.	16	3,291,360.			
Liabilities	17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses		17	55,289.		
	18 Grants payable		18			
	19 Deferred revenue		19			
	20 Tax-exempt bond liabilities		20			
	21 Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D		21			
	22 Payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons. Complete Part II of Schedule L		22			
	23 Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties		23			
	24 Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties		24			
	25 Other liabilities. Complete Part X of Schedule D	5,314.	25	8,941.		
	26 Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25	5,314.	26	64,230.		
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow SFAS 117, check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.					
	27 Unrestricted net assets	2,172,990.	27	2,635,132.		
	28 Temporarily restricted net assets	36,083.	28	36,095.		
	29 Permanently restricted net assets	555,903.	29	555,903.		
	Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117, check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 30 through 34.					
	30 Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds		30			
	31 Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund		31			
	32 Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds		32			
	33 Total net assets or fund balances	2,764,976.	33	3,227,130.		
34 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	2,770,290.	34	3,291,360.			

Form 990 (2009)

Part XI Financial Statements and Reporting

		Yes	No
1	Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990: <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O.		
2a	Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant?		X
2b	Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant?		X
2c	If "Yes" to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant?		
If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O.			
d	If "Yes" to line 2a or 2b, check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were issued on a consolidated basis, separate basis, or both: <input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis		
3a	As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?		X
3b	If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits.		

Form 990 (2009)

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Public Charity Status and Public Support

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. ▶ See separate instructions.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2009

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization **CENTER FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE IN POLITICS**

Employer identification number
85-0364261

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (For lines 1 through 11, check only one box.)

- 1 A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i)**.
- 2 A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)**. (Attach Schedule E.)
- 3 A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**.
- 4 A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**. Enter the hospital's name, city, and state: _____
- 5 An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 6 A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v)**.
- 7 An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 8 A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 9 An organization that normally receives: (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions - subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See **section 509(a)(2)**. (Complete Part III.)
- 10 An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4)**.
- 11 An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2). See **section 509(a)(3)**. Check the box that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 11e through 11h.
 - a Type I
 - b Type II
 - c Type III - Functionally integrated
 - d Type III - Other
- e By checking this box, I certify that the organization is not controlled directly or indirectly by one or more disqualified persons other than foundation managers and other than one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2).
- f If the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, or Type III supporting organization, check this box
- g Since August 17, 2006, has the organization accepted any gift or contribution from any of the following persons?

	Yes	No
(i) A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (ii) and (iii) below, the governing body of the supported organization?	11g(i)	
(ii) A family member of a person described in (i) above?	11g(ii)	
(iii) A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (i) or (ii) above?	11g(iii)	
- h Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1-9 above or IRC section (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization in col. (i) listed in your governing document?		(v) Did you notify the organization in col. (i) of your support?		(vi) Is the organization in col. (i) organized in the U.S.?		(vii) Amount of support
			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Total									

LHA For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990 or 990-EZ. Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) 2009

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3						
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4.						

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4						
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)						
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)					12	
13 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here						<input type="checkbox"/>

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2009 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	%
15 Public support percentage from 2008 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	%
16a 33 1/3% support test - 2009. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization		<input type="checkbox"/>
b 33 1/3% support test - 2008. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization		<input type="checkbox"/>
17a 10% -facts-and-circumstances test - 2009. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization		<input type="checkbox"/>
b 10% -facts-and-circumstances test - 2008. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization		<input type="checkbox"/>
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions		<input type="checkbox"/>

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2) (Complete only if you checked the box on line 9 of Part I.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	1451608.	1345632.	1538530.	1305923.	1678586.	7320279.
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose	3,943.		3,268.	39,289.	19,846.	66,346.
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
6 Total. Add lines 1 through 5	1455551.	1345632.	1541798.	1345212.	1698432.	7386625.
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						0.
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of \$5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year						0.
c Add lines 7a and 7b						0.
8 Public support (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						7386625.

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6	1455551.	1345632.	1541798.	1345212.	1698432.	7386625.
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	79,653.	83,030.	129,158.	53,968.	21,413.	367,222.
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b	79,653.	83,030.	129,158.	53,968.	21,413.	367,222.
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)						
13 Total support (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)	1535204.	1428662.	1670956.	1399180.	1719845.	7753847.

