

Form **990**

**Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax**

OMB No. 1545-0047

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

**2016**  
Open to Public Inspection

▶ Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.  
▶ Information about Form 990 and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

**A** For the 2016 calendar year, or tax year beginning **JUL 1, 2016** and ending **JUN 30, 2017**

<b>B</b> Check if applicable:  Address change Name change Initial return Final return/terminated Amended return Application pending	<b>C</b> Name of organization <b>COMMON CAUSE</b>		<b>D</b> Employer identification number <b>52-6078441</b>	
	Doing business as		<b>E</b> Telephone number <b>(202) 833-1200</b>	
	Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address)	Room/suite	<b>G</b> Gross receipts \$ <b>7,619,386.</b>	
	<b>805 15TH STREET NW</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>H(a)</b> Is this a group return for subordinates? ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code <b>WASHINGTON, DC 20005</b>		<b>H(b)</b> Are all subordinates included? <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/> If "No," attach a list. (see instructions)		
<b>F</b> Name and address of principal officer: <b>KAREN HOBERT FLYNN</b> <b>SAME AS C ABOVE</b>		<b>H(c)</b> Group exemption number ▶		
<b>I</b> Tax-exempt status: 501(c)(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 501(c) ( <b>4</b> ) ◀ (insert no.) 4947(a)(1) or 527				
<b>J</b> Website: ▶ <b>WWW.COMMONCAUSE.ORG</b>				
<b>K</b> Form of organization: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Trust <input type="checkbox"/> Association <input type="checkbox"/> Other ▶			<b>L</b> Year of formation: <b>1968</b> <b>M</b> State of legal domicile: <b>DC</b>	

**Part I Summary**

<b>Activities &amp; Governance</b>	<b>1</b> Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: <b>COMMON CAUSE IS A NONPARTISAN, GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO UPHOLDING THE CORE VALUES OF</b>		
	<b>2</b> Check this box <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.		
	<b>3</b> Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>
	<b>4</b> Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>
	<b>5</b> Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2016 (Part V, line 2a)	<b>5</b>	<b>108</b>
	<b>6</b> Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	<b>6</b>	<b>1689</b>
	<b>7 a</b> Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	<b>7a</b>	<b>0.</b>
<b>b</b> Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	<b>7b</b>	<b>0.</b>	
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>8</b> Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	<b>Prior Year</b>	<b>Current Year</b>
	<b>9</b> Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	<b>5,029,100.</b>	<b>7,381,044.</b>
	<b>10</b> Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	<b>78,769.</b>	<b>142,323.</b>
	<b>11</b> Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	<b>5,302.</b>	<b>3,944.</b>
	<b>12</b> Total revenue - add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	<b>-28,850.</b>	<b>44,420.</b>
		<b>5,084,321.</b>	<b>7,571,731.</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>13</b> Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)	<b>0.</b>	<b>0.</b>
	<b>14</b> Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	<b>0.</b>	<b>0.</b>
	<b>15</b> Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)	<b>2,994,694.</b>	<b>2,315,686.</b>
	<b>16a</b> Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	<b>261,706.</b>	<b>250,411.</b>
	<b>b</b> Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶ <b>1,791,129.</b>		
	<b>17</b> Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e)	<b>2,978,997.</b>	<b>3,795,209.</b>
<b>18</b> Total expenses. Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	<b>6,235,397.</b>	<b>6,361,306.</b>	
<b>19</b> Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	<b>-1,151,076.</b>	<b>1,210,425.</b>	
<b>Net Assets or Fund Balances</b>	<b>20</b> Total assets (Part X, line 16)	<b>Beginning of Current Year</b>	<b>End of Year</b>
	<b>21</b> Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	<b>3,139,150.</b>	<b>3,782,708.</b>
	<b>22</b> Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	<b>3,047,114.</b>	<b>2,445,266.</b>
		<b>92,036.</b>	<b>1,337,442.</b>

**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.

<b>Sign Here</b>	Signature of officer		Date		
	<b>KAREN HOBERT FLYNN, PRESIDENT</b> Type or print name and title				
<b>Paid Preparer Use Only</b>	Print/Type preparer's name	Preparer's signature	Date	Check if self-employed	PTIN
	<b>ELIZABETH HELLER</b>	<i>Elizabeth Heller</i>	<b>10/26/2017</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>P00397829</b>
Firm's name ▶ <b>TATE AND TRYON</b>			Firm's EIN ▶ <b>52-1855942</b>		
Firm's address ▶ <b>2021 L STREET, NW SUITE 400</b> <b>WASHINGTON, DC 20036</b>			Phone no. <b>(202) 293-2200</b>		

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

Form **8879-EO**

# IRS e-file Signature Authorization for an Exempt Organization

OMB No. 1545-1878

For calendar year 2016, or fiscal year beginning JUL 1, 2016, and ending JUN 30, 2017

# 2016

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

▶ **Do not send to the IRS. Keep for your records.**

▶ **Information about Form 8879-EO and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form8879eo](http://www.irs.gov/form8879eo).**

Name of exempt organization

Employer identification number

**COMMON CAUSE**

**52-6078441**

Name and title of officer

**KAREN HOBERT FLYNN  
PRESIDENT**

### Part I Type of Return and Return Information (Whole Dollars Only)

Check the box for the return for which you are using this Form 8879-EO and enter the applicable amount, if any, from the return. If you check the box on line 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, or 5a, below, and the amount on that line for the return being filed with this form was blank, then leave line 1b, 2b, 3b, 4b, or 5b, whichever is applicable, blank (do not enter -0-). But, if you entered -0- on the return, then enter -0- on the applicable line below. Do not complete more than 1 line in Part I.

1a Form 990 check here	▶ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b Total revenue, if any (Form 990, Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1b	<u>7,558,066.</u>
2a Form 990-EZ check here	▶	b Total revenue, if any (Form 990-EZ, line 9)	2b	_____
3a Form 1120-POL check here	▶	b Total tax (Form 1120-POL, line 22)	3b	_____
4a Form 990-PF check here	▶	b Tax based on investment income (Form 990-PF, Part VI, line 5)	4b	_____
5a Form 8868 check here	▶	b Balance Due (Form 8868, line 3c)	5b	_____

### Part II Declaration and Signature Authorization of Officer

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I am an officer of the above organization and that I have examined a copy of the organization's 2016 electronic return and accompanying schedules and statements and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, and complete. I further declare that the amount in Part I above is the amount shown on the copy of the organization's electronic return. I consent to allow my intermediate service provider, transmitter, or electronic return originator (ERO) to send the organization's return to the IRS and to receive from the IRS (a) an acknowledgement of receipt or reason for rejection of the transmission, (b) the reason for any delay in processing the return or refund, and (c) the date of any refund. If applicable, I authorize the U.S. Treasury and its designated Financial Agent to initiate an electronic funds withdrawal (direct debit) entry to the financial institution account indicated in the tax preparation software for payment of the organization's federal taxes owed on this return, and the financial institution to debit the entry to this account. To revoke a payment, I must contact the U.S. Treasury Financial Agent at 1-888-353-4537 no later than 2 business days prior to the payment (settlement) date. I also authorize the financial institutions involved in the processing of the electronic payment of taxes to receive confidential information necessary to answer inquiries and resolve issues related to the payment. I have selected a personal identification number (PIN) as my signature for the organization's electronic return and, if applicable, the organization's consent to electronic funds withdrawal.

Officer's PIN: check one box only

I authorize TATE AND TRYON to enter my PIN 24673  
ERO firm name Enter five numbers, but do not enter all zeros

as my signature on the organization's tax year 2016 electronically filed return. If I have indicated within this return that a copy of the return is being filed with a state agency(ies) regulating charities as part of the IRS Fed/State program, I also authorize the aforementioned ERO to enter my PIN on the return's disclosure consent screen.

As an officer of the organization, I will enter my PIN as my signature on the organization's tax year 2016 electronically filed return. If I have indicated within this return that a copy of the return is being filed with a state agency(ies) regulating charities as part of the IRS Fed/State program, I will enter my PIN on the return's disclosure consent screen.

Officer's signature ▶ *Karen Hobert Flynn* Date ▶ OCT. 24, 2017

### Part III Certification and Authentication

ERO's EFIN/PIN. Enter your six-digit electronic filing identification number (EFIN) followed by your five-digit self-selected PIN.

**52472820878**  
do not enter all zeros

I certify that the above numeric entry is my PIN, which is my signature on the 2016 electronically filed return for the organization indicated above. I confirm that I am submitting this return in accordance with the requirements of Pub. 4163, Modernized e-File (MeF) Information for Authorized IRS e-file Providers for Business Returns.

ERO's signature ▶ *Eagleman* Date ▶ 10/23/2017

**ERO Must Retain This Form - See Instructions  
Do Not Submit This Form To the IRS Unless Requested To Do So**

LHA For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see instructions.

Form **8879-EO** (2016)

823051 09-26-16

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III [X]

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission: WITH OFFICES IN WASHINGTON, DC AND 35 STATES AND 998,000 SUPPORTERS AND ACTIVISTS, COMMON CAUSE WORKS TO ADVANCE DEMOCRACY REFORMS AT FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEVELS, THROUGH CRAFTING MODEL LEGISLATION, LOBBYING, PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, AND JOINT EFFORTS WITH DIVERSE PARTNERS

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 [X] 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 [X] No If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O.

4 Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.

4a (Code: ) (Expenses \$ 1,282,120. including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ 142,323. ) VOTING AND ELECTIONS AFTER ILLINOIS GOV. BRUCE RAUNER VETOED AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION LEGISLATION THAT COMMON CAUSE ILLINOIS SHEPHERDED THROUGH THE STATE LEGISLATURE, COMMON CAUSE WORKED TO REVISE THE BILL TO ADDRESS THE GOVERNOR'S OBJECTIONS. THE BILL PASSED AGAIN WITH OVERWHELMING BIPARTISAN SUPPORT IN THE SPRING OF 2017.

