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2015

Open to Public Inspection

Form 990

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

## Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

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 and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990)

A For the 2015 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01-01-2015, and ending 12-31-2015

B Check if applicable

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

C Name of organization THE FAIRNESS PROJECT	
Doing business as	
Number and street (or P O box if mail is not delivered to street address) PO BOX 18951	Room/suite
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code STANFORD, CA 94309	

D Employer identification number

37-1779557

E Telephone number

(202) 527-2066

G Gross receipts \$ 2,152,091

F Name and address of principal officer

STEVE TROSSMAN  
PO BOX 18951  
STANFORD, CA 94309

H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates?

No

 Yes 

H(b) Are all subordinates included?

If "No," attach a list (see instructions)

 Yes  No

H(c) Group exemption number ►

I Tax-exempt status

- 501(c)(3)
- 501(c) ( 4 ) ► (insert no )
- 4947(a)(1) or
- 527

J Website: ► [WWW.THEFAIRNESSPROJECT.ORG](http://WWW.THEFAIRNESSPROJECT.ORG)K Form of organization  Corporation  Trust  Association  Other ►

L Year of formation 2015

M State of legal domicile CA

## Part I Summary

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities

PROMOTING GENERAL SOCIAL WELFARE OF COMMUNITY THROUGH THE USE OF, EDUCATION AROUND BALLOT MEASURES

2 Check this box ►  if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets

3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	3
4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	2
5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2015 (Part V, line 2a)	5	2
6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	0
7a Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a	0
b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	7b	0

		Prior Year	Current Year
8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)			2,152,091
9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)			0
10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)			0
11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)			0
12 Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)			2,152,091

		Prior Year	Current Year
8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)			448,000
9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)			0
10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)			88,883
11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)			0
12 Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)			550,104
13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)			1,086,987
14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)			1,065,104
15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)			1,065,104
16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)			0
b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ► 0			0
17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e)			1,065,104
18 Total expenses Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)			1,065,104
19 Revenue less expenses Subtract line 18 from line 12			0

		Beginning of Current Year	End of Year
20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)			1,065,104
21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)			0
22 Net assets or fund balances Subtract line 21 from line 20			1,065,104

## Part II Signature Block

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

Sign Here	*****	2016-11-03			
	Signature of officer	Date			
STEVE TROSSMAN PRESIDENT					
Type or print name and title					
Paid Preparer Use Only	Print/Type preparer's name ROBERT EBY	Preparer's signature ROBERT EBY	Date	Check <input type="checkbox"/> if self-employed	PTIN P01682202
	Firm's name ► ARONSON LLC			Firm's EIN ► 37-1611326	
	Firm's address ► 805 KING FARM BLVD 3RD FLOOR ROCKVILLE, MD 20850			Phone no (301) 231-6200	

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

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions.

Cat No 11282Y

Form 990 (2015)



**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules**

1 Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? If "Yes," complete Schedule A . . . . .

2 Is the organization required to complete *Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors* (see instructions)? . . . . .

3 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I . . . . .

**4 Section 501(c)(3) organizations.**  
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 . . . . .

5 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? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III . . . . .

6 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? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I . . . . .

7 Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II . . . . .

8 Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III . . . . .

9 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? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV . . . . .

10 Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V . . . . .

11 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

a Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI . . . . .

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? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII . . . . .

c 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? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII . . . . .

d 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? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX . . . . .

e Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X . . . . .

f 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)? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X . . . . .

12a Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII . . . . .

b Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional . . . . .

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

14a Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States? . . . . .

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? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV . . . . .

15 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? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV . . . . .

16 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? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV . . . . .

17 Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I (see instructions) . . . . .

18 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II . . . . .

19 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III . . . . .

20a Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? If "Yes," complete Schedule H . . . . .

b If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return? . . . . .