14 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2009 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	15	95.26 %
16 Public support percentage from 2008 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	94.73 %

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2009 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	17	4.74 %
18 Investment income percentage from 2008 Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18	5.27 %

19a 33 1/3% support tests - 2009. If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

b 33 1/3% support tests - 2008. If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

20 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions

Schedule D (Form 990)

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Financial Statements

Complete if the organization answered "Yes," to Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12.

Attach to Form 990. See separate instructions.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2009

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization CENTER FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE IN POLITICS

Employer identification number 85-0364261

Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

Table with 3 columns: Line number, (a) Donor advised funds, (b) Funds and other accounts. Includes questions 1-6 regarding donor advised funds.

Part II Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

Form for Part II Conservation Easements, including questions 1-9 and a table for 'Held at the End of the Tax Year' with rows 2a-2d.

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

Form for Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets, including questions 1a-2.

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets (continued)

- 3 Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply):
- a Public exhibition
 - b Scholarly research
 - c Preservation for future generations
 - d Loan or exchange programs
 - e Other _____
- 4 Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIV.
- 5 During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection? Yes No

Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements. Complete if organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

- 1a Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X? Yes No
- b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIV and complete the following table:
- | | Amount |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| c Beginning balance | 1c |
| d Additions during the year | 1d |
| e Distributions during the year | 1e |
| f Ending balance | 1f |
- 2a Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21? Yes No
- b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIV.

Part V Endowment Funds. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	(c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance	555,903.	555,903.			
b Contributions					
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses					
g End of year balance	555,903.	555,903.			

2 Provide the estimated percentage of the year end balance held as:

- a Board designated or quasi-endowment _____ %
- b Permanent endowment _____ %
- c Term endowment _____ %

3a Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by:

- (i) unrelated organizations
- (ii) related organizations

	Yes	No
3a(i)		X
3a(ii)		X
3b		

b If "Yes" to 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R?

4 Describe in Part XIV the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds.

Part VI Investments - Land, Buildings, and Equipment. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of investment	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land	26,839.	0.		26,839.
b Buildings	1,924,846.	0.	463,089.	1,461,757.
c Leasehold improvements				
d Equipment	181,626.		153,963.	27,663.
e Other	318,449.	0.	164,364.	154,085.
Total. Add lines 1a through 1e. (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c).)				1,670,344.

Part XI Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets from Form 990 to Audited Financial Statements		
1	Total revenue (Form 990, Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1
2	Total expenses (Form 990, Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2
3	Excess or (deficit) for the year. Subtract line 2 from line 1	3
4	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	4
5	Donated services and use of facilities	5
6	Investment expenses	6
7	Prior period adjustments	7
8	Other (Describe in Part XIV.)	8
9	Total adjustments (net). Add lines 4 through 8	9
10	Excess or (deficit) for the year per audited financial statements. Combine lines 3 and 9	10

Part XII Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return		
1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements	1
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12:	
a	Net unrealized gains on investments	2a
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c
d	Other (Describe in Part XIV.)	2d
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1:	
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a
b	Other (Describe in Part XIV.)	4b
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c
5	Total revenue. Add lines 3 and 4c. (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12.)	5

Part XIII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return		
1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements	1
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25:	
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a
b	Prior year adjustments	2b
c	Other losses	2c
d	Other (Describe in Part XIV.)	2d
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1:	
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a
b	Other (Describe in Part XIV.)	4b
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c
5	Total expenses. Add lines 3 and 4c. (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18.)	5

Part XIV Supplemental Information

Complete this part to provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9; Part III, lines 1a and 4; Part IV, lines 1b and 2b; Part V, line 4; Part X, line 2; Part XI, line 8; Part XII, lines 2d and 4b; and Part XIII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

**SCHEDULE J
(Form 990)**

Compensation Information

OMB No. 1545-0047

For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

2009

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 23.

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Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

▶ Attach to Form 990. ▶ See separate instructions.