RESPONDING TO PROPOSED LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ELIMINATE THE ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION, COMMON CAUSE ORGANIZED SIGN-ON LETTERS AND ENCOURAGED STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS OFFICIALS, MILITARY LEADERS AND OTHERS TO PUBLISH THEIR OWN STATEMENTS ABOUT THE CONTINUING NEED FOR THE EAC. SUPPORTERS ELECTED NOT TO TAKE THE BILL TO THE FLOOR, SO FOR

4b (Code: ) (Expenses \$ 942,584. including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ ) MONEY AND POLITICS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION, COMMON CAUSE LED A NATIONAL "WHO WILL FIGHT BIG MONEY?" CAMPAIGN COMBINING DIRECT MAIL, ONLINE AND PRESS OUTREACH TO PUT CANDIDATES FOR CONGRESS ON RECORD ON A SERIES OF BILLS AIMED AT REDUCING THE INFLUENCE OF BIG MONEY IN POLITICS. MORE THAN 238 CANDIDATES DEMOCRATS, REPUBLICANS AND INDEPENDENTS ANSWERED OUR WHO WILL FIGHT BIG MONEY? QUESTIONNAIRE; MORE THAN 53,000 PEOPLE VISITED OUR WHO WILL FIGHT BIG MONEY? WEBSITE. COMMON CAUSE MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS ALSO SENT MORE THAN 14,000 EMAILS TO CANDIDATES TO DEMAND THEY ANSWER THE QUESTIONNAIRE. PARTNERS IN THE CAMPAIGN INCLUDED PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY, EVERY VOICE, THE CENTER FOR POPULAR DEMOCRACY, FRANCISCAN ACTION NETWORK, AND FRIENDS OF THE EARTH.

4c (Code: ) (Expenses \$ 803,027. including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ ) ETHICS, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN GOVERNMENT COMMON CAUSE MARYLAND SECURED PASSAGE OF A RESOLUTION RESCINDING THE STATE'S CALL FOR A FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION UNDER ARTICLE V OF THE CONSTITUTION. COMMON CAUSE IS LEADING SIMILAR EFFORTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO PERSUADE STATES TO DEFEAT ARTICLE V CONVENTION PROPOSALS. THE CONVENTION PROCESS IS UNDEFINED AND COULD RESULT IN A RUNAWAY CONVENTION THAT WOULD FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

COMMON CAUSE NEW MEXICO LED A SUCCESSFUL DRIVE TO PERSUADE THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO RESCIND ITS CALL FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION UNDER ARTICLE V.

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

4e Total program service expenses 3,027,731.

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules**

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> 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
<b>2</b> Is the organization required to complete <i>Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors</i> ? .....	X	
<b>3</b> 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
<b>4 Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i> .....		
<b>5</b> Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III</i> .....	X	
<b>6</b> Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which 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
<b>7</b> 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
<b>8</b> 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
<b>9</b> Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability, 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
<b>10</b> Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i> .....	X	
<b>11</b> If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable.		
<b>a</b> 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> .....	X	
<b>b</b> 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> .....		X
<b>c</b> 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> .....		X
<b>d</b> 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> .....		X
<b>e</b> Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i> .....	X	
<b>f</b> 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 (ASC 740)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i> .....		X
<b>12a</b> Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII</i> .....		X
<b>b</b> Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional</i> .....	X	
<b>13</b> Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i> .....		X
<b>14a</b> Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States? .....		X
<b>b</b> Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV</i> .....		X
<b>15</b> Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV</i> .....		X
<b>16</b> Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV</i> .....		X
<b>17</b> 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	
<b>18</b> 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	
<b>19</b> 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

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules** (continued)

	Yes	No
<b>20a</b> Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H</i> .....		X
<b>b</b> If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return? .....		
<b>21</b> Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or domestic government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II</i> .....		X
<b>22</b> Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for domestic individuals on Part IX, column (A), line 2? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III</i> .....		X
<b>23</b> 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	
<b>24a</b> 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 25a</i> .....		X
<b>b</b> Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception? .....		
<b>c</b> Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds? .....		
<b>d</b> Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year? .....		
<b>25a Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations.</b> 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>b</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
<b>26</b> Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5, 6, or 22 for receivables from or payables to any current or former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, or disqualified persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II</i> .....		X
<b>27</b> Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III</i> .....		X
<b>28</b> 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):		
<b>a</b> A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i> .....		X
<b>b</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
<b>c</b> An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i> .....		X
<b>29</b> Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i> .....	X	
<b>30</b> 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
<b>31</b> Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i> .....		X
<b>32</b> 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
<b>33</b> 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
<b>34</b> Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1</i> .....	X	
<b>35a</b> Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? .....	X	
<b>b</b> If "Yes" to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i> .....		X
<b>36 Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i> .....		
<b>37</b> 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
<b>38</b> Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? <b>Note.</b> All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O .....	X	

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V

Table with columns for line numbers (1a-14b), descriptions of questions, and Yes/No columns. Includes entries for Form 1096, Form W-2G, Form W-3, Form 990-T, Form 8886-T, Form 8282, Form 8899, Form 1098-C, Form 4947(a)(1), and Form 720.

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.

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI [X]

Section A. Governing Body and Management

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 1a (20), 1b (19), 2 (X), 3 (X), 4 (X), 5 (X), 6 (X), 7a (X), 7b (X), 8a (X), 8b (X), 9 (X).

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

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 10a (X), 10b (X), 11a (X), 12a (X), 12b (X), 12c (X), 13 (X), 14 (X), 15a (X), 15b (X), 16a (X), 16b (X).

Section C. Disclosure

- 17 List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed AL, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI, IL, IN
18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Forms 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (Section 501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply. [X] Own website [ ] Another's website [X] Upon request [ ] Other (explain in Schedule O)
19 Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year.
20 State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records: ELIZABETH MARCHANT, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER - 202-833-1200 805 15TH STREET NW SUITE 800, WASHINGTON, DC 20005

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

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VII

**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.

- 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, if any. 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 neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee.

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(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			
(1) ROBERT REICH CHAIR	1.00 1.00	X		X				0.	0.	0.
(2) MARTHA TIERNEY VICE CHAIR	1.00 1.00	X		X				0.	0.	0.
(3) OLENA BERG LACY TREASURER/SECRETARY	1.00 1.00	X		X				0.	0.	0.
(4) RIC BAINTER BOARD MEMBER	1.00 1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(5) EMMET J. BONDURANT BOARD MEMBER	1.00 1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(6) CORNELL W. BROOKS, ESQ. BOARD MEMBER	1.00 1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(7) DAN CONLEY BOARD MEMBER	1.00 1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(8) GREG DISKANT BOARD MEMBER	1.00 1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(9) ARCHON FUNG BOARD MEMBER	1.00 1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(10) OLGA KAUFFMAN BOARD MEMBER	1.00 1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(11) WILLIAM HUBBARD BOARD MEMBER	1.00 1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(12) MARILYN MELKONIAN BOARD MEMBER	1.00 1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(13) LENNY MENDONCA BOARD MEMBER	1.00 1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(14) CHANG K. PARK BOARD MEMBER	1.00 1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(15) NANCY RATZAN BOARD MEMBER	1.00 1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(16) SUSAN RUBINSTEIN BOARD MEMBER	1.00 1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(17) WES TOMER BOARD MEMBER	1.00 1.00	X						0.	0.	0.



**Part VII** Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees (continued)

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(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			
(18) TRACY WESTEN BOARD MEMBER	1.00 1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(19) ALAN WIERSBA BOARD MEMBER	1.00 1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(20) KAREN HOBERT FLYNN PRESIDENT/CEO (FROM 6/16)	18.75 18.75	X		X				120,696.	120,696.	5,870.
(21) MILES RAPOPORT PRESIDENT/CEO (UNTIL 6/16)	18.75 18.75	X		X				168,750.	168,750.	0.
(22) ELIZABETH MARCHANT CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	20.50 17.00			X				105,133.	87,183.	3,992.
(23) MARC CAPLAN SR. ADVISOR	12.50 25.00					X		35,868.	71,735.	6,415.
(24) JENNY FLANAGAN VP, STATE OPERATIONS	3.75 33.75					X		11,623.	104,605.	8,370.
(25) SCOTT SWENSON VP, COMMUNICATIONS	9.50 28.00					X		37,008.	109,076.	2,744.
<b>1b Sub-total</b>								479,078.	662,045.	27,391.
<b>c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A</b>								0.	0.	0.
<b>d Total (add lines 1b and 1c)</b>								479,078.	662,045.	27,391.

2 Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization **6**

	Yes	No
3 Did the organization list any former officer, director, or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual		X
4 For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual	X	
5 Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person		X

**Section B. Independent Contractors**

1 Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
RWT PRODUCTION 5624 BELLINGTON AVE., SPRINGFIELD, VA 22151	DIRECT MAIL	675,748.
BLACKBAUD, INC. PO BOX 930256, ATLANTA, GA 31193	WEB DATABASE	501,781.
AVALON CONSULTING GROUP, INC., 2030 M. ST. NW, SUITE 700, WASHINGTON, DC 20036	DIRECT MAIL	305,485.
MERKLE RESPONSE SERVICES INC. 100 JAMISON COURT, HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740	CONSULTING	103,969.