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>1</b>		No
<b>2</b>	Yes	
<b>3</b>		No
<b>4</b>		
<b>5</b>		No
<b>6</b>		No
<b>7</b>		No
<b>8</b>		No
<b>9</b>		No
<b>10</b>		No
<b>11a</b>		No
<b>11b</b>		No
<b>11c</b>		No
<b>11d</b>		No
<b>11e</b>		No
<b>11f</b>		No
<b>12a</b>		No
<b>12b</b>		No
<b>13</b>		No
<b>14a</b>		No
<b>14b</b>		No
<b>15</b>		No
<b>16</b>		No
<b>17</b>		No
<b>18</b>		No
<b>19</b>		No
<b>20a</b>		No
<b>20b</b>		

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

<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> . . . . .	<b>21</b>	Yes	
<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> . . . . .	<b>22</b>	No	
<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> . . . . .	<b>23</b>	No	
<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> . . . . .	<b>24a</b>	No	
<b>b</b>	Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception? . . . . .	<b>24b</b>		
<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>24c</b>		
<b>d</b>	Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year? . . . . .	<b>24d</b>		
<b>25a</b>	<b>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> . . . . .	<b>25a</b>	No	
<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> . . . . .	<b>25b</b>	No	
<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> . . . . .	<b>26</b>	No	
<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> . . . . .	<b>27</b>	No	
<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> . . . . .	<b>28a</b>	No	
<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> . . . . .	<b>28b</b>	No	
<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> . . . . .	<b>28c</b>	No	
<b>29</b>	Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i> . . . . .	<b>29</b>	No	
<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> . . . . .	<b>30</b>	No	
<b>31</b>	Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i> . . . . .	<b>31</b>	No	
<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> . . . . .	<b>32</b>	No	
<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> . . . . .	<b>33</b>	No	
<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> . . . . .	<b>34</b>	No	
<b>35a</b>	Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	<b>35a</b>	No	
<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> . . . . .	<b>35b</b>		
<b>36</b>	<b>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>36</b>		
<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> . . . . .	<b>37</b>	No	
<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 . . . . .	<b>38</b>	Yes	

**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 . . . . .

		Yes	No
<b>1a</b> Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096 Enter -0- if not applicable . . . . .	<b>1a</b>	6	
<b>b</b> Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a Enter -0- if not applicable	<b>1b</b>	0	
<b>c</b> Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners? . . . . .	<b>1c</b>	Yes	
<b>2a</b> Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements, filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return . . . . .	<b>2a</b>	2	
<b>b</b> If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns? <b>Note.</b> If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file (see instructions)	<b>2b</b>	Yes	
<b>3a</b> Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year? . . . . .	<b>3a</b>	No	
<b>b</b> If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? <i>If "No" to line 3b, provide an explanation in Schedule O</i> . . . . .	<b>3b</b>		
<b>4a</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)? . . . . .	<b>4a</b>	No	
<b>b</b> If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country ► See instructions for filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR)			
<b>5a</b> Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year? . . . . .	<b>5a</b>	No	
<b>b</b> Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?	<b>5b</b>	No	
<b>c</b> If "Yes," to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T? . . . . .	<b>5c</b>		
<b>6a</b> Does the organization have annual gross receipts that are normally greater than \$100,000, and did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible as charitable contributions? . . . . .	<b>6a</b>	Yes	
<b>b</b> If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible? . . . . .	<b>6b</b>	Yes	
<b>7</b> <b>Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).</b>	<b>7a</b>		
<b>a</b> Did the organization receive a payment in excess of \$75 made partly as a contribution and partly for goods and services provided to the payor? . . . . .	<b>7b</b>		
<b>b</b> If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided? . . . . .	<b>7c</b>		
<b>c</b> Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282? . . . . .	<b>7d</b>		
<b>d</b> If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year . . . . .	<b>7e</b>		
<b>e</b> Did the organization receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract? . . . . .	<b>7f</b>		
<b>f</b> Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract? . . . . .	<b>7g</b>		
<b>g</b> If the organization received a contribution of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required? . . . . .	<b>7h</b>		
<b>h</b> If the organization received a contribution of cars, boats, airplanes, or other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C? . . . . .	<b>8</b>		
<b>8</b> <b>Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.</b>	<b>9a</b>		
Did a donor advised fund maintained by the sponsoring organization have excess business holdings at any time during the year? . . . . .	<b>9b</b>		
<b>9a</b> Did the sponsoring organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966? . . . . .			
<b>b</b> Did the sponsoring organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person? . . . . .			
<b>10</b> <b>Section 501(c)(7) organizations.</b> Enter	<b>10a</b>		
<b>a</b> Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12 . . . . .	<b>10b</b>		
<b>b</b> Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities			
<b>11</b> <b>Section 501(c)(12) organizations.</b> Enter	<b>11a</b>		
<b>a</b> Gross income from members or shareholders . . . . .	<b>11b</b>		
<b>b</b> Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them) . . . . .			
<b>12a</b> <b>Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts.</b> Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041? . . . . .	<b>12a</b>		
<b>b</b> If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year	<b>12b</b>		
<b>13</b> <b>Section 501(c)(29) qualified nonprofit health insurance issuers.</b>	<b>13a</b>		
<b>a</b> Is the organization licensed to issue qualified health plans in more than one state? <b>Note.</b> See the instructions for additional information the organization must report on Schedule O	<b>13b</b>		
<b>b</b> Enter the amount of reserves the organization is required to maintain by the states in which the organization is licensed to issue qualified health plans . . . . .	<b>13c</b>		
<b>14a</b> Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the tax year? . . . . .	<b>14a</b>	No	
<b>b</b> If "Yes," has it filed a Form 720 to report these payments? <i>If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O</i> . . . . .	<b>14b</b>		

**Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure**

For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to lines 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

**Section A. Governing Body and Management**

**1a** Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year

If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain in Schedule O

**1b** Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent

**2** Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee? . . . . .

**3** Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person? . . . . .

**4** Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed? . . . . .

**5** Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets? . . . . .

**6** Did the organization have members or stockholders? . . . . .

**7a** Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body? . . . . .

**b** Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body? . . . . .

**8** Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following

**a** The governing body? . . . . .

**b** Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body? . . . . .

**9** Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O . . . . .

	Yes	No
<b>1a</b>	3	
<b>1b</b>	2	
<b>2</b>		No
<b>3</b>		No
<b>4</b>		No
<b>5</b>		No
<b>6</b>		No
<b>7a</b>		No
<b>7b</b>		No
<b>8a</b>	Yes	
<b>8b</b>	Yes	
<b>9</b>		No

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

**10a** Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates? . . . . .

**b** If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes? . . . . .

**11a** Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form? . . . . .

**b** Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990 . . . . .

**12a** Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13 . . . . .

**b** Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts? . . . . .

**c** Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done . . . . .

**13** Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy? . . . . .

**14** Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy? . . . . .

**15** Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?

**a** The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official . . . . .

**b** Other officers or key employees of the organization . . . . .

If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O (see instructions)

**16a** Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year? . . . . .

**b** If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements? . . . . .

	Yes	No
<b>10a</b>		No
<b>10b</b>		
<b>11a</b>	Yes	
<b>12a</b>		No
<b>12b</b>		
<b>12c</b>		
<b>13</b>		No
<b>14</b>		No
<b>15a</b>	Yes	
<b>15b</b>	Yes	
<b>16a</b>		No
<b>16b</b>		

**Section C. Disclosure**

**17** List the States with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed ► CA

**18** Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Form 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (501(c) (3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply

Own website  Another's website  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 ► BEN METCALF PO BOX 18951 STANFORD, CA 94309 (202) 527-2066

**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, or 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

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

<b>1b Sub-Total . . . . .</b>	►			
<b>c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A . . .</b>	►			
<b>d Total (add lines 1b and 1c) . . . . .</b>	►	62,769	0	1,241

**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 ► 0

		Yes	No
3	Did the organization list any <b>former</b> officer, director or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual	3	No
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	4	No
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	5	No

