

Form **990-EZ**
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Short Form
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-EZ and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990ez.

OMB No 1545-1150
2017
Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2017 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01-01-2017, and ending 12-31-2017

B Check if applicable
 Address change
 Name change
 Initial return
 Final return/terminated
 Amended return
 Application pending

C Name of organization
Stop Blank Checks
Number and street (or P O box, if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite
2350 Kerner Blvd
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code
San Rafael, CA 94901

D Employer identification number
47-1972450
E Telephone number
(415) 389-6800
F Group Exemption Number

G Accounting Method Cash Accrual Other (specify) _____
I Website: N/A
J Tax-exempt status (check only one) - 501(c)(3) 501(c)(4) (insert no) 4947(a)(1) or 527

H Check if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF)

K Form of organization Corporation Trust Association Other _____
L Add lines 5b, 6c, and 7b to line 9 to determine gross receipts. If gross receipts are \$200,000 or more, or if total assets (Part II, column (B) below) are \$500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ \$

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

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

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

Table with columns for question number, question text, and Yes/No response columns. Rows include questions 33 through 45b regarding organizational activities, financials, and foreign accounts.

	Yes	No
46 Did the organization engage, directly or indirectly, in political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I	46	No

Part VI Section 501(c)(3) organizations only
 All section 501(c)(3) organizations must answer questions 47-49b and 52, and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51. Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part VI

	Yes	No
47 Did the organization engage in lobbying activities or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II	47	
48 Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E	48	
49a Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization?	49a	
b If "Yes," was the related organization a section 527 organization?	49b	

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

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

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

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

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

d Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over \$100,000. ▶ _____

52 Did the organization complete Schedule A? **NOTE.** All Section 501(c)(3) organizations must attach a completed Schedule A ▶ Yes No

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

***** Signature of officer	2018-03-15 Date
Steven S Lucas Secretary & CFO Type or print name and title	

Paid Preparer Use Only	Print/Type preparer's name	Preparer's signature	Date	Check <input type="checkbox"/> if self-employed	PTIN
	Firm's name ▶	Firm's EIN ▶			
	Firm's address ▶	Phone no			

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions ▶ Yes No

Additional Data

Software ID: 17005038

Software Version: 2017v2.2

EIN: 47-1972450

Name: Stop Blank Checks

Form 990EZ, Part III - Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. In a clear and concise manner, describe the services provided, the number of persons benefited, and other relevant information for each program title.	Expenses (Required for section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations; optional for others.)	
28 Educated California voters and citizens about massive state debt and fiscal issues (Grants \$) <p style="text-align: right;">If this amount includes foreign grants, check here . . . <input type="checkbox"/></p>	28a	

SCHEDULE C
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Political Campaign and Lobbying Activities

OMB No 1545-0047

2017

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

Open to Public Inspection

▶Complete if the organization is described below. ▶Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.
▶Information about Schedule C (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Name of the organization Stop Blank Checks	Employer identification number 47-1972450
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Part I-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c) or is a section 527 organization.

- 1 Provide a description of the organization's direct and indirect political campaign activities in Part IV (see instructions for definition of "political campaign activities")
- 2 Political campaign activity expenditures (see instructions) ▶ \$ _____
- 3 Volunteer hours for political campaign activities (see instructions) _____

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

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

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

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

(a) Name	(b) Address	(c) EIN	(d) Amount paid from filing organization's funds If none, enter -0-	(e) Amount of political contributions received and promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization If none, enter -0-
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

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

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

Limits on Lobbying Expenditures
(The term "expenditures" means amounts paid or incurred.)

	(a) Filing organization's totals	(b) Affiliated group totals
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- 1a** Total lobbying expenditures to influence public opinion (grass roots lobbying)
- b** Total lobbying expenditures to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying)
- c** Total lobbying expenditures (add lines 1a and 1b)
- d** Other exempt purpose expenditures
- e** Total exempt purpose expenditures (add lines 1c and 1d)
- f** Lobbying nontaxable amount Enter the amount from the following table in both columns

If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:
Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 1e
Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000
Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000
Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000
Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000

- g** Grassroots nontaxable amount (enter 25% of line 1f)
- h** Subtract line 1g from line 1a If zero or less, enter -0-
- i** Subtract line 1f from line 1c If zero or less, enter -0-
- j** If there is an amount other than zero on either line 1h or line 1i, did the organization file Form 4720 reporting section 4911 tax for this year?

Yes No

4-Year Averaging Period Under section 501(h)

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

Lobbying Expenditures During 4-Year Averaging Period

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2014	(b) 2015	(c) 2016	(d) 2017	(e) Total
2a Lobbying nontaxable amount					
b Lobbying ceiling amount (150% of line 2a, column(e))					
c Total lobbying expenditures					
d Grassroots nontaxable amount					
e Grassroots ceiling amount (150% of line 2d, column (e))					
f Grassroots lobbying expenditures					

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

For each "Yes" response on lines 1a through 1i below, provide in Part IV a detailed description of the lobbying activity

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

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

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

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

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

Part IV Supplemental Information

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

Return Reference	Explanation
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Schedule L
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Transactions with Interested Persons

OMB No 1545-0047

▶ **Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, lines 25a, 25b, 26, 27, 28a, 28b, or 28c, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a or 40b.**
 ▶ **Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.**
 ▶ **Information about Schedule L (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.**

2017

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Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization
Stop Blank Checks

Employer identification number

47-1972450

Part I Excess Benefit Transactions (section 501(c)(3), section 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations only)

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 25a or 25b, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 40b

1	(a) Name of disqualified person	(b) Relationship between disqualified person and organization	(c) Description of transaction	(d) Corrected?	
				Yes	No

- 2 Enter the amount of tax incurred by organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under section 4958 ▶ \$ _____
- 3 Enter the amount of tax, if any, on line 2, above, reimbursed by the organization ▶ \$ _____

Part II Loans to and/or From Interested Persons.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a, or Form 990, Part IV, line 26, or if the organization reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 5, 6, or 22

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship with organization	(c) Purpose of loan	(d) Loan to or from the organization?		(e) Original principal amount	(f) Balance due	(g) In default?		(h) Approved by board or committee?		(i) Written agreement?	
			To	From			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
(1) Dean A Cortopassi	President	Exempt Purposes	X		1,000,000		No	Yes		Yes		

Total ▶ \$ _____

Part III Grants or Assistance Benefiting Interested Persons.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 27.

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship between interested person and the organization	(c) Amount of assistance	(d) Type of assistance	(e) Purpose of assistance

Part IV Business Transactions Involving Interested Persons.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 28a, 28b, or 28c.

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship between interested person and the organization	(c) Amount of transaction	(d) Description of transaction	(e) Sharing of organization's revenues?	
				Yes	No

Part V Supplemental Information

Provide additional information for responses to questions on Schedule L (see instructions)

Return Reference	Explanation

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

OMB No 1545-0047

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.

2017

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Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization
Stop Blank Checks

Employer identification number

47-1972450

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
Total Liabilities 1	Loan from Dean A Cortopassi - Beginning \$1000000 Loan from Dean A Cortopassi - Ending \$1000000

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
Changes to Organizing or Governing Documents	On May 10, 2016 this entity changed its name from "Protect Your Right to Vote on Bonds" to "Stop Blank Checks "