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Form 990-EZ

Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No 1545-1150

2015

Open to Public
InspectionDepartment of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

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

Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.

Information about Form 990-EZ and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

A For the 2015 calendar year, or tax year beginning

, 2015, and ending

, 20

B Check if applicable

☐ Address change☐ Name change☐ Initial return☐ Final return/terminated☐ Amended return☐ Application pending

C Name of organization

Civic Caucus

Number and street (or P O box, if mail is not delivered to street address)

Room/suite

2104 Girard Avenue South

City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code

Minneapolis, MN 55405-2546

D Employer identification number

14-1937842

E Telephone number

(952) 890-5220

F Group Exemption

Number

G Accounting Method ☒ Cash ☐ Accrual Other (specify) ▶I Website: ▶ civiccaucus@comcast.netJ Tax-exempt status (check only one) - ☒ 501(c)(3) ☐ 501(c)() (insert no) ☐ 4947(a)(1) or ☐ 527H Check ☐ if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B

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

K Form of organization ☒ Corporation ☐ Trust ☐ Association ☐ Other

L Add lines 5b, 6c, and 7b to line 9 to determine gross receipts. If gross receipts are \$200,000 or more, or if total assets

(Part II, column (B) below) are \$500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ

▶ \$ 66,962

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances (see the instructions for Part I)Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part I ☒

Revenue	1	Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received	1	66,962
	2	Program service revenue including government fees and contracts	2	
	3	Membership dues and assessments	3	
	4	Investment income	4	
	5a	Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	5a	
	b	Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	5b	
	c	Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (Subtract line 5b from line 5a)	5c	
	6	Gaming and fundraising events		
	a	Gross income from gaming (attach Schedule G if greater than \$15,000)	6a	
	b	Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ of contributions from fundraising events reported on line 1) (attach Schedule G if the sum of such gross income and contributions exceeds \$15,000)	6b	
c	Less: direct expenses from gaming and fundraising events	6c		
d	Net income or (loss) from gaming and fundraising events (add lines 6a and 6b and subtract line 6c)	6d		
7a	Gross sales of inventory less returns and allowances	7a		
b	Less: cost of goods sold	7b		
c	Gross profit (loss) from sales of inventory (Subtract line 7b from line 7a)	7c		
8	Other revenue (describe in Schedule O)	8		
9	Total revenue. Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6d, 7c, and 8	9	66,962	
Expenses	10	Grants and similar amounts paid (list in Schedule O)	10	
	11	Benefits paid to or for members	11	
	12	Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits	12	65,500
	13	Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors	13	
	14	Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance	14	
	15	Printing, publications, postage, and shipping	15	
	16	Other expenses (describe in Schedule O)	16	3,011
	17	Total expenses. Add lines 10 through 16	17	68,511
Net Assets	18	Excess or (deficit) for the year (Subtract line 17 from line 9)	18	(1,549)
	19	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	19	2,013
	20	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	20	
	21	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 18 through 20	21	464

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions.

Form 990-EZ (2015)

SCANNED JUN 13 2016

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Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part II

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part III

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part IV

Part V**Other Information** (Note the Schedule A and personal benefit contract statement requirements in the instructions for Part V) Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part V ☐

	Yes	No
33 Did the organization engage in any significant activity not previously reported to the IRS? If "Yes," provide a detailed description of each activity in Schedule O	33	X
34 Were any significant changes made to the organizing or governing documents? If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the amended documents if they reflect a change to the organization's name. Otherwise, explain the change on Schedule O (see instructions)	34	X
35 a Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year from business activities (such as those reported on lines 2, 6a, and 7a, among others)?	35a	X
b If "Yes," to line 35a, has the organization filed a Form 990-T for the year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O	35b	
c Was the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization subject to section 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III	35c	X
36 Did the organization undergo a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or significant disposition of net assets during the year? If "Yes," complete applicable parts of Schedule N	36	X
37 a Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions	37a	
b Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?	37b	
38 a Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee or were any such loans made in a prior year and still outstanding at the end of the tax year covered by this return?	38a	X
b If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II and enter the total amount involved	38b	
39 Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter		
a Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9	39a	
b Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities	39b	
40 a Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under section 4911 ; section 4912 ; section 4955		
b Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year, or did it engage in an excess benefit transaction in a prior year that has not been reported on any of its prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I	40b	X
c Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958		
d Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization		
e All organizations. At any time during the tax year, was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? If "Yes," complete Form 8886-T	40e	X
41 List the states with which a copy of this return is filed		
42 a The organization's books are in care of Janis Clay Telephone no. 952-890-5220		
Located at 2104 Girard Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN ZIP + 4 55405		
b At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR).	42b	X
c At any time during the calendar year, did the organization maintain an office outside the U S ? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country:	42c	X
43 Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of Form 1041-Check here and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year	43	
44 a Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	44a	X
b Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	44b	X
c Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the year?	44c	X
d If "Yes," to line 44c, has the organization filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O	44d	
45 a Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	45a	X
b Did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," Form 990 and Schedule R may need to be completed instead of Form 990-EZ (see instructions)	45b	X

