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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/foi/m990

OMB No 1545-0047

2015

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2015 calendar year, or tax year beginning 04-01-2015, and ending 03-31-2016

B Check if applicable

☐ Address change

☐ Name change

☐ Initial return

☐ Final return/terminated

☐ Amended return

☐ Application pending

C Name of organization
CATO INSTITUTE

% VALERIE USHER

Doing business as

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

1000 MASSACHUSETTS AVE NW

City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code
WASHINGTON, DC 200015403

F Name and address of principal officer
PETER GOETTLER
1000 MASSACHUSETTS AVE NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates?
No

☐ Yes

☒ No

H(b) Are all subordinates included?
If "No," attach a list (see instructions)

H(c) Group exemption number ▶

D Employer identification number
23-7432162

E Telephone number
(202) 842-0200

G Gross receipts \$ 30,451,260

I Tax-exempt status

☒ 501(c)(3)

☐ 501(c) () ◀ (insert no)

☐ 4947(a)(1) or

☐ 527

J Website: ▶ WWW.CATO.ORG

K Form of organization

☒ Corporation

☐ Trust

☐ Association

☐ Other ▶

L Year of formation 1974

M State of legal domicile KS

Part I Summary				
Activities & Governance	1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities TO ORIGINATE, DISSEMINATE, AND INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF PUBLIC POLICIES BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY, LIMITED GOVERNMENT, FREE MARKETS, AND PEACE			
	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	20	
	4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	19	
	5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2015 (Part V, line 2a)	5	263	
Revenue	6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	19	
	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		
	8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	Prior Year	Current Year	
		34,969,047	26,698,458	
Expenses		9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	775,021	
		10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	93,318	
		11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	232,461	
		12 Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	36,069,847	
Net Assets or Fund Balances		13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1–3)	773,968	
		14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	0	
		15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5–10)	15,045,093	
		16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	0	
		b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶5,299,475		
		17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24e)	12,427,096	
		18 Total expenses Add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	28,246,157	
		19 Revenue less expenses Subtract line 18 from line 12	7,823,690	
		Beginning of Current Year	End of Year	
20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)	72,934,328	71,182,786		
21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	2,664,359	2,208,095		
22 Net assets or fund balances Subtract line 21 from line 20	70,269,969	68,974,691		

Part II Signature Block

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

Sign Here

Signature of officer

JON HEIMERMAN VP/CAO

Type or print name and title

2017-01-05

Date

Paid Preparer Use Only

Print/Type preparer's name
DANIEL O'SHEA

Preparer's signature
DANIEL O'SHEA

Date

Check ☐ if self-employed

PTIN
P00957510

Firm's name ▶ COHNREZNICK LLP

Firm's EIN ▶

Firm's address ▶ 7501 WISCONSIN AVENUE 400E

Phone no (301) 652-9100

BETHESDA, MD 208146583

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 III

Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

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

☐

1

Briefly describe the organization’s mission

TO ORIGINATE, DISSEMINATE, AND INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF PUBLIC POLICIES BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY, LIMITED GOVERNMENT, FREE MARKETS, AND PEACE

2

Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O

3

Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O

4

Describe the 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 \$ 1,656,594 including grants of \$ 157,734) (Revenue \$ 300)

CENTER FOR GLOBAL LIBERTY AND PROSPERITY THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL LIBERTY AND PROSPERITY WAS ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING AROUND THE WORLD OF HOW FREE MARKETS CAN COMBAT SOME OF THE MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS FACED BY DEVELOPING NATIONS IN PARTICULAR, THE CENTER SEEKS TO ADVANCE POLICIES THAT PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS, EXTEND THE RANGE OF PERSONAL CHOICE, AND SUPPORT THE CENTRAL ROLE OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM IN ENDING WORLD POVERTY IN 2015 THEY COLLABORATED WITH THE FRASER INSTITUTE TO PRODUCE THE HUMAN FREEDOM INDEX, THE FIRST-EVER INDEX TO MEASURE FREEDOM AROUND THE GLOBE THAT IS BOTH COMPREHENSIVE AND CONSISTENT WITH A CLASSICAL LIBERAL PERSPECTIVE HUMANPROGRESS.ORG, ANOTHER PROJECT OF THE CENTER, PROVIDES AN INTERACTIVE RESOURCE FOR RELIABLE DATA ON HOW THE WORLD IS GETTING BETTER, THANKS TO INCREASING PERSONAL AND ECONOMIC LIBERTY IT IS AN INVALUABLE SOURCE FOR JOURNALISTS, ACADEMICS, CONGRESSIONAL STAFF, AND RESEARCHERS - THE SITE SAW AN INCREASE IN MONTHLY WEB TRAFFIC VISITS OF OVER 1,000 PERCENT IN THE PAST YEAR, WHILE THE SITE'S TWITTER FOLLOWING GREW ROUGHLY 5-FOLD, TO 8 3 THOUSAND FOLLOWERS

4b

(Code) (Expenses \$ 1,327,756 including grants of \$ 0) (Revenue \$ 21,865)

CENTER FOR MONETARY AND FINANCIAL ALTERNATIVES (CMFA) CATOS CMFA SEEKS TO RESTORE THE LOST UNDERSTANDING OF THE FREE MARKETS CAPACITY TO ACHIEVE LASTING FINANCIAL STABILITY AND, BY SO DOING, TO REPEL THE FORCES PRESENTLY FAVORING INCREASED GOVERNMENT CENTRALIZATION AND NATIONALIZATION OF MONEY AND FINANCIAL MARKETS AFTER JUST ONE FULL YEAR OF OPERATION, CMFA BOASTS AN ARRAY OF HIGHLY RESPECTED SCHOLARS, INCLUDING DIRECTOR GEORGE SELGIN, ONE OF THE FOREMOST AUTHORITIES ON BANKING HISTORY AND MONETARY THEORY, AS WELL AS AN ACADEMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL THAT INCLUDES MANY OF THE WORLDS LEADING MONETARY ECONOMISTS THE SCHOLARS PRODUCE RIGOROUS RESEARCH ON EVERYTHING FROM THE GOLD STANDARD TO CRYPTOCURRENCIES TO BANK REGULATION, AND REGULARLY DRAW CROWDS OF HUNDREDS OF DISTINGUISHED EXPERTS, HILL STAFFERS, JOURNALISTS, FINANCIAL INDUSTRY MEMBERS, AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO THEIR EVENTS THE INSTITUTES 33RD ANNUAL MONETARY CONFERENCE, FOR EXAMPLE, DREW OVER 200 ATTENDEES AND FEATURED PROMINENT SPEAKERS SUCH AS STANFORD ECONOMIST JOHN B TAYLOR, ST LOUIS FEDERAL RESERVE BANK PRESIDENT JAMES BULLARD, RICHMOND FEDERAL RESERVE BANK PRESIDENT JEFFREY LACKER, AND CLAUDIO BORIO OF THE BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS, WHOM THE ECONOMIST HAS CALLED "ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST PROVOCATIVE AND INTERESTING MONETARY ECONOMISTS "