## **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
PRECISION STRATEGIES  1121 14TH ST NW 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20005	DIGITAL ADS	217,375

**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 ► 1

**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	
<b>Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts</b>	<b>1a</b> Federated campaigns . . . . .	<b>1a</b>				
	<b>b</b> Membership dues . . . . .	<b>1b</b>				
	<b>c</b> Fundraising events . . . . .	<b>1c</b>				
	<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>	2,152,091			
	<b>g</b> Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$					
<b>h</b> <b>Total.</b> Add lines 1a-1f . . . . .		2,152,091				
<b>Program Service Revenue</b>	<b>2a</b>	Business Code				
	<b>b</b>					
	<b>c</b>					
	<b>d</b>					
	<b>e</b>					
	<b>f</b> All other program service revenue					
	<b>g</b> <b>Total.</b> Add lines 2a-2f . . . . .					
<b>Other Revenue</b>	<b>3</b> Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts) . . . . .					
	<b>4</b> Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds . . . . .					
	<b>5</b> Royalties . . . . .					
	<b>6a</b> Gross rents	(i) Real	(ii) Personal			
	<b>b</b> Less rental expenses					
	<b>c</b> Rental income or (loss)					
	<b>d</b> Net rental income or (loss) . . . . .					
<b>7a</b> Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities	(ii) Other				
<b>b</b> Less cost or other basis and sales expenses						
<b>c</b> Gain or (loss)						
<b>d</b> Net gain or (loss) . . . . .						
<b>8a</b> Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c) See Part IV, line 18 . . .	a					
<b>b</b> Less direct expenses . . . . .	b					
<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from fundraising events . . .						
<b>9a</b> Gross income from gaming activities See Part IV, line 19 . . .	a					
<b>b</b> Less direct expenses . . . . .	b					
<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from gaming activities . . .						
<b>10a</b> Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances .	a					
<b>b</b> Less cost of goods sold . . . . .	b					
<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory . . .						
<b>Miscellaneous Revenue</b>	Business Code					
<b>11a</b>						
<b>b</b>						
<b>c</b>						
<b>d</b> All other revenue . . . . .						
<b>e</b> <b>Total.</b> Add lines 11a-11d . . . . .		2,152,091	0	0	0	
<b>12</b> <b>Total revenue.</b> See Instructions . . . . .		2,152,091	0	0	0	

**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 

<b>Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.</b>	<b>(A)</b> Total expenses	<b>(B)</b> Program service expenses	<b>(C)</b> Management and general expenses	<b>(D)</b> Fundraising expenses
<b>1</b> Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments See Part IV, line 21 . . . . .	448,000	448,000		
<b>2</b> Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals See Part IV, line 22 . . . . .				
<b>3</b> Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals See Part IV, lines 15 and 16 . . . . .				
<b>4</b> Benefits paid to or for members . . . . .				
<b>5</b> Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees . . . . .	64,010		64,010	
<b>6</b> Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B) . . . . .				
<b>7</b> Other salaries and wages . . . . .	17,539		17,539	
<b>8</b> Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions) . . . . .				
<b>9</b> Other employee benefits . . . . .	621		621	
<b>10</b> Payroll taxes . . . . .	6,713		6,713	
<b>11</b> Fees for services (non-employees)				
<b>a</b> Management . . . . .	21,000		21,000	
<b>b</b> Legal . . . . .	34,094		34,094	
<b>c</b> Accounting . . . . .				
<b>d</b> Lobbying . . . . .				
<b>e</b> Professional fundraising services See Part IV, line 17				
<b>f</b> Investment management fees . . . . .				
<b>g</b> Other (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O) . . . . .	257,250	197,250	60,000	
<b>12</b> Advertising and promotion . . . . .	224,278	175,595	48,683	
<b>13</b> Office expenses . . . . .	2,953	148	2,805	
<b>14</b> Information technology . . . . .	75		75	
<b>15</b> Royalties . . . . .				
<b>16</b> Occupancy . . . . .	2,200		2,200	
<b>17</b> Travel . . . . .	8,254		8,254	
<b>18</b> Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials . . . . .				
<b>19</b> Conferences, conventions, and meetings . . . . .				
<b>20</b> Interest . . . . .				
<b>21</b> Payments to affiliates . . . . .				
<b>22</b> Depreciation, depletion, and amortization . . . . .				
<b>23</b> Insurance . . . . .				
<b>24</b> 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 )				
<b>a</b>				
<b>b</b>				
<b>c</b>				
<b>d</b>				
<b>e</b> All other expenses				
<b>25</b> <b>Total functional expenses.</b> Add lines 1 through 24e	1,086,987	820,993	265,994	0
<b>26</b> <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 ► <input type="checkbox"/> 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 