2 Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization **4**

**Part VIII Statement of Revenue**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

			(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512 - 514	
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	<b>1 a</b> Federated campaigns .....	<b>1a</b>					
	<b>b</b> Membership dues .....	<b>1b</b>					
	<b>c</b> Fundraising events .....	<b>1c</b>	41,433.				
	<b>d</b> Related organizations .....	<b>1d</b>					
	<b>e</b> Government grants (contributions)	<b>1e</b>					
	<b>f</b> All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above .....	<b>1f</b>	7,339,611.				
	<b>g</b> Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f: \$		40,438.				
	<b>h Total.</b> Add lines 1a-1f .....		7,381,044.				
Program Service Revenue	<b>2 a</b> PROGRAM FEES	Business Code 900099	142,323.	142,323.			
	<b>b</b> _____						
	<b>c</b> _____						
	<b>d</b> _____						
	<b>e</b> _____						
	<b>f</b> All other program service revenue .....						
	<b>g Total.</b> Add lines 2a-2f .....		142,323.				
Other Revenue	<b>3</b> Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts) .....		5,018.			5,018.	
	<b>4</b> Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds .....						
	<b>5</b> Royalties .....		45.			45.	
	<b>6 a</b> Gross rents .....	(i) Real	50,675.				
		(ii) Personal	0.				
			50,675.				
	<b>d</b> Net rental income or (loss) .....		50,675.			50,675.	
	<b>7 a</b> Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory .....	(i) Securities	40,281.				
		(ii) Other					
			41,355.				
			-1,074.				
	<b>d</b> Net gain or (loss) .....		-1,074.			-1,074.	
	<b>8 a</b> Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ 41,433. of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18 .....	<b>a</b>	0.				
		<b>b</b> Less: direct expenses .....	<b>b</b>	6,300.			
<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from fundraising events .....			-6,300.			-6,300.	
<b>9 a</b> Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19 .....	<b>a</b>						
	<b>b</b> Less: direct expenses .....	<b>b</b>					
	<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from gaming activities .....						
<b>10 a</b> Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances .....	<b>a</b>						
	<b>b</b> Less: cost of goods sold .....	<b>b</b>					
	<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory .....						
Miscellaneous Revenue		Business Code					
11	<b>a</b> _____						
	<b>b</b> _____						
	<b>c</b> _____						
	<b>d</b> All other revenue .....						
<b>e Total.</b> Add lines 11a-11d .....							
<b>12 Total revenue.</b> See instructions. ....			7,571,731.	142,323.	0.	48,364.	

**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).

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

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 domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21 ...				
2 Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22 .....				
3 Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16 .....				
4 Benefits paid to or for members .....				
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees .....	390,494.	135,541.	87,481.	167,472.
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 .....	1,644,280.	1,308,113.	288,427.	47,740.
8 Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)	44,479.	62,170.	-26,232.	8,541.
9 Other employee benefits .....	141,007.	197,088.	-83,158.	27,077.
10 Payroll taxes .....	95,426.	133,378.	-56,277.	18,325.
11 Fees for services (non-employees):				
a Management .....	158,549.	158,549.		
b Legal .....	109,197.	94,083.	15,114.	
c Accounting .....	49,307.		49,307.	
d Lobbying .....	13,500.	13,500.		
e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17	250,411.			250,411.
f Investment management fees .....				
g Other. (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Sch. O.)	15,849.	14,348.	1,501.	
12 Advertising and promotion .....	1,138,314.	10,856.	11,063.	1,116,395.
13 Office expenses .....	233,063.	78,918.	77,208.	76,937.
14 Information technology .....	779,859.	262,832.	456,310.	60,717.
15 Royalties .....				
16 Occupancy .....	493,692.	168,633.	324,064.	995.
17 Travel .....	58,814.	58,224.	590.	
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings .....	58,996.	42,562.	-85.	16,519.
20 Interest .....	9,337.		9,337.	
21 Payments to affiliates .....	278,198.	278,198.		
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization .....	207,281.		207,281.	
23 Insurance .....	46,249.		46,249.	
24 Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above. (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
a <b>STATE AFFILIATE COSTS</b>	72,000.		72,000.	
b <b>FINANCIAL SERVICES &amp; BA</b>	50,762.	7.	50,755.	
c <b>TAXES, LICENSES, FEES</b>	12,180.	669.	11,511.	
d <b>REGISTRATION FEES</b>	6,447.	6,447.		
e All other expenses	3,615.	3,615.		
25 <b>Total functional expenses.</b> Add lines 1 through 24e	6,361,306.	3,027,731.	1,542,446.	1,791,129.
26 <b>Joint costs.</b> Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation.				

Check here  if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)

**Part X Balance Sheet**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part X

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
<b>Assets</b>	<b>1</b> Cash - non-interest-bearing .....	1,163.	<b>1</b>	1,163.
	<b>2</b> Savings and temporary cash investments .....	476,168.	<b>2</b>	1,561,440.
	<b>3</b> Pledges and grants receivable, net .....		<b>3</b>	
	<b>4</b> Accounts receivable, net .....	617,295.	<b>4</b>	260,675.
	<b>5</b> Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees. Complete Part II of Schedule L .....		<b>5</b>	
	<b>6</b> Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instr). Complete Part II of Sch L .....		<b>6</b>	
	<b>7</b> Notes and loans receivable, net .....		<b>7</b>	
	<b>8</b> Inventories for sale or use .....		<b>8</b>	
	<b>9</b> Prepaid expenses and deferred charges .....	226,888.	<b>9</b>	292,508.
	<b>10a</b> Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D .....	<b>10a</b> 1,734,177.		
	<b>b</b> Less: accumulated depreciation .....	<b>10b</b> 454,998.	1,461,099.	<b>10c</b> 1,279,179.
	<b>11</b> Investments - publicly traded securities .....	356,537.	<b>11</b>	387,743.
	<b>12</b> Investments - other securities. See Part IV, line 11 .....		<b>12</b>	
	<b>13</b> Investments - program-related. See Part IV, line 11 .....		<b>13</b>	
	<b>14</b> Intangible assets .....		<b>14</b>	
	<b>15</b> Other assets. See Part IV, line 11 .....		<b>15</b>	
<b>16 Total assets.</b> Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34) .....	3,139,150.	<b>16</b>	3,782,708.	
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>17</b> Accounts payable and accrued expenses .....	1,275,819.	<b>17</b>	850,732.
	<b>18</b> Grants payable .....		<b>18</b>	
	<b>19</b> Deferred revenue .....		<b>19</b>	
	<b>20</b> Tax-exempt bond liabilities .....		<b>20</b>	
	<b>21</b> Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D .....		<b>21</b>	
	<b>22</b> Loans and other payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons. Complete Part II of Schedule L .....		<b>22</b>	
	<b>23</b> Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties .....		<b>23</b>	
	<b>24</b> Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties .....	300,000.	<b>24</b>	50,000.
	<b>25</b> Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24). Complete Part X of Schedule D .....	1,471,295.	<b>25</b>	1,544,534.
	<b>26 Total liabilities.</b> Add lines 17 through 25 .....	3,047,114.	<b>26</b>	2,445,266.
<b>Net Assets or Fund Balances</b>	<b>Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.</b>			
	<b>27</b> Unrestricted net assets .....	-1,211,526.	<b>27</b>	649,023.
	<b>28</b> Temporarily restricted net assets .....	1,303,562.	<b>28</b>	688,419.
	<b>29</b> Permanently restricted net assets .....		<b>29</b>	
	<b>Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 30 through 34.</b>			
	<b>30</b> Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds .....		<b>30</b>	
	<b>31</b> Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund .....		<b>31</b>	
	<b>32</b> Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds .....		<b>32</b>	
<b>33</b> Total net assets or fund balances .....	92,036.	<b>33</b>	1,337,442.	
<b>34</b> Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances .....	3,139,150.	<b>34</b>	3,782,708.	

**Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	7,571,731.
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	6,361,306.
3	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	1,210,425.
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	4	92,036.
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	34,981.
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	
7	Investment expenses	7	
8	Prior period adjustments	8	
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	9	0.
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	10	1,337,442.

**Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII

		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? _____ If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both: <input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis		X
2b	Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant? _____ If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both: <input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis	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.	X	
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 (2016)

**Schedule B**

(Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF)

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Schedule of Contributors**

▶ Attach to Form 990, Form 990-EZ, or Form 990-PF.  
▶ Information about Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2016**

Name of the organization

COMMON CAUSE

Employer identification number

52-6078441

Organization type (check one):

Filers of:

Section:

Form 990 or 990-EZ

501(c)( 4 ) (enter number) organization

4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust **not** treated as a private foundation

527 political organization

Form 990-PF

501(c)(3) exempt private foundation

4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust treated as a private foundation

501(c)(3) taxable private foundation

Check if your organization is covered by the **General Rule** or a **Special Rule**.

**Note:** Only a section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) organization can check boxes for both the General Rule and a Special Rule. See instructions.

**General Rule**

For an organization filing Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF that received, during the year, contributions totaling \$5,000 or more (in money or property) from any one contributor. Complete Parts I and II. See instructions for determining a contributor's total contributions.

**Special Rules**

For an organization described in section 501(c)(3) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that met the 33 1/3% support test of the regulations under sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi), that checked Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ), Part II, line 13, 16a, or 16b, and that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of the greater of (1) \$5,000 or (2) 2% of the amount on (i) Form 990, Part VIII, line 1h, or (ii) Form 990-EZ, line 1. Complete Parts I and II.

For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of more than \$1,000 *exclusively* for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals. Complete Parts I, II, and III.

For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, contributions *exclusively* for religious, charitable, etc., purposes, but no such contributions totaled more than \$1,000. If this box is checked, enter here the total contributions that were received during the year for an *exclusively* religious, charitable, etc., purpose. Don't complete any of the parts unless the **General Rule** applies to this organization because it received *nonexclusively* religious, charitable, etc., contributions totaling \$5,000 or more during the year ..... ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Caution:** An organization that isn't covered by the General Rule and/or the Special Rules doesn't file Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF), but it **must** answer "No" on Part IV, line 2, of its Form 990; or check the box on line H of its Form 990-EZ or on its Form 990-PF, Part I, line 2, to certify that it doesn't meet the filing requirements of Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF).