4c

(Code) (Expenses \$ 1,129,614 including grants of \$ 0) (Revenue \$ 6,800)

CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES CATOS CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES AND ITS SCHOLARS AIM TO SECURE LIBERTY THROUGH CONSTITUTIONALLY LIMITED GOVERNMENT THE CENTERS SCHOLARS ADDRESS A WIDE RANGE OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL ISSUES, ESPECIALLY BY ENCOURAGING THE JUDICIARY TO NEITHER MAKE NOR IGNORE THE LAW BUT RATHER TO INTERPRET AND APPLY IT THROUGH THE NATURAL RIGHTS TRADITION INHERITED FROM THE FOUNDERS CATO REMAINS ONE OF THE BIGGEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE FILERS OF AMICUS CURIAE BRIEFS IN THE SUPREME COURT - IN THE 2014-2015 TERM, IT SAW IMPORTANT VICTORIES IN MULTIPLE CASES IN WHICH IT FILED AMICUS BRIEFS, INCLUDING SUCH HIGH-STAKES CASES AS MICHIGAN V EPA, HORNE V DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND, OF COURSE, THE VICTORY FOR MARRIAGE RIGHTS IN OBERGEFELL V HODGES CATO WAS THE ONLY ORGANIZATION IN THE COUNTRY TO SUPPORT THE CHALLENGES BOTH TO STATE MARRIAGE LAWS IN OBERGEFELL V HODGES AND THE IRS RULE ON THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IN KING V BURWELL

See Additional Data

4d

Other program services (Describe in Schedule O)

(Expenses \$ 17,478,360 including grants of \$ 716,750) (Revenue \$ 675,067)

4e

Total program service expenses ▶ 21,592,324

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

	Yes	No
1 Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? If "Yes," complete Schedule A 	1 Yes	
2 Is the organization required to complete Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors (see instructions)? 	2 Yes	
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	3	No
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	4	No
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	5	No
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 	6	No
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 	7	No
8 Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III 	8	No
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 	9	No
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 	10 Yes	
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 	11a Yes	
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 	11b	No
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 	11c	No
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 	11d	No
e Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X 	11e Yes	
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 	11f Yes	
12a Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII 	12a Yes	
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 	12b	No
13 Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E	13	No
14a Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?	14a Yes	
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 	14b Yes	
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 	15 Yes	
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 	16 Yes	
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)	17	No
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	18	No
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	19	No
20a Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? If "Yes," complete Schedule H	20a	No
b If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?	20b	

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

21	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>	21	Yes	
22	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>	22	Yes	
23	Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J</i>	23	Yes	
24a	Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25a</i>	24a		No
b	Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?	24b		
c	Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?	24c		
d	Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?	24d		
25a	Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>	25a		No
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>	25b		No
26	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>	26		No
27	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>	27		No
28	Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions)			
a	A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>	28a		No
b	A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>	28b		No
c	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>	28c		No
29	Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>	29	Yes	
30	Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>	30		No
31	Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i>	31		No
32	Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II</i>	32		No
33	Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I</i>	33		No
34	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>	34		No
35a	Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	35a		No
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>	35b		
36	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>	36		No
37	Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI</i>	37		No
38	Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? Note. All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O	38	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
1a	Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable.	1a	207	
b	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable.	1b	0	
c	Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?	1c	Yes	
2a	Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements, filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return.	2a	263	
b	If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns? Note. If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file (see instructions).	2b	Yes	
3a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year?	3a		No
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? If "No" to line 3b, provide an explanation in Schedule O.	3b		
4a	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in, or a signature or other authority over, a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)?	4a		No
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).			
5a	Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year?	5a		No
b	Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?	5b		No
c	If "Yes," to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T?	5c		
6a	Does the organization have annual gross receipts that are normally greater than \$100,000, and did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible as charitable contributions?	6a		No
b	If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?	6b		
7	Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).			
a	Did the organization receive a payment in excess of \$75 made partly as a contribution and partly for goods and services provided to the payor?	7a	Yes	
b	If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?	7b	Yes	
c	Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282?	7c		No
d	If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year.	7d		
e	Did the organization receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?	7e		No
f	Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?	7f		No
g	If the organization received a contribution of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?	7g		
h	If the organization received a contribution of cars, boats, airplanes, or other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C?	7h		
8	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds. Did a donor advised fund maintained by the sponsoring organization have excess business holdings at any time during the year?	8		
9a	Did the sponsoring organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?	9a		
b	Did the sponsoring organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person?	9b		
10	Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter			
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12.	10a		
b	Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities.	10b		
11	Section 501(c)(12) organizations. Enter			
a	Gross income from members or shareholders.	11a		
b	Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them).	11b		
12a	Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts. Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041?	12a		
b	If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year.	12b		
13	Section 501(c)(29) qualified nonprofit health insurance issuers.			
a	Is the organization licensed to issue qualified health plans in more than one state? Note. See the instructions for additional information the organization must report on Schedule O.	13a		
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.	13b		
c	Enter the amount of reserves on hand.	13c		
14a	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the tax year?	14a		No
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O.	14b		

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

			Yes	No
1a	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year	20		
	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			
b	Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent	19		
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?	2		No
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?	3		No
4	Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?	4		No
5	Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?	5		No
6	Did the organization have members or stockholders?	6		No
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?	7a	Yes	
b	Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?	7b	Yes	
8	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following			
a	The governing body?	8a	Yes	
b	Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	8b	Yes	
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	9		No

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

			Yes	No
10a	Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?	10a		No
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?	10b		
11a	Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	11a	Yes	
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	12a	Yes	
b	Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	12b	Yes	
c	Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done	12c	Yes	
13	Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	13	Yes	
14	Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	14	Yes	
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	15a	Yes	
b	Other officers or key employees of the organization	15b		No
	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?	16a		No
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?	16b		

Section C. Disclosure

17	List the States with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed	AL, AK, AR, CA, CO, CT, DC, FL, GA, HI, IL, KS, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, TN, UT, VA, WA, WV, WI
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	VALERIE USHER 1000 MASSACHUSETTS AVE NW washington, DC 200015403 (202) 842-0200

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

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

[illegible]