Name of the organization **CENTER FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE IN POLITICS**

Employer identification number
85-0364261

Part I Questions Regarding Compensation

	Yes	No
1a Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a. Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items. <input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel <input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions <input type="checkbox"/> Tax indemnification and gross-up payments <input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use <input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence <input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees <input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (e.g., maid, chauffeur, chef)		
b If any of the boxes on line 1a are checked, did the organization follow a written policy regarding payment or reimbursement or provision of all of the expenses described above? If "No," complete Part III to explain	X	
2 Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all officers, directors, trustees, and the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked in line 1a?	X	
3 Indicate which, if any, of the following the organization uses to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director. Check all that apply. <input type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee <input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant <input type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee		
4 During the year, did any person listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, with respect to the filing organization or a related organization: a Receive a severance payment or change-of-control payment?		X
b Participate in, or receive payment from, a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan?		X
c Participate in, or receive payment from, an equity-based compensation arrangement?		X
If "Yes" to any of lines 4a-c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III.		
Only section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete lines 5-9.		
5 For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of: a The organization?	5a	X
b Any related organization?	5b	X
If "Yes" to line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III.		
6 For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of: a The organization?	6a	X
b Any related organization?	6b	X
If "Yes" to line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III.		
7 For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any non-fixed payments not described in lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III	7	X
8 Were any amounts reported in Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regs. section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III	8	X
9 If "Yes" to line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)?	9	

LHA For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

Schedule J (Form 990) 2009

Part III Supplemental Information

Complete this part to provide the information, explanation, or descriptions required for Part I, lines 1a, 1b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7, and 8. Also complete this part for any additional information.

PART I, LINE 1A: RICHARD KIMBALL (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR) IS REQUIRED TO LIVE ON
SITE IN RURAL MONTANA IN ORDER TO SUPERVISE ALL STAFF AND STUDENT INTERNS.
STUDENT INTERNS AND MANY STAFF LIVE ON SITE IN RESIDENCE HALLS.

**SCHEDULE M
(Form 990)**

Noncash Contributions

OMB No. 1545-0047

2009

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Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

▶ **Complete if the organizations answered "Yes" on Form
990, Part IV, lines 29 or 30.
▶ Attach to Form 990.**

Name of the organization **CENTER FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE IN
POLITICS** Employer identification number
85-0364261

Part I Types of Property

	(a) Check if applicable	(b) Number of contributions	(c) Revenues reported on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1g	(d) Method of determining revenues
1 Art - Works of art				
2 Art - Historical treasures				
3 Art - Fractional interests				
4 Books and publications				
5 Clothing and household goods				
6 Cars and other vehicles				
7 Boats and planes				
8 Intellectual property				
9 Securities - Publicly traded				
10 Securities - Closely held stock				
11 Securities - Partnership, LLC, or trust interests				
12 Securities - Miscellaneous				
13 Qualified conservation contribution - Historic structures				
14 Qualified conservation contribution - Other				
15 Real estate - Residential	X	1	329,950.	SALES PRICE OF RESID
16 Real estate - Commercial				
17 Real estate - Other				
18 Collectibles				
19 Food inventory				
20 Drugs and medical supplies				
21 Taxidermy				
22 Historical artifacts				
23 Scientific specimens				
24 Archeological artifacts				
25 Other ▶ (_____)				
26 Other ▶ (_____)				
27 Other ▶ (_____)				
28 Other ▶ (_____)				

29 Number of Forms 8283 received by the organization during the tax year for contributions
for which the organization completed Form 8283, Part IV, Donee Acknowledgment **29**

	Yes	No
30a During the year, did the organization receive by contribution any property reported in Part I, lines 1-28 that it must hold for at least three years from the date of the initial contribution, and which is not required to be used for exempt purposes for the entire holding period?		X
b If "Yes," describe the arrangement in Part II.		
31 Does the organization have a gift acceptance policy that requires the review of any non-standard contributions?		X
32a Does the organization hire or use third parties or related organizations to solicit, process, or sell noncash contributions?		X
b If "Yes," describe in Part II.		
33 If the organization did not report revenues in column (c) for a type of property for which column (a) is checked, describe in Part II.		

LHA For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

Schedule M (Form 990) 2009

**SCHEDULE O
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or to provide any additional information.
▶ Attach to Form 990.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2009

Open to Public
Inspection

Name of the organization CENTER FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE IN POLITICS	Employer identification number 85-0364261
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FORM 990, PART III, LINE 4B, PROGRAM SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

USEFUL TO JOURNALISTS.

6. PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS: HUNDREDS OF RADIO AND TELEVISION

STATIONS AIR PSA'S DURING THE ELECTION SEASON DIRECTING THEIR AUDIENCES

TO THE PROJECT VOTE SMART RESEARCH HOTLINE AND TO THE ORGANIZATION'S

WEBSITE.