LHA For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF. Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF) (2016)

Name of organization <b>COMMON CAUSE</b>	Employer identification number <b>52-6078441</b>
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**Part I Contributors** (See instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part I if additional space is needed.

(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
<u>1</u>	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ <u>450,000.</u>	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
<u>2</u>	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ <u>223,208.</u>	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
<u>3</u>	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ <u>128,516.</u>	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
<u>4</u>	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ <u>187,500.</u>	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
<u>5</u>	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ <u>61,203.</u>	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
<u>6</u>	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ <u>57,000.</u>	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)

Name of organization <b>COMMON CAUSE</b>	Employer identification number <b>52-6078441</b>
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**Part I Contributors** (See instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part I if additional space is needed.

(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
7	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ <u>54,499.</u>	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
8	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ <u>99,000.</u>	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
9	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ <u>28,000.</u>	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
10	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ <u>25,000.</u>	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
11	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ <u>34,000.</u>	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
12	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ <u>25,000.</u>	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)



Name of organization <b>COMMON CAUSE</b>	Employer identification number <b>52-6078441</b>
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**Part I Contributors** (See instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part I if additional space is needed.

(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
13	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 25,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
14	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 18,887.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
15	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 17,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
16	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 15,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
17	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 15,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
18	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 22,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)

Name of organization <b>COMMON CAUSE</b>	Employer identification number <b>52-6078441</b>
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**Part I Contributors** (See instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part I if additional space is needed.

(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
19	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 10,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
20	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 10,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
21	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 10,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
22	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 10,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
23	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 10,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
24	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 10,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)

Name of organization <b>COMMON CAUSE</b>	Employer identification number <b>52-6078441</b>
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**Part I Contributors** (See instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part I if additional space is needed.

(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
25	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ <u>14,332.</u>	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
26	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ <u>6,054.</u>	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
27	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ <u>5,190.</u>	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
28	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ <u>5,163.</u>	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
29	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ <u>5,001.</u>	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
30	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ <u>5,000.</u>	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)

Name of organization <b>COMMON CAUSE</b>	Employer identification number <b>52-6078441</b>
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**Part I Contributors** (See instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part I if additional space is needed.

(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
31	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 5,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
32	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 5,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
33	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 5,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
34	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 5,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
35	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 5,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
36	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 5,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)

Name of organization <b>COMMON CAUSE</b>	Employer identification number <b>52-6078441</b>
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**Part I Contributors** (See instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part I if additional space is needed.

(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
37	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 5,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
38	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 5,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
39	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 5,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
40	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 5,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
41	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 5,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
42	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 5,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)

Name of organization <b>COMMON CAUSE</b>	Employer identification number <b>52-6078441</b>
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**Part I Contributors** (See instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part I if additional space is needed.

(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
43	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 5,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
44	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 5,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
45	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 5,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
46	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 5,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
47	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 10,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
48	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 5,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)

Name of organization <b>COMMON CAUSE</b>	Employer identification number <b>52-6078441</b>
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**Part I Contributors** (See instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part I if additional space is needed.

(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
49	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 5,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
50	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ 5,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ _____	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ _____	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ _____	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ _____	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	\$ _____	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)

Name of organization  <b>COMMON CAUSE</b>	Employer identification number  <b>52-6078441</b>
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**Part II Noncash Property** (See instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part II if additional space is needed.

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions)	(d) Date received
25	49 SHARES BROADCOM; 16 SHARES HOME DEPOT	\$ 14,332.	06/19/17
26	9 SHARES PRIMECAP ODYSSEY	\$ 6,054.	02/22/17
27	140 SHARES INTEL	\$ 5,190.	12/27/16
28	164 SHARES GENERAL ELECTRIC	\$ 5,163.	07/01/16
		\$ _____	_____
		\$ _____	_____



Name of organization  <b>COMMON CAUSE</b>	Employer identification number  <b>52-6078441</b>
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**Part III** Exclusively religious, charitable, etc., contributions to organizations described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) that total more than \$1,000 for the year from any one contributor. Complete columns (a) through (e) and the following line entry. For organizations completing Part III, enter the total of exclusively religious, charitable, etc., contributions of \$1,000 or less for the year. (Enter this info. once.) ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Use duplicate copies of Part III if additional space is needed.

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
<b>(e) Transfer of gift</b>			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	
<b>(e) Transfer of gift</b>			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	
<b>(e) Transfer of gift</b>			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	
<b>(e) Transfer of gift</b>			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	
<b>(e) Transfer of gift</b>			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	

**SCHEDULE C**  
**(Form 990 or 990-EZ)**

**Political Campaign and Lobbying Activities**

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2016**

**Open to Public Inspection**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

For Organizations Exempt From Income Tax Under section 501(c) and section 527

▶ **Complete if the organization is described below.** ▶ **Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.**

▶ **Information about Schedule C (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at** [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

**If the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 3, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 46 (Political Campaign Activities), then**

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations: Complete Parts I-A and B. Do not complete Part I-C.
- Section 501(c) (other than section 501(c)(3)) organizations: Complete Parts I-A and C below. Do not complete Part I-B.
- Section 527 organizations: Complete Part I-A only.

**If the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 4, or Form 990-EZ, Part VI, line 47 (Lobbying Activities), then**

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)): Complete Part II-A. Do not complete Part II-B.
- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)): Complete Part II-B. Do not complete Part II-A.

**If the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 5 (Proxy Tax) (see separate instructions) or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 35c (Proxy Tax) (see separate instructions), then**

- Section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) organizations: Complete Part III.

Name of organization

**COMMON CAUSE**

Employer identification number

**52-6078441**

**Part I-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c) or is a section 527 organization.**

- 1 Provide a description of the organization's direct and indirect political campaign activities in Part IV.
- 2 Political campaign activity expenditures ..... ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Volunteer hours for political campaign activities .....

**Part I-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3).**

- 1 Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by the organization under section 4955 ..... ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by organization managers under section 4955 ..... ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 If the organization incurred a section 4955 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year? .....  Yes  No
- 4a Was a correction made? .....  Yes  No
- b If "Yes," describe in Part IV.

**Part I-C Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c), except section 501(c)(3).**

- 1 Enter the amount directly expended by the filing organization for section 527 exempt function activities ..... ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Enter the amount of the filing organization's funds contributed to other organizations for section 527 exempt function activities ..... ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Total exempt function expenditures. Add lines 1 and 2. Enter here and on Form 1120-POL, line 17b ..... ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Did the filing organization file **Form 1120-POL** for this year? .....  Yes  No
- 5 Enter the names, addresses and employer identification number (EIN) of all section 527 political organizations to which the filing organization made payments. For each organization listed, enter the amount paid from the filing organization's funds. Also enter the amount of political contributions received that were promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization, such as a separate segregated fund or a political action committee (PAC). If additional space is needed, provide information in Part IV.

(a) Name	(b) Address	(c) EIN	(d) Amount paid from filing organization's funds. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Amount of political contributions received and promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization. If none, enter -0-.

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990 or 990-EZ.

Schedule C (Form 990 or 990-EZ) 2016

LHA

632041 11-10-16

**Part II-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).**

- A** Check  if the filing organization belongs to an affiliated group (and list in Part IV each affiliated group member's name, address, EIN, expenses, and share of excess lobbying expenditures).
- B** Check  if the filing organization checked box A and "limited control" provisions apply.

<b>Limits on Lobbying Expenditures</b> (The term "expenditures" means amounts paid or incurred.)		(a) Filing organization's totals	(b) Affiliated group totals												
<b>1a</b>	Total lobbying expenditures to influence public opinion (grass roots lobbying) .....														
<b>b</b>	Total lobbying expenditures to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying) .....														
<b>c</b>	Total lobbying expenditures (add lines 1a and 1b) .....														
<b>d</b>	Other exempt purpose expenditures .....														
<b>e</b>	Total exempt purpose expenditures (add lines 1c and 1d) .....														
<b>f</b>	Lobbying nontaxable amount. Enter the amount from the following table in both columns.														
<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:</th> <th style="text-align: left;">The lobbying nontaxable amount is:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Not over \$500,000</td> <td>20% of the amount on line 1e.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000</td> <td>\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000</td> <td>\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000</td> <td>\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$17,000,000</td> <td>\$1,000,000.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:	Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 1e.	Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000.	Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000.	Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.	Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000.		
If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:														
Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 1e.														
Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000.														
Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000.														
Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.														
Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000.														
<b>g</b>	Grassroots nontaxable amount (enter 25% of line 1f) .....														
<b>h</b>	Subtract line 1g from line 1a. If zero or less, enter -0- .....														
<b>i</b>	Subtract line 1f from line 1c. If zero or less, enter -0- .....														
<b>j</b>	If there is an amount other than zero on either line 1h or line 1i, did the organization file Form 4720 reporting section 4911 tax for this year? .....														

Yes  No

**4-Year Averaging Period Under section 501(h)**  
(Some organizations that made a section 501(h) election do not have to complete all of the five columns below. See the separate instructions for lines 2a through 2f.)