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	1a	Federated campaigns . . .	1a				
	b	Membership dues	1b				
	c	Fundraising events	1c				
	d	Related organizations	1d				
	e	Government grants (contributions)	1e				
	f	All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f	26,698,458			
	g	Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$		1,700,053			
	h	Total. Add lines 1a-1f			26,698,458		
Program Service Revenue	2a	CONFERENCES	Business Code				
			900099	704,032	704,032		
	b						
	c						
	d						
	e						
	f	All other program service revenue					
	g	Total. Add lines 2a-2f			704,032		
Other Revenue	3	Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)		266,607			266,607
	4	Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds . . .		0			
	5	Royalties		44,865			44,865
	6a	(i) Real					
		(ii) Personal					
	b	Less rental expenses					
	c	Rental income or (loss)		0	0		
	d	Net rental income or (loss)		0			
	7a	(i) Securities					
		(ii) Other					
	b	Less cost or other basis and sales expenses					
	c	Gain or (loss)		7,762			
	d	Net gain or (loss)		7,762			7,762
	8a	Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c) See Part IV, line 18					
		a					
		b					
	c	Net income or (loss) from fundraising events . . .		0			
	9a	Gross income from gaming activities See Part IV, line 19					
		a					
b							
c	Net income or (loss) from gaming activities		0				
10a	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances						
	a	324,925					
	b	252,896					
	c						
	Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory . . .		72,029	72,029			
Miscellaneous Revenue		Business Code					
11a	SPLIT INTEREST INCOME		900099	63,403		63,403	
b	OTHER INCOME		900099	12,137		12,137	
c							
d	All other revenue						
e	Total. Add lines 11a-11d			75,540			
12	Total revenue. See Instructions			27,869,293	776,061		394,774

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.	295,000	295,000		
2	Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22.	309,100	309,100		
3	Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16.	270,384	270,384		
4	Benefits paid to or for members.	0			
5	Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees.	1,192,590	432,317	381,505	378,768
6	Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B).	0			
7	Other salaries and wages.	12,392,616	10,491,053	564,799	1,336,764
8	Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions).	621,524	515,675	47,789	58,060
9	Other employee benefits.	1,222,940	1,000,309	112,108	110,523
10	Payroll taxes.	917,568	748,895	60,675	107,998
11	Fees for services (non-employees):				
a	Management.	0			
b	Legal.	107,549	26,697	80,852	0
c	Accounting.	49,350	0	49,350	0
d	Lobbying.	0			
e	Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17.	0			
f	Investment management fees.	113,316	230	113,053	33
g	Other (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O).	1,417,469	917,255	64,461	435,753
12	Advertising and promotion.	256,659	254,534	337	1,788
13	Office expenses.	3,032,607	2,095,439	205,558	731,610
14	Information technology.	689,760	502,668	51,714	135,378
15	Royalties.	0			
16	Occupancy.	884,307	644,735	66,850	172,722
17	Travel.	1,057,009	525,967	5,494	525,548
18	Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials.	0			
19	Conferences, conventions, and meetings.	1,110,314	409,971	30,248	670,095
20	Interest.	10,974	0	10,974	0
21	Payments to affiliates.	0			
22	Depreciation, depletion, and amortization.	1,563,314	1,137,727	118,158	307,429
23	Insurance.	183,372	75	183,297	0
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	MAILING LIST EXPENSE	161,677	138,743	0	22,934
b	HONORARIUM	411,023	328,523	0	82,500
c	DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	426,052	312,451	26,137	87,464
d	OTHER EXPENSES	465,640	234,576	96,956	134,108
e	All other expenses				
25	Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e.	29,162,114	21,592,324	2,270,315	5,299,475
26	Joint costs. 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).	786,570	627,541	0	159,029

Part X

Balance Sheet

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

☐

				(A)		(B)
				Beginning of year		End of year
Assets	1	Cash—non-interest-bearing		22,048,544	1	9,316,729
	2	Savings and temporary cash investments		0	2	5,016,288
	3	Pledges and grants receivable, net		5,142,213	3	4,124,925
	4	Accounts receivable, net		2,707,172	4	606,084
	5	Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees. Complete Part II of Schedule L.		0	5	0
	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.		0	6	0
	7	Notes and loans receivable, net		0	7	0
	8	Inventories for sale or use		344,562	8	213,818
	9	Prepaid expenses and deferred charges		123,846	9	282,276
	10a	Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D.	10a50,201,145	36,993,246	10c	35,687,668
	b	Less: accumulated depreciation	10b14,513,477			
	11	Investments—publicly traded securities		5,489,241	11	15,905,527
	12	Investments—other securities. See Part IV, line 11.		0	12	0
	13	Investments—program-related. See Part IV, line 11.		0	13	0
	14	Intangible assets		0	14	0
	15	Other assets. See Part IV, line 11.		85,504	15	29,471
	16	Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34).		72,934,328	16	71,182,786
Liabilities	17	Accounts payable and accrued expenses		1,897,885	17	1,599,940
	18	Grants payable		0	18	125,000
	19	Deferred revenue		46,223	19	61,167
	20	Tax-exempt bond liabilities		0	20	0
	21	Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D.		0	21	0
	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.		0	22	0
	23	Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties		0	23	0
	24	Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties		0	24	0
	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.		720,251	25	421,988
	26	Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25.		2,664,359	26	2,208,095
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here ☒ and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.					
	27	Unrestricted net assets		58,708,736	27	58,184,230
	28	Temporarily restricted net assets		8,551,136	28	7,780,364
	29	Permanently restricted net assets		3,010,097	29	3,010,097
	Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here ☐ and complete lines 30 through 34.					
	30	Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds			30	
	31	Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building or equipment fund			31	
	32	Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds			32	
	33	Total net assets or fund balances		70,269,969	33	68,974,691
	34	Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances		72,934,328	34	71,182,786

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	27,869,293
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	29,162,114
3	Revenue less expenses Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	-1,292,821
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	4	70,269,969
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	5,317
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	-7,774
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	10	68,974,691

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 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		No
Separate basis Consolidated basis Both consolidated and separate basis			
b	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	Yes	
Separate basis Consolidated basis Both consolidated and separate basis			
c	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	Yes	
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?		No
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		

Additional Data

Software ID:
Software Version:
EIN: 23-7432162
Name: CATO INSTITUTE

Form 990, Part III - 4 Program Service Accomplishments (See the Instructions)

(Code) (Expenses \$ 1,253,743 including grants of \$ 70,000) (Revenue \$ 0)
DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY STUDIES
(Code) (Expenses \$ 989,897 including grants of \$ 0) (Revenue \$ 0)
HERBERT A STIEFEL CENTER FOR TRADE POLICY STUDIES