		<b>(A)</b> Beginning of year	<b>(B)</b> End of year
Assets	1 Cash—non-interest-bearing	1	1,065,104
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments	2	
	3 Pledges and grants receivable, net	3	
	4 Accounts receivable, net	4	
	5 Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees Complete Part II of Schedule L	5	
	6 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 instructions) Complete Part II of Schedule L	6	
	7 Notes and loans receivable, net	7	
	8 Inventories for sale or use	8	
	9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	9	
	10a Land, buildings, and equipment cost or other basis Complete Part VI of Schedule D	10a	
	b Less accumulated depreciation	10b	10c
	11 Investments—publicly traded securities	11	
	12 Investments—other securities See Part IV, line 11	12	
	13 Investments—program-related See Part IV, line 11	13	
	14 Intangible assets	14	
	15 Other assets See Part IV, line 11	15	
	<b>16 Total assets.</b> Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)	0	16
			1,065,104
Liabilities	17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses	17	
	18 Grants payable	18	
	19 Deferred revenue	19	
	20 Tax-exempt bond liabilities	20	
	21 Escrow or custodial account liability Complete Part IV of Schedule D	21	
	22 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	22	
	23 Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties	23	
	24 Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties	24	
	25 Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24) Complete Part X of Schedule D	25	
	<b>26 Total liabilities.</b> Add lines 17 through 25	0	26
			0
Net Assets or Fund Balances	<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>		
	27 Unrestricted net assets	27	1,065,104
	28 Temporarily restricted net assets	28	
	29 Permanently restricted net assets	29	
	<b>Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here ► <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 30 through 34.</b>		
	30 Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds	30	
	31 Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building or equipment fund	31	
	32 Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds	32	
	33 Total net assets or fund balances	0	33
	34 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	0	34
			1,065,104
			1,065,104
			1,065,104

**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) . . . . .
- 2 Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25) . . . . .
- 3 Revenue less expenses Subtract line 2 from line 1 . . . . .
- 4 Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A)) . . . . .
- 5 Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments . . . . .
- 6 Donated services and use of facilities . . . . .
- 7 Investment expenses . . . . .
- 8 Prior period adjustments . . . . .
- 9 Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O) . . . . .
- 10 Net assets or fund balances at end of year Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))

1	2,152,091
2	1,086,987
3	1,065,104
4	0
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	0
10	1,065,104

**Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting**

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

- 1 Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990  Cash  Accrual  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  
 Separate basis  Consolidated basis  Both consolidated and separate basis
- 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  
 Separate basis  Consolidated basis  Both consolidated and separate basis
- 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
- 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?  
b 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

	Yes	No
2a		No
2b		No
2c		
3a		No
3b		

## Schedule I (Form 990)

## **Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations, Governments and Individuals in the United States**

**Complete if the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 21 or 22.**

► Attach to Form 990.

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

## Open to Public Inspection

Department of the  
Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization  
**THE FAIRNESS PROJECT**

**Employer identification number**

37-1779557

## **Part I General Information on Grants and Assistance**

1 Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the amount of the grants or assistance, the grantees' eligibility for the grants or assistance, and the selection criteria used to award the grants or assistance? . . . . .