- 46 Did the organization engage, directly or indirectly, in political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I

	Yes	No
46		X

Part VI Section 501(c)(3) organizations only

All section 501(c)(3) organizations must answer questions 47-49b and 52, and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51.

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part VI ☐

- 47 Did the organization engage in lobbying activities or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II

	Yes	No
47		X

- 48 Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E

48		X
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- 49a Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization?

49a		X
-----	--	---

- b If "Yes," was the related organization a section 527 organization?

49b		
-----	--	--

- 50 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees and key employees) who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None"

(a) Name and title of each employee	(b) Average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC)	(d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation	(e) Estimated amount of other compensation
NONE				

- f Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000

- 51 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None"

(a) Name and business address of each independent contractor	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation
NONE		

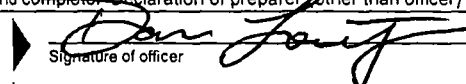
- d Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over \$100,000

- 52 Did the organization complete Schedule A? **Note.** All section 501(c)(3) organizations must attach a completed Schedule A

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

Sign Here



Signature of officer

Date

5-6-2016

Dan Loritz, Chair

Type or print name and title

Paid

Preparer

Use Only

Print/Type preparer's name

Gary D Orris

Preparer's signature



Date

5/4/16

Check ☒ if self-employed

PTIN

P00492836

Firm's name

Tax Planning Professionals

Firm's EIN

Firm's address

125 Lake St W Suite 213

Wayzata MN 55391

Phone no

952-890-3135

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions

☒ Yes ☐ No

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Public Charity Status and Public Support
Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.

OMB No 1545-0047

2015

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

► **Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.**
► **Information about Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.**

Name of the organization

Employer identification number

Civic Caucus

14-1937842

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

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

- 1 ☐ A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i).**
- 2 ☐ A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii).** (Attach Schedule E (Form 990 or 990-EZ).)
- 3 ☐ A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).**
- 4 ☐ A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).** Enter the hospital's name, city, and state _____
- 5 ☐ An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv).** (Complete Part II.)
- 6 ☐ A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v).**
- 7 ☒ An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).** (Complete Part II.)
- 8 ☐ A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).** (Complete Part II.)
- 9 ☐ An organization that normally receives: (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions - subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See **section 509(a)(2).** (Complete Part III.)
- 10 ☐ An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4).**
- 11 ☐ An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in **section 509(a)(1)** or **section 509(a)(2).** See **section 509(a)(3).** Check the box in lines 11a through 11d that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 11e, 11f, and 11g.
- a ☐ **Type I.** A supporting organization operated, supervised, or controlled by its supported organization(s), typically by giving the supported organization(s) the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the directors or trustees of the supporting organization. **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and B.**
- b ☐ **Type II.** A supporting organization supervised or controlled in connection with its supported organization(s), by having control or management of the supporting organization vested in the same persons that control or manage the supported organization(s). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and C.**
- c ☐ **Type III functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with, and functionally integrated with, its supported organization(s) (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A, D, and E.**
- d ☐ **Type III non-functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with its supported organization(s) that is not functionally integrated. The organization generally must satisfy a distribution requirement and an attentiveness requirement (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and D, and Part V.**
- e ☐ Check this box if the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, Type III functionally integrated, or Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organization.
- f Enter the number of supported organizations _____
- g Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1-9 above (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization listed in your governing document?		(v) Amount of monetary support (see instructions)	(vi) Amount of other support (see instructions)
			Yes	No		
(A)						
(B)						
(C)						
(D)						
(E)						
Total						