Form 990, Part III - 4 Program Service Accomplishments (See the Instructions)

(Code)	(Expenses \$ 15,234,720 including grants of \$ 646,750)	(Revenue \$ 675,067)
OTHER CATO PROGRAMS		

Form 990, Part VII - Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted 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			
RICHARD J DENNIS DIRECTOR	2 5 0 0	X						0	0	0
JOHN C MALONE DIRECTOR (resigned 4/15)	2 5 0 0	X						0	0	0
LEWIS E RANDALL DIRECTOR	2 5 0 0	X						0	0	0
HOWARD S RICH DIRECTOR	2 5 0 0	X						0	0	0
JEFFREY S YASS DIRECTOR	2 5 0 0	X						0	0	0
FRED YOUNG DIRECTOR	2 5 0 0	X						0	0	0
ETHELMAE C HUMPHREYS DIRECTOR	2 5 0 0	X						0	0	0
DAVID H KOCH DIRECTOR	2 5 0 0	X						0	0	0
DONALD G SMITH DIRECTOR	2 5 0 0	X						0	0	0
ROBERT A LEVY CHAIRMAN	2 5 0 0	X		X				0	0	0

Form 990, Part VII - Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted 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			
K TUCKER ANDERSEN DIRECTOR	2 5 0 0	X						0	0	0
NANCY PFOTENHAUER DIRECTOR	2 5 0 0	X						0	0	0
PRESTON MARSHALL DIRECTOR	2 5 0 0	X						0	0	0
JOHN A ALLISON PRESIDENT THRU 3/15, DIRECTOR	40 0 0 0	X		X				143,827	0	92
NESTOR WEIGAND JR DIRECTOR	2 5 0 0	X						0	0	0
BARON BOND DIRECTOR	2 5 0 0	X						0	0	0
JAMES M KILTS DIRECTOR	2 5 0 0	X						0	0	0
JAMES M LAPEYRE JR DIRECTOR	2 5 0 0	X						0	0	0
CARL BARNEY DIRECTOR	2 5 0 0	X						0	0	0
ROBERT GELFOND DIRECTOR (beginning 9/15)	2 5 0 0	X						0	0	0

Form 990, Part VII - Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors										
(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted 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			
PETER GOETTLER President (beginning 4/15)	40 0 0 0	X		X				370,238	0	962
DAVID BOAZ EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT	40 0 0 0			X				279,501	0	23,485
Elizabeth Santos Secretary (beginning 9/15)	40 0 0 0			X				78,175	0	3,155
GAYLLIS WARD SECRETARY (Through 9/15)	40 0 0 0			X				119,267	0	4,685
JON HEIMERMAN VP/Chief Admin Officer	40 0 0 0			X				205,246	0	28,130
WILLIAM B LINDSEY VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH	40 0 0 0					X		206,876	0	18,887
ROGER PILON VICE PRESIDENT LEGAL AFFAIRS	40 0 0 0					X		184,044	0	32,875
PATRICK MICHAELS DIR , CTR FOR THE STDY OF SCI	40 0 0 0					X		182,288	0	19,257
David Kirby Vice President for Development	40 0 0 0					X		217,139	0	36,511
George Selgin DIR , CTR FOR Fin Alternative	40 0 0 0					X		213,150	0	6,789

Form 990, Part VII - Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted 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			
EDWARD H CRANE FORMER PRESIDENT	40 0 0 0						X	475,000	0	0

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990EZ)

Public Charity Status and Public Support

OMB No 1545-0047

2015

Open to Public Inspection

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.
▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.
▶ Information about Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization CATO INSTITUTE	Employer identification number 23-7432162
--	--

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		
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)	31,736,230	20,782,297	27,386,455	34,969,047	26,698,458	141,572,487
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						0
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						0
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3	31,736,230	20,782,297	27,386,455	34,969,047	26,698,458	141,572,487
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)						16,153,709
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4						125,418,778

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	31,736,230	20,782,297	27,386,455	34,969,047	26,698,458	141,572,487
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	358,994	194,225	129,907	133,511	311,472	1,128,109
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						0
10 Other income Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI)	354,940	8,924	704	2,336	75,540	442,444
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						143,143,040
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc (see instructions)					12	5,222,240
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					☐	

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage		
14 Public support percentage for 2015 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	87.618 %
15 Public support percentage for 2014 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	86.219 %
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	☒	
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	☐	
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	☐	
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	☐	
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	☐	

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 IV Supporting Organizations

(Complete only if you checked a box on line 11 of Part I. If you checked 11a of Part I, complete Sections A and B. If you checked 11b of Part I, complete Sections A and C. If you checked 11c of Part I, complete Sections A, D, and E. If you checked 11d of Part I, complete Sections A and D, and complete Part V.)