7. PROJECT VOTE SMART BUS TOUR: THE ORGANIZATION USED A BUS OUTFITTED

FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES TO TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES TO

BRING VOTER INFORMATION DIRECTLY INTO COMMUNITIES.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 2: PRESIDENT / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

RICHARD KIMBALL

TREASURER: ADELAIDE ELM KIMBALL

PRESIDENT / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND TREASURER ARE HUSBAND AND WIFE.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 11: THE 990 IS PREPARED BY AN

ACCOUNTANT AND THEN REVIEWED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 12C: CONFLICT OF INTEREST IS DISCUSSED

ANNUALLY AT A BOARD MEETING

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 15A: THE BOARD CONSIDERED COMPARABLE

SALARIES WHEN THE SALARY WAS SET IN MARCH 1988 AND HAS GIVEN AN AUTOMATIC

COST OF LIVING INCREASE EACH YEAR BASED ON SOCIAL SECURITY COLA.

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or to provide any additional information.
▶ Attach to Form 990.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2009

Open to Public
Inspection

Name of the organization

CENTER FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE IN
POLITICS

Employer identification number

85-0364261

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION C, LINE 19: THE ORGANIZATION DOES NOT MAKE ITS
GOVERNING DOCUMENTS, CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC, BUT DOES POST ITS IRS FORM 990 ON ITS WEBSITE. THE
FORM 990 ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF THE ORGANIZATION.

• If you are filing for an **Additional (Not Automatic) 3-Month Extension**, complete only **Part II** and check this box **X**

Note. Only complete Part II if you have already been granted an automatic 3-month extension on a previously filed Form 8868.

• If you are filing for an **Automatic 3-Month Extension**, complete only **Part I** (on page 1).

Part II Additional (Not Automatic) 3-Month Extension of Time. Only file the original (no copies needed).		
Type or print <small>File by the extended due date for filing the return. See instructions.</small>	Name of Exempt Organization CENTER FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE IN POLITICS	Employer identification number 85-0364261
	Number, street, and room or suite no. If a P.O. box, see instructions. ONE COMMON GROUND	For IRS use only
	City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. For a foreign address, see instructions. PHILIPSBURG, MT 59858	

Check type of return to be filed (File a separate application for each return):

- Form 990
 Form 990-EZ
 Form 990-T (sec. 401(a) or 408(a) trust)
 Form 1041-A
 Form 5227
 Form 8870
 Form 990-BL
 Form 990-PF
 Form 990-T (trust other than above)
 Form 4720
 Form 6069

STOP! Do not complete Part II if you were not already granted an automatic 3-month extension on a previously filed Form 8868.

THE ORGANIZATION

- The books are in the care of **ONE COMMON GROUND - PHILIPSBURG, MT 59858**
 Telephone No. **406-859-8683** FAX No.
- If the organization does not have an office or place of business in the United States, check this box
- If this is for a Group Return, enter the organization's four digit Group Exemption Number (GEN) . If this is for the whole group, check this box . If it is for part of the group, check this box and attach a list with the names and EINs of all members the extension is for.

- 4 I request an additional 3-month extension of time until **FEBRUARY 15, 2011**.
- 5 For calendar year _____, or other tax year beginning **APR 1, 2009**, and ending **MAR 31, 2010**.
- 6 If this tax year is for less than 12 months, check reason: Initial return Final return Change in accounting period
- 7 State in detail why you need the extension **SEE STATEMENT 1**

8a If this application is for Form 990-BL, 990-PF, 990-T, 4720, or 6069, enter the tentative tax, less any nonrefundable credits. See instructions.	8a	\$
b If this application is for Form 990-PF, 990-T, 4720, or 6069, enter any refundable credits and estimated tax payments made. Include any prior year overpayment allowed as a credit and any amount paid previously with Form 8868.	8b	\$
c Balance Due. Subtract line 8b from line 8a. Include your payment with this form, or, if required, deposit with FTD coupon or, if required, by using EFTPS (Electronic Federal Tax Payment System). See instructions.	8c	\$ N/A

Signature and Verification

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this form, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete, and that I am authorized to prepare this form.

Signature Title **CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT** Date

FORM 8688

EXPLANATION FOR EXTENSION

STATEMENT 1

EXPLANATION

THE ORGANIZATION HAD ITS NATIONAL DIRECTOR LEAVE THE POSITION AS INFORMATION FOR THE RETURN WAS BEING GATHERED. AN EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE IS REQUESTED IN ORDER TO FILE AN ACCURATE RETURN WITH COMPLETE DATA