<b>Lobbying Expenditures During 4-Year Averaging Period</b>					
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2013	(b) 2014	(c) 2015	(d) 2016	(e) Total
<b>2a</b> Lobbying nontaxable amount					
<b>b</b> Lobbying ceiling amount (150% of line 2a, column(e))					
<b>c</b> Total lobbying expenditures					
<b>d</b> Grassroots nontaxable amount					
<b>e</b> Grassroots ceiling amount (150% of line 2d, column (e))					
<b>f</b> Grassroots lobbying expenditures					

**Part II-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and has NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).**

	(a)		(b)
	Yes	No	Amount
<b>1</b> During the year, did the filing organization attempt to influence foreign, national, state or local legislation, including any attempt to influence public opinion on a legislative matter or referendum, through the use of:			
<b>a</b> Volunteers? .....			
<b>b</b> Paid staff or management (include compensation in expenses reported on lines 1c through 1i)? ..			
<b>c</b> Media advertisements? .....			
<b>d</b> Mailings to members, legislators, or the public? .....			
<b>e</b> Publications, or published or broadcast statements? .....			
<b>f</b> Grants to other organizations for lobbying purposes? .....			
<b>g</b> Direct contact with legislators, their staffs, government officials, or a legislative body? .....			
<b>h</b> Rallies, demonstrations, seminars, conventions, speeches, lectures, or any similar means? .....			
<b>i</b> Other activities? .....			
<b>j</b> Total. Add lines 1c through 1i .....			
<b>2a</b> Did the activities in line 1 cause the organization to be not described in section 501(c)(3)? .....			
<b>b</b> If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred under section 4912 .....			
<b>c</b> If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred by organization managers under section 4912 .....			
<b>d</b> If the filing organization incurred a section 4912 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year? .....			

**Part III-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6).**

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> Were substantially all (90% or more) dues received nondeductible by members? .....	X	
<b>2</b> Did the organization make only in-house lobbying expenditures of \$2,000 or less? .....		X
<b>3</b> Did the organization agree to carry over lobbying and political campaign activity expenditures from the prior year? .....		X

**Part III-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6) and if either (a) BOTH Part III-A, lines 1 and 2, are answered "No," OR (b) Part III-A, line 3, is answered "Yes."**

<b>1</b> Dues, assessments and similar amounts from members .....	<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b> Section 162(e) nondeductible lobbying and political expenditures (do not include amounts of political expenses for which the section 527(f) tax was paid).		
<b>a</b> Current year .....	<b>2a</b>	
<b>b</b> Carryover from last year .....	<b>2b</b>	
<b>c</b> Total .....	<b>2c</b>	
<b>3</b> Aggregate amount reported in section 6033(e)(1)(A) notices of nondeductible section 162(e) dues .....	<b>3</b>	
<b>4</b> If notices were sent and the amount on line 2c exceeds the amount on line 3, what portion of the excess does the organization agree to carryover to the reasonable estimate of nondeductible lobbying and political expenditure next year? .....	<b>4</b>	
<b>5</b> Taxable amount of lobbying and political expenditures (see instructions) .....	<b>5</b>	

**Part IV Supplemental Information**

Provide the descriptions required for Part I-A, line 1; Part I-B, line 4; Part I-C, line 5; Part II-A (affiliated group list); Part II-A, lines 1 and 2 (see instructions); and Part II-B, line 1. Also, complete this part for any additional information.

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**SCHEDULE D**  
**(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Supplemental Financial Statements**

▶ **Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b. Attach to Form 990.**

▶ **Information about Schedule D (Form 990) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).**

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2016**  
**Open to Public Inspection**

Name of the organization **COMMON CAUSE** Employer identification number **52-6078441**

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

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1 Total number at end of year .....		
2 Aggregate value of contributions to (during year) .....		
3 Aggregate value of grants from (during year) .....		
4 Aggregate value at end of year .....		
5 Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
6 Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

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

1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply).

Preservation of land for public use (e.g., recreation or education)       Preservation of a historically important land area

Protection of natural habitat       Preservation of a certified historic structure

Preservation of open space

2 Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year.

	Held at the End of the Tax Year
a Total number of conservation easements .....	2a
b Total acreage restricted by conservation easements .....	2b
c Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a) .....	2c
d Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 8/17/06, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register .....	2d

3 Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

4 Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds? .....

Yes  No

6 Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)? .....

Yes  No

9 In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements.

**Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIII, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items.

b If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items:

(i) Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 .....

▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X .....

▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2 If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 (ASC 958) relating to these items:

a Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 .....

▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

b Assets included in Form 990, Part X .....

▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

LHA For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990. Schedule D (Form 990) 2016

**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 XIII.
- 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 the organization answered "Yes" on 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 XIII 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, for escrow or custodial account liability?  Yes  No
- b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided on Part XIII

**Part V Endowment Funds.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on 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	1,438,444.	1,294,331.	1,159,794.	842,650.	14,953.
b Contributions	300,000.	200,000.	250,000.	250,000.	750,000.
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses	265,684.	9,124.	64,690.	168,079.	109,803.
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses	55,459.	65,011.	180,153.	100,935.	32,106.
g End of year balance	1,948,669.	1,438,444.	1,294,331.	1,159,794.	842,650.

- 2 Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as:
- a Board designated or quasi-endowment  1.08 %
  - b Permanent endowment  .00 %
  - c Temporarily restricted endowment  98.92 %
- The percentages on lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%.
- 3a Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by:
- |   | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| (i) unrelated organizations   |     | X  |
| (ii) related organizations  |     | X  |
| b If "Yes" on line 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R? <input type="checkbox"/> | 3b  |    |
- 4 Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds.

**Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land				
b Buildings				
c Leasehold improvements		1,179,613.	138,146.	1,041,467.
d Equipment		554,564.	316,852.	237,712.
e Other				

**Total.** Add lines 1a through 1e. (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10c.)  1,279,179.

**Part VII Investments - Other Securities.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11b. See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) Financial derivatives .....		
(2) Closely-held equity interests .....		
(3) Other .....		
(A)		
(B)		
(C)		
(D)		
(E)		
(F)		
(G)		
(H)		
<b>Total.</b> (Col. (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 12.) ▶		

**Part VIII Investments - Program Related.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11c. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

(a) Description of investment	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		
(9)		
<b>Total.</b> (Col. (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 13.) ▶		

**Part IX Other Assets.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11d. See Form 990, Part X, line 15.

(a) Description	(b) Book value
(1)	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
<b>Total.</b> (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 15.) ▶	

**Part X Other Liabilities.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11e or 11f. See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

1. (a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
(1) Federal income taxes	
(2) DEFERRED RENT	1,448,439.
(3) DUE TO RELATED	96,095.
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
<b>Total.</b> (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 25.) ▶	1,544,534.

2. Liability for uncertain tax positions. In Part XIII, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740). Check here if the text of the footnote has been provided in Part XIII

**Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements		1	9,915,612.
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12:			
a	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	2a	34,981.	
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b	2,302,600.	
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c		
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d	6,300.	
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e		2,343,881.
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3		7,571,731.
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 XIII.)	4b		
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c		0.
5	Total revenue. Add lines 3 and 4c. (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12.)	5		7,571,731.

**Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements		1	8,598,206.
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25:			
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a	2,302,600.	
b	Prior year adjustments	2b		
c	Other losses	2c		
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d	6,300.	
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e		2,308,900.
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3		6,289,306.
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 XIII.)	4b	72,000.	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c		72,000.
5	Total expenses. Add lines 3 and 4c. (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18.)	5		6,361,306.

**Part XIII Supplemental Information.**

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, lines 2d and 4b; and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

**PART V, LINE 4:**

THE COMMON CAUSE QUASI-ENDOWMENT (BOARD DESIGNATED) FUND WAS USED TO FUND THE OPERATING CASH NEEDS OF THE ORGANIZATION. IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE BOARD TO BEGIN RE-FUNDING THE ENDOWMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE IF CASH FLOWS PERMIT. THERE WERE NO REPAYMENTS MADE DURING FISCAL YEAR 2017.

**PART XI, LINE 2D - OTHER ADJUSTMENTS:**

SPECIAL EVENTS EXPENSE TO PART VIII 6,300.

**PART XII, LINE 2D - OTHER ADJUSTMENTS:**

SPECIAL EVENTS EXPENSE TO PART VIII 6,300.



**Part XIII** Supplemental Information *(continued)*

PART XII, LINE 4B - OTHER ADJUSTMENTS:

STATE AFFILIATE COSTS 72,000.

Multiple horizontal lines for supplemental information.

SCHEDULE G (Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Supplemental Information Regarding Fundraising or Gaming Activities

OMB No. 1545-0047

2016

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 17, 18, or 19, or if the organization entered more than \$15,000 on Form 990-EZ, line 6a.

Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

Information about Schedule G (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

Name of the organization

COMMON CAUSE

Employer identification number

52-6078441

Part I Fundraising Activities. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 17. Form 990-EZ filers are not required to complete this part.

1 Indicate whether the organization raised funds through any of the following activities. Check all that apply.

- a [X] Mail solicitations
b [X] Internet and email solicitations
c [X] Phone solicitations
d [ ] In-person solicitations
e [ ] Solicitation of non-government grants
f [ ] Solicitation of government grants
g [ ] Special fundraising events

2 a Did the organization have a written or oral agreement with any individual... [X] Yes [ ] No

b If "Yes," list the 10 highest paid individuals or entities (fundraisers) pursuant to agreements under which the fundraiser is to be compensated at least \$5,000 by the organization.

Table with 6 columns: (i) Name and address of individual or entity (fundraiser), (ii) Activity, (iii) Did fundraiser have custody or control of contributions?, (iv) Gross receipts from activity, (v) Amount paid to (or retained by) fundraiser listed in col. (i), (vi) Amount paid to (or retained by) organization. Includes rows for AVALON CONSULTING GROUP, INC. and PUBLIC INTEREST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

3 List all states in which the organization is registered or licensed to solicit contributions or has been notified it is exempt from registration or licensing.

AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI, WY, DC

**Part II Fundraising Events.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 18, or reported more than \$15,000 of fundraising event contributions and gross income on Form 990-EZ, lines 1 and 6b. List events with gross receipts greater than \$5,000.

		(a) Event #1	(b) Event #2	(c) Other events	(d) Total events (add col. (a) through col. (c))	
		CO EVENT (event type)	IL EVENT (event type)	2 (total number)		
Revenue	1	Gross receipts	22,327.	11,396.	7,710.	41,433.
	2	Less: Contributions	22,327.	11,396.	7,710.	41,433.
	3	Gross income (line 1 minus line 2)				
Direct Expenses	4	Cash prizes				
	5	Noncash prizes				
	6	Rent/facility costs	500.		322.	822.
	7	Food and beverages	450.	334.	1,327.	2,111.
	8	Entertainment				
	9	Other direct expenses	704.	79.	2,584.	3,367.
	10	Direct expense summary. Add lines 4 through 9 in column (d)				6,300.
	11	Net income summary. Subtract line 10 from line 3, column (d)				-6,300.

**Part III Gaming.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 19, or reported more than \$15,000 on Form 990-EZ, line 6a.

		(a) Bingo	(b) Pull tabs/instant bingo/progressive bingo	(c) Other gaming	(d) Total gaming (add col. (a) through col. (c))	
Revenue	1	Gross revenue				
	2	Cash prizes				
Direct Expenses	3	Noncash prizes				
	4	Rent/facility costs				
	5	Other direct expenses				
	6	Volunteer labor	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ % <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ % <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ % <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	7	Direct expense summary. Add lines 2 through 5 in column (d)				
	8	Net gaming income summary. Subtract line 7 from line 1, column (d)				

9 Enter the state(s) in which the organization conducts gaming activities: \_\_\_\_\_

a Is the organization licensed to conduct gaming activities in each of these states?  Yes  No

b If "No," explain: \_\_\_\_\_

10a Were any of the organization's gaming licenses revoked, suspended, or terminated during the tax year?  Yes  No

b If "Yes," explain: \_\_\_\_\_

- 11 Does the organization conduct gaming activities with nonmembers?  Yes  No
- 12 Is the organization a grantor, beneficiary or trustee of a trust, or a member of a partnership or other entity formed to administer charitable gaming?  Yes  No
- 13 Indicate the percentage of gaming activity conducted in:
 

a The organization's facility	13a	%
b An outside facility	13b	%
- 14 Enter the name and address of the person who prepares the organization's gaming/special events books and records:

Name ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

Address ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

- 15a Does the organization have a contract with a third party from whom the organization receives gaming revenue?  Yes  No
- b If "Yes," enter the amount of gaming revenue received by the organization ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and the amount of gaming revenue retained by the third party ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- c If "Yes," enter name and address of the third party:

Name ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

Address ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

16 Gaming manager information:

Name ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

Gaming manager compensation ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Description of services provided ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Director/officer       Employee       Independent contractor

17 Mandatory distributions:

- a Is the organization required under state law to make charitable distributions from the gaming proceeds to retain the state gaming license?  Yes  No
- b Enter the amount of distributions required under state law to be distributed to other exempt organizations or spent in the organization's own exempt activities during the tax year ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Part IV** Supplemental Information. Provide the explanations required by Part I, line 2b, columns (iii) and (v); and Part III, lines 9, 9b, 10b, 15b, 15c, 16, and 17b, as applicable. Also provide any additional information. See instructions

**SCHEDULE G, PART I, LINE 2B, LIST OF TEN HIGHEST PAID FUNDRAISERS:**

(I) NAME OF FUNDRAISER: AVALON CONSULTING GROUP, INC.

(I) ADDRESS OF FUNDRAISER:

2030 M STREET, NW, SUITE 700, WASHINGTON, DC 20036

(I) NAME OF FUNDRAISER: PUBLIC INTEREST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

(I) ADDRESS OF FUNDRAISER:

7700 LEESBURG PIKE, STE 301, FALLS CHURCH, VA 22043

**Part IV** Supplemental Information *(continued)*

*(This area is intentionally left blank for supplemental information.)*

**SCHEDULE J  
(Form 990)**

**Compensation Information**

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2016**

Open to Public Inspection

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

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

▶ Attach to Form 990.

▶ Information about Schedule J (Form 990) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization

COMMON CAUSE

Employer identification number

52-6078441

**Part I Questions Regarding Compensation**

**1a** Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed on 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"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tax indemnification and gross-up payments | <input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account            | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (such as, 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 .....

**2** Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all directors, trustees, and officers, including the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked on line 1a? .....

**3** Indicate which, if any, of the following the filing organization used to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director. Check all that apply. Do not check any boxes for methods used by a related organization to establish compensation of the CEO/Executive Director, but explain in Part III.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee |

**4** During the year, did any person listed on 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? .....
- b** Participate in, or receive payment from, a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan? .....
- c** Participate in, or receive payment from, an equity-based compensation arrangement? .....
- 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), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations must complete lines 5-9.**

**5** For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of:

- a** The organization? .....
- b** Any related organization? .....
- If "Yes" on line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III.

**6** For persons listed on 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? .....
- b** Any related organization? .....
- If "Yes" on line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III.

**7** For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any nonfixed payments not described on lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III .....

**8** Were any amounts reported on Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regulations section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III .....

**9** If "Yes" on line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)? .....

	Yes	No
<b>1b</b>		
<b>2</b>		
<b>4a</b>	X	
<b>4b</b>		X
<b>4c</b>		X
<b>5a</b>		X
<b>5b</b>		X
<b>6a</b>		X
<b>6b</b>		X
<b>7</b>		X
<b>8</b>		X
<b>9</b>		

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

Schedule J (Form 990) 2016

**Part II Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees.** Use duplicate copies if additional space is needed.

For each individual whose compensation must be reported on Schedule J, report compensation from the organization on row (i) and from related organizations, described in the instructions, on row (ii). Do not list any individuals that aren't listed on Form 990, Part VII.

**Note:** The sum of columns (B)(i)-(iii) for each listed individual must equal the total amount of Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, applicable column (D) and (E) amounts for that individual.

(A) Name and Title		(B) Breakdown of W-2 and/or 1099-MISC compensation			(C) Retirement and other deferred compensation	(D) Nontaxable benefits	(E) Total of columns (B)(i)-(D)	(F) Compensation in column (B) reported as deferred on prior Form 990
		(i) Base compensation	(ii) Bonus & incentive compensation	(iii) Other reportable compensation				
(1) KAREN HOBERT FLYNN PRESIDENT/CEO (FROM 6/16)	(i)	120,696.	0.	0.	0.	3,253.	123,949.	0.
	(ii)	120,696.	0.	0.	0.	3,253.	123,949.	0.
(2) MILES RAPOPORT PRESIDENT/CEO (UNTIL 6/16)	(i)	81,250.	0.	87,500.	0.	0.	168,750.	0.
	(ii)	81,250.	0.	87,500.	0.	0.	168,750.	0.
(3) ELIZABETH MARCHANT CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	(i)	105,133.	0.	0.	0.	4,200.	109,333.	0.
	(ii)	87,183.	0.	0.	0.	3,483.	90,666.	0.
	(i)							
	(ii)							
	(i)							
	(ii)							
	(i)							
	(ii)							
	(i)							
	(ii)							
	(i)							
	(ii)							
	(i)							
	(ii)							
	(i)							
	(ii)							
	(i)							
	(ii)							

**Part III** Supplemental Information

Provide the information, explanation, or descriptions required for Part I, lines 1a, 1b, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7, and 8, and for Part II. Also complete this part for any additional information.

PART I, LINE 4A:

DURING THE 2016 CALENDAR YEAR, MILES RAPOPORT RECEIVED \$162,500 SEVERANCE  
PAY AND \$12,500 CASHED-OUT VACATION AND SICK LEAVE.



**SCHEDULE M  
(Form 990)**

**Noncash Contributions**

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2016**

Open To Public Inspection

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.**
- ▶ **Information about Schedule M (Form 990) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).**

Name of the organization

**COMMON CAUSE**

Employer identification number

**52-6078441**

**Part I Types of Property**

	(a) Check if applicable	(b) Number of contributions or items contributed	(c) Noncash contribution amounts reported on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1g	(d) Method of determining noncash contribution amounts
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	X	13	40,438.	FMV
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				
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 Acknowledgement ..... **29**

- 30a During the year, did the organization receive by contribution any property reported in Part I, lines 1 through 28, that it must hold for at least three years from the date of the initial contribution, and which isn't required to be used for exempt purposes for the entire holding period? .....
- b If "Yes," describe the arrangement in Part II.
- 31 Does the organization have a gift acceptance policy that requires the review of any nonstandard contributions? .....
- 32a Does the organization hire or use third parties or related organizations to solicit, process, or sell noncash contributions? .....
- b If "Yes," describe in Part II.
- 33 If the organization didn't report an amount in column (c) for a type of property for which column (a) is checked, describe in Part II.

	Yes	No
30a		X
31		X
32a		X

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

Schedule M (Form 990) (2016)

**Part II** **Supplemental Information.** Provide the information required by Part I, lines 30b, 32b, and 33, and whether the organization is reporting in Part I, column (b), the number of contributions, the number of items received, or a combination of both. Also complete this part for any additional information.