Section A. All Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Are all of the organization's supported organizations listed by name in the organization's governing documents? If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organizations are designated. If designated by class or purpose, describe the designation. If historic and continuing relationship, explain.	1	
2 Did the organization have any supported organization that does not have an IRS determination of status under section 509(a)(1) or (2)? If "Yes," explain in Part VI how the organization determined that the supported organization was described in section 509(a)(1) or (2).	2	
3a Did the organization have a supported organization described in section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6)? If "Yes," answer (b) and (c) below.	3a	
b Did the organization confirm that each supported organization qualified under section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) and satisfied the public support tests under section 509(a)(2)? If "Yes," describe in Part VI when and how the organization made the determination.	3b	
c Did the organization ensure that all support to such organizations was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes? If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization put in place to ensure such use.	3c	
4a Was any supported organization not organized in the United States ("foreign supported organization")? If "Yes" and if you checked 11a or 11b in Part I, answer (b) and (c) below.	4a	
b Did the organization have ultimate control and discretion in deciding whether to make grants to the foreign supported organization? If "Yes," describe in Part VI how the organization had such control and discretion despite being controlled or supervised by or in connection with its supported organizations.	4b	
c Did the organization support any foreign supported organization that does not have an IRS determination under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) or (2)? If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization used to ensure that all support to the foreign supported organization was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes.	4c	
5a Did the organization add, substitute, or remove any supported organizations during the tax year? If "Yes," answer (b) and (c) below (if applicable). Also, provide detail in Part VI, including (i) the names and EIN numbers of the supported organizations added, substituted, or removed, (ii) the reasons for each such action, (iii) the authority under the organization's organizing document authorizing such action, and (iv) how the action was accomplished (such as by amendment to the organizing document).	5a	
b Type I or Type II only. Was any added or substituted supported organization part of a class already designated in the organization's organizing document?	5b	
c Substitutions only. Was the substitution the result of an event beyond the organization's control?	5c	
6 Did the organization provide support (whether in the form of grants or the provision of services or facilities) to anyone other than (a) its supported organizations, (b) individuals that are part of the charitable class benefited by one or more of its supported organizations, or (c) other supporting organizations that also support or benefit one or more of the filing organization's supported organizations? If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI .	6	
7 Did the organization provide a grant, loan, compensation, or other similar payment to a substantial contributor (defined in IRC 4958(c)(3)(C)), a family member of a substantial contributor, or a 35-percent controlled entity with regard to a substantial contributor? If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990).	7	
8 Did the organization make a loan to a disqualified person (as defined in section 4958) not described in line 7? If "Yes," complete Part II of Schedule L (Form 990).	8	
9a Was the organization controlled directly or indirectly at any time during the tax year by one or more disqualified persons as defined in section 4946 (other than foundation managers and organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or (2))? If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI .	9a	
b Did one or more disqualified persons (as defined in line 9(a)) hold a controlling interest in any entity in which the supporting organization had an interest? If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI .	9b	
c Did a disqualified person (as defined in line 9(a)) have an ownership interest in, or derive any personal benefit from, assets in which the supporting organization also had an interest? If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI .	9c	
10a Was the organization subject to the excess business holdings rules of IRC 4943 because of IRC 4943(f) (regarding certain Type II supporting organizations, and all Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations)? If "Yes," answer b below.	10a	
b Did the organization have any excess business holdings in the tax year? (Use Schedule C, Form 4720, to determine whether the organization had excess business holdings.)	10b	
11 Has the organization accepted a gift or contribution from any of the following persons?		
a A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (b) and (c) below, the governing body of a supported organization?	11a	
b A family member of a person described in (a) above?	11b	
c A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (a) or (b) above? If "Yes" to a, b, or c, provide detail in Part VI.	11c	

Part IV

Supporting Organizations (continued)

Section B. Type I Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Did the directors, trustees, or membership of one or more supported organizations have the power to regularly appoint or elect at least a majority of the organization's directors or trustees at all times during the tax year? <i>If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organization(s) effectively operated, supervised, or controlled the organization's activities. If the organization had more than one supported organization, describe how the powers to appoint and/or remove directors or trustees were allocated among the supported organizations and what conditions or restrictions, if any, applied to such powers during the tax year.</i>		
2 Did the organization operate for the benefit of any supported organization other than the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI how providing such benefit carried out the purposes of the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised or controlled the supporting organization.</i>		

Section C. Type II Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Were a majority of the organization's directors or trustees during the tax year also a majority of the directors or trustees of each of the organization's supported organization(s)? <i>If "No," describe in Part VI how control or management of the supporting organization was vested in the same persons that controlled or managed the supported organization(s).</i>		

Section D. All Type III Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Did the organization provide to each of its supported organizations, by the last day of the fifth month of the organization's tax year, (1) a written notice describing the type and amount of support provided during the prior tax year, (2) a copy of the Form 990 that was most recently filed as of the date of notification, and (3) copies of the organization's governing documents in effect on the date of notification, to the extent not previously provided?		
2 Were any of the organization's officers, directors, or trustees either (i) appointed or elected by the supported organization(s) or (ii) serving on the governing body of a supported organization? <i>If "No," explain in Part VI how the organization maintained a close and continuous working relationship with the supported organization(s).</i>		
3 By reason of the relationship described in (2), did the organization's supported organizations have a significant voice in the organization's investment policies and in directing the use of the organization's income or assets at all times during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role the organization's supported organizations played in this regard.</i>		

Section E. Type III Functionally-Integrated Supporting Organizations

1 Check the box next to the method that the organization used to satisfy the Integral Part Test during the year (see instructions) a ☐ The organization satisfied the Activities Test. Complete line 2 below. b ☐ The organization is the parent of each of its supported organizations. Complete line 3 below. c ☐ The organization supported a governmental entity. Describe in Part VI how you supported a government entity (see instructions).		
2 Activities Test. Answer (a) and (b) below.		
a Did substantially all of the organization's activities during the tax year directly further the exempt purposes of the supported organization(s) to which the organization was responsive? <i>If "Yes," then in Part VI identify those supported organizations and explain how these activities directly furthered their exempt purposes, how the organization was responsive to those supported organizations, and how the organization determined that these activities constituted substantially all of its activities.</i>		
b Did the activities described in (a) constitute activities that, but for the organization's involvement, one or more of the organization's supported organization(s) would have been engaged in? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI the reasons for the organization's position that its supported organization(s) would have engaged in these activities but for the organization's involvement.</i>		
3 Parent of Supported Organizations. Answer (a) and (b) below.		
a Did the organization have the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the officers, directors, or trustees of each of the supported organizations? <i>Provide details in Part VI.</i>		
b Did the organization exercise a substantial degree of direction over the policies, programs and activities of each of its supported organizations? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role played by the organization in this regard.</i>		

Part V

Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations

1

Check here if the organization satisfied the Integral Part Test as a qualifying trust on Nov 20, 1970 **See instructions.** All other Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations must complete Sections A through E

☐

Section A - Adjusted Net Income		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1	Net short-term capital gain	1	
2	Recoveries of prior-year distributions	2	
3	Other gross income (see instructions)	3	
4	Add lines 1 through 3	4	
5	Depreciation and depletion	5	
6	Portion of operating expenses paid or incurred for production or collection of gross income or for management, conservation, or maintenance of property held for production of income (see instructions)	6	
7	Other expenses (see instructions)	7	
8	Adjusted Net Income (subtract lines 5, 6 and 7 from line 4)	8	

Section B - Minimum Asset Amount		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1	Aggregate fair market value of all non-exempt-use assets (see instructions for short tax year or assets held for part of year)	1	
a	Average monthly value of securities	1a	
b	Average monthly cash balances	1b	
c	Fair market value of other non-exempt-use assets	1c	
d	Total (add lines 1a, 1b, and 1c)	1d	
e	Discount claimed for blockage or other factors (explain in detail in Part VI) _____		
2	Acquisition indebtedness applicable to non-exempt use assets	2	
3	Subtract line 2 from line 1d	3	
4	Cash deemed held for exempt use Enter 1-1/2% of line 3 (for greater amount, see instructions)	4	
5	Net value of non-exempt-use assets (subtract line 4 from line 3)	5	
6	Multiply line 5 by .035	6	
7	Recoveries of prior-year distributions	7	
8	Minimum Asset Amount (add line 7 to line 6)	8	