Part II **Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**
 (Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2011	(b) 2012	(c) 2013	(d) 2014	(e) 2015	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	58,375	56,415	58,668	63,985	66,962	304,405
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3	58,375	56,415	58,668	63,985	66,962	304,405
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						224,736
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4						79,669

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2011	(b) 2012	(c) 2013	(d) 2014	(e) 2015	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	58,375	56,415	58,668	63,985	66,962	304,405
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI)						
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						304,405
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)					12	
13 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2015 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	26.17	%
15 Public support percentage from 2014 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	24.26	%
16a 33 1/3% support test - 2015. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>			
b 33 1/3% support test - 2014. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>			
17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test - 2015. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test - 2014. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>			
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>			

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 9 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II.

If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2011	(b) 2012	(c) 2013	(d) 2014	(e) 2015	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
6 Total. Add lines 1 through 5						
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of \$5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year						
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public support. (Subtract line 7c from line 6)						

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2011	(b) 2012	(c) 2013	(d) 2014	(e) 2015	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6						
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b						
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)						
13 Total support. (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)						

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

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2015 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	15	%
16 Public support percentage from 2014 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	%

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2015 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	17	%
18 Investment income percentage from 2014 Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18	%

19a 33 1/3% support tests - 2015. If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ☐

b 33 1/3% support tests - 2014. If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ☐

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

Part VI **Supplemental Information.** Provide the explanations required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; Part III, line 12; Part IV, Section A, lines 1, 2, 3b, 3c, 4b, 4c, 5a, 6, 9a, 9b, 9c, 11a, 11b, and 11c; Part IV, Section B, lines 1 and 2; Part IV, Section C, line 1; Part IV, Section D, lines 2 and 3; Part IV, Section E, lines 1c, 2a, 2b, 3a and 3b; Part V, line 1; Part V, Section B, line 1e; Part V, Section D, lines 5, 6, and 8; and Part V, Section E, lines 2, 5, and 6. Also complete this part for any additional information. (See instructions.)

Statement Attached to Form 990-EZ, Schedule A, Part II, Section C, Line 17a:

There were 46 total donors in 2015. There were 41 total donors in 2014.

The organization maintains a mailing list of 4500 persons. Each person on the mailing list receives a weekly mailing which includes a request for contributions. The organization has an annual fund raising emphasis which includes specific requests for gifts. Persons who have given in the past receive special contacts.

The organization has four major leadership groups:

- The Board of Directors, all of whom have been active in civic affairs for much of their lifetimes

- A 20 member Interview Group, all of whom are selected because of their knowledge and familiarity with public policy issues in Minnesota

The Interview Group meets weekly throughout the year to conduct interviews of public policy makers and experts.

- A seven member Planning Group that meets weekly throughout the year planning future interviews and advising interviewees on questions that are likely to emerge in the weekly meeting of the Interview Group.

- A six member Advisory Council made up of people with distinguished records in public policy.

To assure a non-partisan, balanced view none of the groups include elected public officials. However, the 4500 email list includes state legislators, state administrative leaders, county board members, city council members, school board members and candidates for public office. All 4500 persons on the email list receive the weekly interviews conducted by the Interview Group. To assure good political and geographical balance all candidates for public office in the state who file with the Secretary of State are included in the email list.

The organization has conducted more than 500 interviews in its 10 1/2 year history, detailed reports of which are all on <http://civiccaucus.org>, along with readers' comments on each interview. In addition the website attracts about 1000 different individuals a month seeking background information provided by the reports.

Occasional reports are issued with recommendations for change. The reports are on the website. When such a report is issued email participants have the opportunity to sign in on support. More than 100 participants typically sign on. Their names are appended to each report on the website.

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization

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

OMB No 1545-0047

2015

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Employer identification number

Civic Caucus

14-1937842

01. Description of other expenses (Part I, line 16)

Description	Amount
-------------	--------

Various Expenses	3,011
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This amount covers the day-to-day expenses for the Civic Caucus, including telephone,
internet, Constant Contact email, Survey Monkey, and refreshments at Civic Caucus
meetings.