SCHEDULE M, PART I, COLUMN (B):

THERE WERE 13 SEPARATE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STOCK DURING FY2017

**SCHEDULE O**  
**(Form 990 or 990-EZ)**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ**

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on  
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

▶ Information about Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2016**

Open to Public  
Inspection

Name of the organization

COMMON CAUSE

Employer identification number

52-6078441

FORM 990, PART I, LINE 1, DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION MISSION:

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY. WE WORK TO ENSURE OPEN, HONEST, AND ACCOUNTABLE  
GOVERNMENT; TO PROMOTE EQUAL RIGHTS, OPPORTUNITY, AND REPRESENTATION  
FOR ALL; AND TO EMPOWER ALL PEOPLE TO MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD AS EQUALS  
IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS. COMMON CAUSE WORKS ACROSS FOUR MAJOR ISSUE  
AREAS: VOTING AND ELECTIONS; MONEY AND POLITICS; ETHICS, TRANSPARENCY  
AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY; AND MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY.

FORM 990, PART III, LINE 1, DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION MISSION:

ACROSS THE REFORM COMMUNITY.

FORM 990, PART III, LINE 4A, PROGRAM SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

NOW THE AGENCY IS SAFE.

OPPOSITION FROM COMMON CAUSE HAWAII HELPED DEFEAT A CHARTER AMENDMENT  
ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT IN HONOLULU COUNTY THAT WOULD HAVE REMOVED THE  
REQUIREMENT OF PARTISAN BALANCE ON THE COUNTY'S CITIZEN REDISTRICTING  
COMMISSION. WE ANNOUNCED OUR OPPOSITION IN A PRESS RELEASE AND AN OP-ED  
IN THE HONOLULU STAR-ADVERTISER. THE MEASURE WAS DEFEATED BY 30  
PERCENTAGE POINTS.

COMMON CAUSE RHODE ISLAND SUCCESSFULLY LOBBIED FOR PASSAGE OF  
AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION LEGISLATION, WHICH THE GOVERNOR SUPPORTED.  
THE STATE WILL BE THE NINTH IN THE COUNTRY TO ADD QUALIFIED RESIDENTS  
TO THE VOTER ROLLS AUTOMATICALLY WHEN THEY DO BUSINESS WITH STATE MOTOR  
VEHICLE OFFICES. RHODE ISLAND WILL EXTEND AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION TO

LHA For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990 or 990-EZ.

Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) (2016)

632211 08-25-16

Name of the organization COMMON CAUSE	Employer identification number 52-6078441
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ADDITIONAL STATE AGENCIES ONCE THOSE AGENCIES MEET STATE STANDARDS.

FORM 990, PART III, LINE 4B, PROGRAM SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

COMMON CAUSE PUBLISHED A DEMOCRACY SCORECARD  
([WWW.COMMONCAUSE.ORG/ISSUES/MORE-DEMOCRACY-REFORMS/DEMOCRACY-SCORECARD/REPORT.PDF](http://WWW.COMMONCAUSE.ORG/ISSUES/MORE-DEMOCRACY-REFORMS/DEMOCRACY-SCORECARD/REPORT.PDF)) CHARTING THE SPONSORSHIP OR VOTES OF HOUSE MEMBERS ON 17  
BILLS AND OF SENATORS ON 12 BILLS INTRODUCED IN THE 114TH CONGRESS  
PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC POLICIES AND PRACTICES. INQUIRIES TO MEMBERS OF  
CONGRESS ABOUT THEIR SPONSORSHIP OR CO-SPONSORSHIP OF THE BILLS  
INVOLVED RESULTED IN 250 ADDITIONAL CO-SPONSORSHIPS.

CALIFORNIA COMMON CAUSE SECURED PASSAGE OF THE POLITICAL REFORM ACT,  
REMOVING A 28-YEAR-OLD BAN ON PUBLIC FINANCING FOR STATEWIDE AND MOST  
LOCAL CAMPAIGNS. SIGNED IN SEPTEMBER BY GOV. JERRY BROWN, THE BILL  
CLEARS THE WAY FOR PASSAGE OF PUBLIC FINANCING LEGISLATION FOR FUTURE  
CALIFORNIA CAMPAIGNS.

VOTERS IN HOWARD COUNTY, MD, A POPULOUS COUNTY BETWEEN WASHINGTON DC  
AND BALTIMORE, OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVED A PUBLIC FINANCING BALLOT  
INITIATIVE LED BY COMMON CAUSE MARYLAND AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS.

COMMON CAUSE MARYLAND LED SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGNS ON  
MONEY IN POLITICS REFORM, SECURING PASSAGE OF A BILL DEFINING AND THEN  
BANNING COORDINATION BETWEEN INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE ENTITIES AND  
CANDIDATES, A BILL MANDATING THAT PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS REVEAL  
THEIR BIG MONEY DONORS, AND LEGISLATION BANNING DONATIONS OF FOREIGN  
MONEY TO BALLOT ISSUE CAMPAIGNS.

Name of the organization COMMON CAUSE	Employer identification number 52-6078441
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CALIFORNIA COMMON CAUSE LED A SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN IN BERKELEY, CA ON BEHALF OF A BALLOT PROPOSAL CREATING A PUBLIC FINANCING PROGRAM FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS. THE PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE \$6 IN MATCHING FUNDS FOR EVERY \$1 PARTICIPATING CANDIDATES COLLECT IN DONATIONS OF \$50 OR LESS.

AFTER LOBBYING BY COMMON CAUSE OREGON, THE CITY COUNCIL IN PORTLAND, OR VOTED TO CREATE A PUBLIC FINANCING PROGRAM FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS. THE VICTORY WAS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE LOCAL VOTERS SHUT DOWN A SIMILAR PROGRAM IN 2010. THE NEW SYSTEM HAS BEEN ADJUSTED TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS IN ITS PREDECESSOR.

COMMON CAUSE NEW MEXICO WON PASSAGE OF LANDMARK BILLS INCREASING DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR "INDEPENDENT" POLITICAL DONORS AND REQUIRING MORE ACCOUNTABILITY FROM CANDIDATES WHO USE THE STATE'S PUBLIC FINANCING SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION, STATE SUPREME COURT AND APPEALS COURT ELECTIONS.

THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE PASSED A COMMON CAUSE-BACKED BILL FIXING THE STATE'S PUBLIC FINANCING SYSTEM FOR ELECTION CAMPAIGNS. DESPITE OVERWHELMING SUPPORT, THE BILL WAS VETOED BY GOV. SUSANA MARTINEZ.

FORM 990, PART III, LINE 4C, PROGRAM SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

COMMON CAUSE NEW MEXICO HELPED WIN PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION THAT WILL AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO CREATE AN INDEPENDENT STATE ETHICS COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION WILL OVERSEE THE CONDUCT OF STATE OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS AND LOBBYISTS; IT ALSO WILL SERVE AS A RESOURCE FOR OFFICIALS TO GET GUIDANCE ON ISSUES AND PROVIDE ETHICS TRAINING.

Name of the organization COMMON CAUSE	Employer identification number 52-6078441
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THE AMENDMENT WILL BE ON THE BALLOT FOR VOTER APPROVAL IN NOVEMBER 2018.

CONNECTICUT INSURANCE COMMISSIONER KATHERINE WADE AGREED TO REQUESTS FROM COMMON CAUSE CONNECTICUT THAT SHE RECUSE HERSELF FROM STATE REVIEWS OF A PROPOSED MERGER OF HEALTH INSURERS ANTHEM AND CIGNA. WADE WAS A FORMER CIGNA LOBBYIST AND THE FIRM ALSO EMPLOYED HER HUSBAND.

MAJOR LEGISLATION SUPPORTED BY COMMON CAUSE MASSACHUSETTS TO ADD TEETH TO THE STATE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT TOOK EFFECT THIS YEAR. THE NEW LAW IS THE PRODUCT OF A FOUR-YEAR LOBBYING CAMPAIGN BY A COMMON CAUSE/ACLU-LED COALITION.

RHODE ISLAND VOTERS OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVED A COMMON CAUSE-BACKED AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION RESTORING THE JURISDICTION OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION OVER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

RHODE ISLAND GOV. GINA RAIMONDO SIGNED A COMMON CAUSE-BACKED BILL REWRITING THE STATE'S LOBBYING LAWS.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 1:

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE AND EXERCISE THE AUTHORITY OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BOARD IN THE MANAGEMENT OF COMMON CAUSE BETWEEN MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BOARD, EXCEPT THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ELECT OFFICERS, TO FILL VACANT BOARD OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS, TO CAUSE THE TERMINATION OF A SITTING BOARD MEMBER, TO CAUSE THE TERMINATION OF THE PRESIDENT, TO AMEND THE CORPORATION'S ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OR BYLAWS, TO ADOPT AN AGREEMENT OF MERGER OR

Name of the organization COMMON CAUSE	Employer identification number 52-6078441
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CONSOLIDATION, TO DISPOSE OF ALL OR SUBSTANTIALLY ALL OF COMMON CAUSE'S ASSETS OR TO DISSOLVE THE CORPORATION.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 4:

THE BY-LAWS WERE CHANGED TO ELIMINATE TERM LIMITS FOR DIRECTORS. DIRECTORS SERVE THREE-YEAR TERMS AND MUST BE REELECTED AFTER EACH THREE-YEAR TERM.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 6:

COMMON CAUSE HAS ONLY ONE CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP, CONSISTING OF THOSE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO CHOOSE TO JOIN COMMON CAUSE AND MAKE A MONETARY CONTRIBUTION. SUCH MEMBERS HAVE NO VOTING RIGHTS WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 11B:

THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER PROVIDES THE FORM 990 TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW. ONCE THAT COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED THE DOCUMENT, IT IS SENT TO THE FULL BOARD FOR REVIEW. THE BOARD MEMBERS HAVE TWO (2) DAYS TO RESPOND WITH ANY COMMENTS THEY MIGHT HAVE BEFORE THE DOCUMENT IS FILED.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 12C:

PROCEDURE FOR MONITORING AND ENFORCING COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY:

BOARD --

WHENEVER A DIRECTOR, OFFICER, OR COMMITTEE MEMBER BECOMES AWARE OF A POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST, WHETHER FINANCIAL OR OTHERWISE, HE OR SHE SHALL MAKE THE SITUATION KNOWN TO THE BOARD OR GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (AS THE CASE MIGHT BE) AND PROVIDE ALL FACTS MATERIAL TO UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE CONFLICT, INCLUDING WHETHER THE INTERESTED PERSON BELIEVES

Name of the organization <b>COMMON CAUSE</b>	Employer identification number <b>52-6078441</b>
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HIS OR HER ABILITY TO MAKE AN INDEPENDENT DECISION BASED SOLELY ON THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CORPORATION HAS BEEN COMPROMISED. IF THE INTERESTED PERSON INVOLVED DOES NOT MAKE THIS DISCLOSURE, ANOTHER DIRECTOR OR COMMITTEE MEMBER WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE POTENTIAL CONFLICT SHOULD DRAW IT TO THE BODY'S ATTENTION.