Section C - Distributable Amount		Current Year	
1	Adjusted net income for prior year (from Section A, line 8, Column A)	1	
2	Enter 85% of line 1	2	
3	Minimum asset amount for prior year (from Section B, line 8, Column A)	3	
4	Enter greater of line 2 or line 3	4	
5	Income tax imposed in prior year	5	
6	Distributable Amount. Subtract line 5 from line 4, unless subject to emergency temporary reduction (see instructions)	6	
7	Check here if the current year is the organization's first as a non-functionally-integrated Type III supporting organization (see instructions) ☐		

Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations (continued)

Section D - Distributions	Current Year
1 Amounts paid to supported organizations to accomplish exempt purposes	
2 Amounts paid to perform activity that directly furthers exempt purposes of supported organizations, in excess of income from activity	
3 Administrative expenses paid to accomplish exempt purposes of supported organizations	
4 Amounts paid to acquire exempt-use assets	
5 Qualified set-aside amounts (prior IRS approval required)	
6 Other distributions (describe in Part VI) See instructions	
7 Total annual distributions. Add lines 1 through 6	
8 Distributions to attentive supported organizations to which the organization is responsive (provide details in Part VI) See instructions	
9 Distributable amount for 2015 from Section C, line 6	
10 Line 8 amount divided by Line 9 amount	

Section E - Distribution Allocations (see instructions)	(i) Excess Distributions	(ii) Underdistributions Pre-2015	(iii) Distributable Amount for 2015
1 Distributable amount for 2015 from Section C, line 6			
2 Underdistributions, if any, for years prior to 2015 (reasonable cause required--see instructions)			
3 Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2015			
a			
b			
c			
d From 2013.			
e From 2014.			
f Total of lines 3a through e			
g Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
h Applied to 2015 distributable amount			
i Carryover from 2010 not applied (see instructions)			
j Remainder Subtract lines 3g, 3h, and 3i from 3f			
4 Distributions for 2015 from Section D, line 7 \$			
a Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
b Applied to 2015 distributable amount			
c Remainder Subtract lines 4a and 4b from 4			
5 Remaining underdistributions for years prior to 2015, if any Subtract lines 3g and 4a from line 2 (if amount greater than zero, see instructions)			
6 Remaining underdistributions for 2015 Subtract lines 3h and 4b from line 1 (if amount greater than zero, see instructions)			
7 Excess distributions carryover to 2016. Add lines 3j and 4c			
8 Breakdown of line 7			
a			
b			
c Excess from 2013.			
d From 2014.			
e From 2015.			

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).

Facts And Circumstances Test

Return Reference

Explanation

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.

OMB No 1545-0047

2015

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
CATO INSTITUTE

Employer identification number
23-7432162

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? ☐ Yes ☐ 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? ☐ Yes ☐ 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)
☐ Protection of natural habitat
☐ Preservation of open space

☐ Preservation of an historically important land area
☐ Preservation of a certified historic structure

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

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
► \$

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 in Part XIII

☐

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

	(a)Current year	(b)Prior year	b (c)Two years back	(d)Three years back	(e)Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance	3,015,918	3,010,097	3,010,097	2,010,097	2,010,097
b Contributions	0	0	0	1,000,000	0
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses	67,611	77,101	51,086	80,912	61,866
d Grants or scholarships	0	0	0	0	0
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs	62,619	71,280	51,086	80,912	61,866
f Administrative expenses	0	0	0	0	0
g End of year balance	3,020,910	3,015,918	3,010,097	3,010,097	2,010,097

2

Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as

a

Board designated or quasi-endowment

0 %

b

Permanent endowment

99 640 %

c

Temporarily restricted endowment

0 360 %

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

(i) unrelated organizations

(ii) related organizations

3a(i)

3a(ii)

Yes

No

b

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

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" to 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)	Accumulated (c) depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land		9,656,037		9,656,037
b Buildings		35,071,253	11,055,502	24,015,751
c Leasehold improvements		0	0	0
d Equipment		0	0	0
e Other		5,473,855	3,457,975	2,015,880
Total. Add lines 1a through 1e (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c))				35,687,668

Schedule D (Form 990) 2015

Part II

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	28,845,554
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12		
a	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	2a	5,317
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b	718,048
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c	
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	2d	
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	723,365
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	28,122,189
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	-252,896
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	-252,896
5	Total revenue Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12)	5	27,869,293

Part II

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	30,140,832
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25		
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a	718,048
b	Prior year adjustments	2b	
c	Other losses	2c	7,774
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	2d	252,896
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	978,718
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	29,162,114
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	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	
5	Total expenses Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18)	5	29,162,114

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.

Return Reference	Explanation
SCHEDULE D, PART V, Line 4	INTENDED USE OF THE ORGANIZATION'S ENDOWMENT FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE OPERATIONAL COSTS OF CATO'S CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES and student PROGRAMS THROUGH THE ANNUAL EARNINGS OF THE ENDOWMENT NET ASSETS

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

Return Reference	Explanation
SCHEDULE D, PART XI, LINE 4B	Other Revenue Included on Return Not on Books COST OF GOODS SOLD (252,896)
SCHEDULE D, PART XII, LINE 2D	OTHER EXPENSES INCLUDED ON BOOKS NOT ON FORM 990 COST OF GOODS SOLD 252,896

**SCHEDULE F
(Form 990)****Statement of Activities Outside the United States**

OMB No 1545-0047

2015**Open to Public
Inspection**

- Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990,
Part IV, line 14b, 15, or 16.
► Attach to Form 990.

► Information about Schedule F (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue ServiceName of the organization
CATO INSTITUTE**Employer identification number**

23-7432162

Part I General Information on Activities Outside the United States.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 14b.