2 Describe in Part IV the organization's procedures for monitoring the use of grant funds in the United States

Yes  No

**Part II Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 21, for any recipient that received more than \$5,000. Part II can be duplicated if additional space is needed

<b>(a)</b> Name and address of organization or government	<b>(b)</b> EIN	<b>(c)</b> IRC section if applicable	<b>(d)</b> Amount of cash grant	<b>(e)</b> Amount of non-cash assistance	<b>(f)</b> Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	<b>(g)</b> Description of non-cash assistance	<b>(h)</b> Purpose of grant or assistance
See Additional Data Table							

**Part III Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Individuals.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 22. Part III can be duplicated if additional space is needed

**Part IV** **Supplemental Information.** Provide the information required in Part I, line 2, Part III, column (b), and any other additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation
PART I, LINE 2	GRANTS ARE MADE TO U S ORGANIZATIONS FOR PROJECTS IN THE U S AND THE FAIRNESS PROJECT MONITORS USAGE OF FUNDS THROUGH FOLLOW UP CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUIRED PROJECT REPORTS FROM THE GRANTORS

**Additional Data****Software ID:****Software Version:****EIN:** 37-1779557**Name:** THE FAIRNESS PROJECT**Form 990, Schedule I, Part II, Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments.**

<b>(a) Name and address of organization or government</b>	<b>(b) EIN</b>	<b>(c) IRC section if applicable</b>	<b>(d) Amount of cash grant</b>	<b>(e) Amount of non-cash assistance</b>	<b>(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)</b>	<b>(g) Description of non-cash assistance</b>	<b>(h) Purpose of grant or assistance</b>
MAINE PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE 565 CONGRESS ST STE 200 PORTLAND, ME 04101	01-0383493	501(C)(4)	143,000				PROGRAM SERVICES
STAND UP FOR OHIO BALLOT PAC 25 E BOARDMAN STE 428 YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44503	47-4257759	527	60,000				PROGRAM SERVICES
RAISE THE WAGE COMMITTEE 1875 CONNECTICUT AVE NW 10TH FLOOR WASHINGTON, DC 20009	47-4008766	501(C)(4)	45,000				PROGRAM SERVICES

**Form 990, Schedule I, Part II, Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments.**

<b>(a)</b> Name and address of organization or government	<b>(b)</b> EIN	<b>(c)</b> IRC section if applicable	<b>(d)</b> Amount of cash grant	<b>(e)</b> Amount of non-cash assistance	<b>(f)</b> Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	<b>(g)</b> Description of non-cash assistance	<b>(h)</b> Purpose of grant or assistance
LIFT UP CALIFORNIA 777 S FIGUEROA ST STE 4050 LOS ANGELES, CA 90017	47-5396777	501(C)(4)	200,000				PROGRAM SERVICES

**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).

**2015****Open to Public  
Inspection**

Name of the organization  
THE FAIRNESS PROJECT

**Employer identification number**

37-1779557

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 11	REVIEW OF FORM 990 FORM 990 IS APPROVED BY THE ENTIRE VOTING BOARD OF DIRECTORS BEFORE FILING WITH THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 15	DETERMINING COMPENSATION THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS DETERMINES THE COMPENSATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND OTHER EMPLOYEES BASED ON COMPARABLE SALARY STUDIES

## 990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION C, LINE 19	GOVERNING DOCUMENTS THE ORGANIZATION DOES NOT MAKE ITS GOVERNING DOCUMENTS, CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC
FORM 990, PART IX, LINE 11G	STRATEGIC SERVICES PROGRAM SERVICE EXPENSES 120,000 MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES 60,0 00 FUNDRAISING EXPENSES 0 TOTAL EXPENSES 180,000 POLLING SERVICES PROGRAM EXPENSES 77,250 MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES 0 FUNDRAISING EXPENSES 0 TOTAL EXPENSES 77,250