THE INTERESTED PERSON WITH THE POTENTIAL CONFLICT MUST RETIRE FROM THE MEETING AND NOT PARTICIPATE IN FINAL DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON THE EXISTENCE OF THE CONFLICT. IF A CONFLICT IS FOUND TO EXIST, THE INTERESTED PERSON MAY BE INVITED TO PROVIDE ANY RELEVANT INFORMATION THAT COULD BE OF USE TO THE BOARD IN MAKING ITS DECISION, BUT SHALL AGAIN RETIRE AND NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE FINAL DISCUSSION AND VOTING REGARDING THE TRANSACTION. THE BOARD OR COMMITTEE'S DECISION SHALL BE BASED ON CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER THE TRANSACTION:

- A) IS IN THE ORGANIZATION'S BEST INTEREST AND FOR ITS OWN BENEFIT;
- B) IS FAIR AND REASONABLE TO THE ORGANIZATION; AND
- C) IS THE MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TRANSACTION OR ARRANGEMENT THE ORGANIZATION CAN OBTAIN WITH REASONABLE EFFORT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

STAFF --

WHENEVER A STAFF MEMBER BECOMES AWARE OF A POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN AN AREA WHERE HE OR SHE EXERCISES ANY DISCRETION IN CARRYING OUT HIS OR HER DUTIES FOR COMMON CAUSE, HE OR SHE SHALL PROMPTLY DISCLOSE THE POTENTIAL CONFLICT TO AN IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR OR TO THE PRESIDENT. IF THE PRESIDENT HAS A POTENTIAL CONFLICT, HE OR SHE SHALL DISCLOSE IT TO THE BOARD OR AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THE PERSON OR BODY TO WHOM DISCLOSURE IS MADE (HEREINAFTER "SUPERVISOR") SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS A CONFLICT THAT REQUIRES RECUSAL OF THE INTERESTED PERSON. WHEN A CONFLICT IS FOUND TO EXIST, THE INTERESTED PERSON SHALL PROVIDE THE SUPERVISOR WITH ALL



Name of the organization <b>COMMON CAUSE</b>	Employer identification number <b>52-6078441</b>
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INFORMATION HE OR SHE HAS RELEVANT TO ANY DECISION TO BE MADE IN WHICH HE OR SHE HAS AN INTEREST, AND THE FINAL DECISION SHALL BE MADE BY THE SUPERVISOR.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 15A:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BOARD CONDUCTS A 360 DEGREE REVIEW OF THE CEO PRIOR TO DETERMINING THE ANNUAL COMPENSATION. THE COMMITTEE INTERVIEWS THE SENIOR STAFF, REVIEWS A COMPARABILITY STUDY, AND THEN CONFERS AS A COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE BRINGS ITS RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL BOARD AT THE LAST BOARD MEETING OF THE YEAR. MINUTES ARE TAKEN OF THE SALARY DELIBERATIONS.

OTHER OFFICERS OR KEY EMPLOYEES: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONDUCTS A REVIEW OF THE CFO, REVIEWS A COMPARABILITY STUDY, AND THEN CONFERS AS A COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE BRINGS ITS RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL BOARD AT THE LAST BOARD MEETING OF THE YEAR. MINUTES ARE TAKEN OF THE SALARY DELIBERATIONS.

THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT REVIEW COMPENSATION OF KEY EMPLOYEES; THAT IS PERFORMED BY MANAGEMENT.

FORM 990, PART VI, LINE 17, LIST OF STATES RECEIVING COPY OF FORM 990:  
AL, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, DC, WV, WI, AK, ID, IA, NV, SD

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION C, LINE 19:  
COMMON CAUSE SEEKS TO BE FAITHFUL TO ITS MISSION BY BEING OPEN AND ACCOUNTABLE TO OUR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS. WE WILL MAKE OUR GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS, CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY, AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AVAILABLE

Name of the organization

COMMON CAUSE

Employer identification number

52-6078441

FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION UPON REQUEST. OUR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE ALSO PART OF OUR ANNUAL REPORT WHICH IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.

FORM 990, PART XII, LINE 2C

THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THE REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS DURING THE YEAR.

**SCHEDULE R  
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Related Organizations and Unrelated Partnerships**

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 33, 34, 35b, 36, or 37.  
▶ Attach to Form 990.

▶ Information about Schedule R (Form 990) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2016**

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization

**COMMON CAUSE**

Employer identification number

**52-6078441**

**Part I Identification of Disregarded Entities.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 33.

(a) Name, address, and EIN (if applicable) of disregarded entity	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Total income	(e) End-of-year assets	(f) Direct controlling entity

**Part II Identification of Related Tax-Exempt Organizations.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related tax-exempt organizations during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Exempt Code section	(e) Public charity status (if section 501(c)(3))	(f) Direct controlling entity	(g) Section 512(b)(13) controlled entity?	
						Yes	No
COMMON CAUSE EDUCATION FUND - 31-1705370 805 15TH STREET SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20005	CHARITABLE ARM OF COMMON CAUSE	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	501(C)(3)	LINE 7	COMMON CAUSE	X	

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

Schedule R (Form 990) 2016

**Part III Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Partnership.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a partnership during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Predominant income (related, unrelated, excluded from tax under sections 512-514)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Disproportionate allocations?		(i) Code V-UBI amount in box 20 of Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)	(j) General or managing partner?		(k) Percentage ownership
							Yes	No		Yes	No	

**Part IV Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Corporation or Trust.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a corporation or trust during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Type of entity (C corp, S corp, or trust)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Percentage ownership	(i) Section 512(b)(13) controlled entity?	
								Yes	No

**Part V Transactions With Related Organizations.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34, 35b, or 36.

**Note:** Complete line 1 if any entity is listed in Parts II, III, or IV of this schedule.

**1** During the tax year, did the organization engage in any of the following transactions with one or more related organizations listed in Parts II-IV?

	Yes	No
<b>a</b> Receipt of (i) interest, (ii) annuities, (iii) royalties, or (iv) rent from a controlled entity .....		X
<b>b</b> Gift, grant, or capital contribution to related organization(s) .....		X
<b>c</b> Gift, grant, or capital contribution from related organization(s) .....		X
<b>d</b> Loans or loan guarantees to or for related organization(s) .....		X
<b>e</b> Loans or loan guarantees by related organization(s) .....		X
<b>f</b> Dividends from related organization(s) .....		X
<b>g</b> Sale of assets to related organization(s) .....		X
<b>h</b> Purchase of assets from related organization(s) .....		X
<b>i</b> Exchange of assets with related organization(s) .....		X
<b>j</b> Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets to related organization(s) .....		X
<b>k</b> Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets from related organization(s) .....		X
<b>l</b> Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations for related organization(s) .....		X
<b>m</b> Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations by related organization(s) .....		X
<b>n</b> Sharing of facilities, equipment, mailing lists, or other assets with related organization(s) .....	X	
<b>o</b> Sharing of paid employees with related organization(s) .....	X	
<b>p</b> Reimbursement paid to related organization(s) for expenses .....		X
<b>q</b> Reimbursement paid by related organization(s) for expenses .....	X	
<b>r</b> Other transfer of cash or property to related organization(s) .....		X
<b>s</b> Other transfer of cash or property from related organization(s) .....		X

**2** If the answer to any of the above is "Yes," see the instructions for information on who must complete this line, including covered relationships and transaction thresholds.

(a) Name of related organization	(b) Transaction type (a-s)	(c) Amount involved	(d) Method of determining amount involved
(1) COMMON CAUSE EDUCATION FUND	N	776,241.	ACTUAL COST
(2) COMMON CAUSE EDUCATION FUND	O	4,763,911.	ACTUAL COST
(3) COMMON CAUSE EDUCATION FUND	Q	1,707,233.	ACTUAL COST
(4)			
(5)			
(6)			

**Part VI Unrelated Organizations Taxable as a Partnership.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 37.

Provide the following information for each entity taxed as a partnership through which the organization conducted more than five percent of its activities (measured by total assets or gross revenue) that was not a related organization. See instructions regarding exclusion for certain investment partnerships.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of entity	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Predominant income (related, unrelated, excluded from tax under sections 512-514)	(e) Are all partners sec. 501(c)(3) orgs.?		(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Dispropor- tionate allocations?		(i) Code V-UBI amount in box 20 of Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)	(j) General or managing partner?		(k) Percentage ownership
				Yes	No			Yes	No		Yes	No	

**Part VII** Supplemental Information.

Provide additional information for responses to questions on Schedule R. See instructions.

Multiple horizontal lines for supplemental information.