- 1 For grantmakers.** Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the amount of its grants and other assistance, the grantees' eligibility for the grants or assistance, and the selection criteria used to award the grants or assistance? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- 2 For grantmakers.** Describe in Part V the organization's procedures for monitoring the use of its grants and other assistance outside the United States
- 3** Activities per Region (The following Part I, line 3 table can be duplicated if additional space is needed)

(a) Region	(b) Number of offices in the region	(c) Number of employees, agents, and independent contractors in region	(d) Activities conducted in region (by type) (e g , fundraising, program services, investments, grants to recipients located in the region)	(e) If activity listed in (d) is a program service, describe specific type of service(s) in region	(f) Total expenditures for and investments in region
(1) Europe (Including Iceland and Greenland)	0	2	Grantmaking		130,000
(2) South America		2	Program Services	Conferences	3,419
(3) South America		2	Grantmaking		35,384
(4) Russia and the Newly Independent States			Grantmaking		105,000
(5)					
3a Sub-total	0	6			273,803
b Total from continuation sheets to Part I					
c Totals (add lines 3a and 3b)	0	6			273,803

Part II Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations or Entities Outside the United States.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 15, for any recipient who received more than \$5,000. Part II can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

1	(a) Name of organization	(b) IRS code section and EIN (if applicable)	(c) Region	(d) Purpose of grant	(e) Amount of cash grant	(f) Manner of cash disbursement	(g) Amount of non-cash assistance	(h) Description of non-cash assistance	(i) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)
(1)			Russia and the Newly Independent States	PROM LIBERTY	105,000	wire		N/A	N/A
(2)									
(3)									
(4)									

2 Enter total number of recipient organizations listed above that are recognized as charities by the foreign country, recognized as tax-exempt by the IRS, or for which the grantee or counsel has provided a section 501(c)(3) equivalency letter ▶ 1

3 Enter total number of other organizations or entities ▶ 0

Part III **Grants and Other Assistance to Individuals Outside the United States.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 16.
Part III can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

(a) Type of grant or assistance	(b) Region	(c) Number of recipients	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Manner of cash disbursement	(f) Amount of non-cash assistance	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)
(1) STIPENDS FOR SENIOR FELLOWS/ADJUNCT SCHOLARS	South America	2	35,384	wire		N/A	N/A
(2) STIPENDS FOR SENIOR FELLOWS/ADJUNCT SCHOLARS	Europe (Including Iceland and Greenland)	2	130,000	wire		N/A	N/A
(3)							
(4)							
(5)							
(6)							
(7)							
(8)							
(9)							
(10)							
(11)							
(12)							
(13)							
(14)							
(15)							
(16)							
(17)							
(18)							

Part IV Foreign Forms

- 1

Was the organization a U S transferor of property to a foreign corporation during the tax year? *If "Yes," the organization may be required to file Form 926, Return by a U S Transferor of Property to a Foreign Corporation (see Instructions for Form 926)*

☐

Yes

☒

No
- 2

Did the organization have an interest in a foreign trust during the tax year? *If "Yes," the organization may be required to file Form 3520, Annual Return to Report Transactions with Foreign Trusts and Receipt of Certain Foreign Gifts, and/or Form 3520-A, Annual Information Return of Foreign Trust With a U S Owner (see Instructions for Forms 3520 and 3520-A, do not file with Form 990)*

☐

Yes

☒

No
- 3

Did the organization have an ownership interest in a foreign corporation during the tax year? *If "Yes," the organization may be required to file Form 5471, Information Return of U S Persons with Respect to Certain Foreign Corporations (see Instructions for Form 5471)*

☐

Yes

☒

No
- 4

Was the organization a direct or indirect shareholder of a passive foreign investment company or a qualified electing fund during the tax year? *If "Yes," the organization may be required to file Form 8621, Information Return by a Shareholder of a Passive Foreign Investment Company or Qualified Electing Fund (see Instructions for Form 8621)*

☐

Yes

☒

No
- 5

Did the organization have an ownership interest in a foreign partnership during the tax year? *If "Yes," the organization may be required to file Form 8865, Return of U S Persons with Respect to Certain Foreign Partnerships (see Instructions for Form 8865)*

☐

Yes

☒

No
- 6

Did the organization have any operations in or related to any boycotting countries during the tax year? *If "Yes," the organization may be required to file Form 5713, International Boycott Report (see Instructions for Form 5713, do not file with Form 990)*

☐

Yes

☒

No

Part V **Supplemental Information**

Provide the information required by Part I, line 2 (monitoring of funds); Part I, line 3, column (f) (accounting method; amounts of investments vs. expenditures per region); Part II, line 1 (accounting method); Part III (accounting method); and Part III, column (c) (estimated number of recipients), as applicable. Also complete this part to provide any additional information (see instructions).

990 Schedule F, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
SCHEDULE F, PART I, LINE 2	PROGRAMS ARE SUPERVISED BY PROJECT MANAGERS WHO PROVIDE OVERSIGHT, APPROVE PAYMENTS, AND PROVIDE AN ACCOUNTING OF FUNDS SPENT

2015

23-7432162

Schedule I (Form 990) 2015

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.

(a)Type of grant or assistance	(b)Number of recipients	(c)Amount of cash grant	(d)Amount of non-cash assistance	(e)Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(f)Description of non-cash assistance
STIPENDS FOR SENIOR (1) FELLOWS/ADJUNCT SCHOLARS	8	309,100		N/A	N/A

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
SCHEDULE I, PART I, LINE 2	PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING THE USE OF GRANT FUNDS IN THE UNITED STATES PROGRAMS ARE SUPERVISED BY PROJECT MANAGERS WHO PROVIDE OVERSIGHT, APPROVE PAYMENTS, AND PROVIDE AN ACCOUNTING OF FUNDS SPENT

Additional Data

Software ID:
Software Version:
EIN: 23-7432162
Name: CATO INSTITUTE

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

(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV , appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
Free To Choose Network 2002 Filmore Avenue Erie,PA 16506	52-1455677	501(c)(3)	280,000		N/A	N/A	documentaries
University of Maryland College Park Foundation 4603 Calvert Road College Park,MD 20740	52-2197313	501(C)(3)	15,000		n/a	n/a	Literature Program

Schedule J
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Compensation Information

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.

OMB No 1545-0047

2015

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
CATO INSTITUTE

Employer identification number
23-7432162

Part I Questions Regarding Compensation

	Yes	No
1a Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a. Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items. ☐ First-class or charter travel ☒ Housing allowance or residence for personal use ☐ Travel for companions ☐ Payments for business use of personal residence ☐ Tax indemnification and gross-up payments ☐ Health or social club dues or initiation fees ☐ Discretionary spending account ☐ Personal services (e g , maid, chauffeur, chef)		
b If any of the boxes in 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	1b	No
2 Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all directors, trustees, officers, including the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked in line 1a?	2	No
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. ☐ Compensation committee ☐ Written employment contract ☒ Independent compensation consultant ☐ Compensation survey or study ☒ Form 990 of other organizations ☒ 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?	4a	Yes
b Participate in, or receive payment from, a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan?	4b	No
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.	4c	No
Only 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?	5a	No
b Any related organization? If "Yes," on line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III.	5b	No
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?	6a	No
b Any related organization? If "Yes," on line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III.	6b	No
7 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any non-fixed payments not described in lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III.	7	Yes
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.	8	No
9 If "Yes" on line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)?	9	

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 are not 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
		Base (i) compensation	(ii) Bonus & incentive compensation	(iii) Other reportable compensation				
1 EDWARD H CRANE FORMER PRESIDENT	(i)	475,000 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	475,000 ----- 0	----- ----- -----
	(ii)							
2 DAVID BOAZ EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT	(i)	279,501 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	10,948 ----- 0	12,537 ----- 0	302,986 ----- 0	----- ----- -----
	(ii)							
3 JON HEIMERMAN VP/Chief Admin Officer	(i)	205,246 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	5,330 ----- 0	22,800 ----- 0	233,376 ----- 0	----- ----- -----
	(ii)							
4 PETER GOETTLER President (beginning 4/15)	(i)	370,238 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	962 ----- 0	371,200 ----- 0	----- ----- -----
	(ii)							
5 WILLIAM B LINDSEY VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH	(i)	206,876 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	8,350 ----- 0	10,537 ----- 0	225,763 ----- 0	----- ----- -----
	(ii)							
6 ROGER PILON VICE PRESIDENT LEGAL AFFAIRS	(i)	184,044 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	7,680 ----- 0	25,195 ----- 0	216,919 ----- 0	----- ----- -----
	(ii)							
7 PATRICK MICHAELS DIR , CTR FOR THE STDY OF SCI	(i)	182,288 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	6,946 ----- 0	12,311 ----- 0	201,545 ----- 0	----- ----- -----
	(ii)							
8 David Kirby Vice President for Development	(i)	167,139 ----- 0	50,000 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	7,314 ----- 0	29,197 ----- 0	253,650 ----- 0	----- ----- -----
	(ii)							
9 George Selgin DIR , CTR FOR Fin Alternative	(i)	213,150 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	0 ----- 0	6,789 ----- 0	219,939 ----- 0	----- ----- -----
	(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.

Return Reference	Explanation
SCHEDULE J, Part I, LINE 1B	WRITTEN POLICY REGARDING REIMBURSEMENT. THE BOARD APPROVED THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSING ALLOWANCE AS PART OF HIS EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT. THIS ARRANGEMENT ENDED MARCH 31, 2015.
SCHEDULE J, Part I, LINE 4A	SEVERANCE PAYMENT. Gayllis Ward received a severance payment of \$32,500.
SCHEDULE J, Part I, LINE 7	Non-fixed payments. Elizabeth Santos received a service award for 5 years of service, and David Kirby received a performance bonus of \$50,000.

Additional Data

Software ID:
Software Version:
EIN: 23-7432162
Name: CATO INSTITUTE

Form 990, Schedule J, Part II - Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

(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				
1EDWARD H CRANE FORMER PRESIDENT	(i)	475,000	0	0	0	0	475,000	
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1DAVID BOAZ EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT	(i)	279,501	0	0	10,948	12,537	302,986	
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2JON HEIMERMAN VP/Chief Admin Officer	(i)	205,246	0	0	5,330	22,800	233,376	
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3PETER GOETTLER President (beginning 4/15)	(i)	370,238	0	0	0	962	371,200	
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4WILLIAM B LINDSEY VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH	(i)	206,876	0	0	8,350	10,537	225,763	
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5ROGER PILON VICE PRESIDENT LEGAL AFFAIRS	(i)	184,044	0	0	7,680	25,195	216,919	
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6PATRICK MICHAELS DIR , CTR FOR THE STDY OF SCI	(i)	182,288	0	0	6,946	12,311	201,545	
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
7David Kirby Vice President for Development	(i)	167,139	50,000	0	7,314	29,197	253,650	
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
8George Selgin DIR , CTR FOR Fin Alternative	(i)	213,150	0	0	0	6,789	219,939	
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	

SCHEDULE M
(Form 990)

Noncash Contributions

OMB No 1545-0047

2015

Open to Public Inspection

►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

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization
CATO INSTITUTE

Employer identification number
23-7432162

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	65	1,700,053	FMV DATE OF RECEIPT
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

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 is not required to be used for exempt purposes for the entire holding period?

30a

Yes

No

b

If "Yes," describe the arrangement in Part II

31

Does the organization have a gift acceptance policy that requires the review of any non-standard contributions?

31

Yes

32a

Does the organization hire or use third parties or related organizations to solicit, process, or sell noncash contributions?

32a

No

b

If "Yes," describe in Part II

33

If the organization did not report an amount in column (c) for a type of property for which column (a) is checked, describe in Part II

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

Cat No 51227J

Schedule M (Form 990) (2015)

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.

Return Reference	Explanation
------------------	-------------

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.

OMB No 1545-0047

2015**Open to Public
Inspection**Name of the organization
CATO INSTITUTE**Employer identification number**

23-7432162

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
PART VI, SECTION A, Line 7A	MEMBERS, STOCKHOLDERS OR OTHER PERSONS WHO MAY ELECT THE GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD VOTE TO APPROVE AND REMOVE MEMBERS
PART VI, SECTION A, Line 7B	DECISIONS OF THE GOVERNING BODY SUBJECT TO APPROVAL MEMBERS ELECT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MAY REMOVE DIRECTORS WITH A MAJORITY VOTE

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
PART VI, SECTION A, Line 11B	PROCESS USED TO REVIEW FORM 990 A DRAFT 990 IS PROVIDED TO EACH MEMBER FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT PRIOR TO FINALIZATION
PART VI, SECTION B, Line 12C	MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY CATO REVIEWS CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES IF A POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ARISES, THE DIRECTOR, OFFICER OR KEY EMPLOYEE WITH THE CONFLICT IS REQUIRED TO CORRECT THE SITUATION OR EITHER STEP DOWN FROM THE BOARD OR FACE TERMINATION FROM EMPLOYMENT

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
PART VI, SECTION B, Line 15A	PROCESS FOR DETERMINING COMPENSATION INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR REVIEWS COMPENSATION/BENEFITS THE BOARD DISCUSSES AND APPROVES EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION/BENEFITS BASED ON RESULTS OF THE INDEPENDENT STUDY
PART VI, SECTION C, Line 19	HOW THE ORGANIZATION MAKES ORGANIZING DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE Public Cato's bylaw s, ar ticles of incorporation, and conflict of interest policy are available to anyone w ho reque sts them Further, Cato has alw ays complied, and w ill continue to comply, w ith the mandate that form 990 be made publicly available

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
Part XI, Line 9	Other Changes in Net Assets Loss on Write-off of Pledge (\$7,774)
Part VI, line 1b	John Allison, Director, is considered an independent voting member of the governing body Part VII, column D reports compensation earned in calendar year 2015 in his role as president, prior to the current fiscal year