

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

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

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

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

OMB No 1545-0047
2016
Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2016 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01-01-2016, and ending 12-31-2016

- B** Check if applicable:
 Address change
 Name change
 Initial return
 Final
 Return/terminated
 Amended return
 Application pending

C Name of organization
 THE FAIRNESS PROJECT

Doing business as

Number and street (or P O box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite
 1342 FLORIDA AVENUE NW

City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code
 WASHINGTON, DC 20009

F Name and address of principal officer
 STEVE TROSSMAN
 1342 FLORIDA AVENUE NW
 WASHINGTON, DC 20009

D Employer identification number
 37-1779557

E Telephone number
 (202) 527-2066

G Gross receipts \$ 2,890,759

- I** Tax-exempt status: 501(c)(3) 501(c)(4) (insert no) 4947(a)(1) or 527
- J** Website: WWW.THEFAIRNESSPROJECT.ORG
- K** Form of organization: Corporation Trust Association Other

H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? Yes No
H(b) Are all subordinates included? Yes No
 If "No," attach a list (see instructions)
H(c) Group exemption number ▶

L Year of formation 2015 **M** State of legal domicile CA

Part I Summary

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities
 PROMOTING GENERAL SOCIAL WELFARE OF COMMUNITY THROUGH THE USE OF, EDUCATION AROUND BALLOT MEASURES

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

3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	4
4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	2
5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2016 (Part V, line 2a)	4
6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	0
7a Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	0
7b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	0

	Prior Year	Current Year
8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	2,152,091	2,890,759
9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	0	0
10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	0	0
11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	0	0
12 Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	2,152,091	2,890,759
13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)	448,000	2,280,000
14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	0	0
15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)	88,883	307,325
16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	0	0
b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶ 2,963		
17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e)	550,104	1,185,679
18 Total expenses Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	1,086,987	3,773,004
19 Revenue less expenses Subtract line 18 from line 12	1,065,104	-882,245
	Beginning of Current Year	End of Year
20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)	1,065,104	218,824
21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	0	124,281
22 Net assets or fund balances Subtract line 21 from line 20	1,065,104	94,543

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

STEVE TROSSMAN PRESIDENT
 Type or print name and title

Paid Preparer Use Only

Print/Type preparer's name: ROBERT EBY
 Preparer's signature: ROBERT EBY

Firm's name: ARONSON LLC
 Firm's address: 805 KING FARM BLVD 3RD FLOOR
 ROCKVILLE, MD 20850

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

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

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 \$ 3,635,405 including grants of \$ 2,280,000) (Revenue \$)
See Additional Data

4b (Code) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4c (Code) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

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

4e Total program service expenses ▶ 3,635,405

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)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule A</i>		No
2	Is the organization required to complete <i>Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors</i> (see instructions)? 	Yes	
3	Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I</i>		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? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i>		
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? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III</i>		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? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I</i> 		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? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II</i> 		No
8	Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III</i> 		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? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV</i> 		No
10	Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i> 		No
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? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI</i> 		No
b	Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII</i> 		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? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII</i> 		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? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX</i> 		No
e	Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i> 		No
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)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i> 	Yes	
12a	Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII</i> 	Yes	
b	Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional</i> 		No
13	Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i>		No
14a	Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?		No
b	Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV</i>		No
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? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV</i>		No
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? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV</i>		No
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? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I</i> (see instructions)		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? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II</i>		No
19	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III</i>		No

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

	Yes	No
20a Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H</i>		No
b If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?		
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>	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>		No
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>		No
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>		No
b Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?		
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?		
d Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?		
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>		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>		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>		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>		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>		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>		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>		No
29 Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>		No
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>		No
31 Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i>		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>		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>		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>		No
35a Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?		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>		
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>		
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>		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	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

Table with columns for question ID, question text, and Yes/No response boxes. Includes sections for backup withholding, employee reporting, foreign accounts, prohibited transactions, charitable contributions, and organizational details.

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 [X]

Section A. Governing Body and Management

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

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

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 10a Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates? (No); 10b If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?; 11a Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form? (Yes); 11b 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 (No); 12b Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?; 12c Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done; 13 Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy? (No); 14 Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy? (No); 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 (Yes); b Other officers or key employees of the organization (Yes); 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? (No); 16b 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?

Section C. Disclosure

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 17 List the States with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed (CA); 18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Form 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply: [] Own website, [] Another's website, [X] Upon request, [] Other (explain in Schedule O); 19 Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year; 20 State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records (MIKE FINOCCHIO 1342 FLORIDA AVENUE NW WASHINGTON, DC 20009 (202) 527-2066).

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	2,890,759				
	g Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$ _____						
	h Total. Add lines 1a-1f		2,890,759				
Program Service Revenue	2a _____	Business Code					
	b _____						
	c _____						
	d _____						
	e _____						
	f All other program service revenue						
	g Total. Add lines 2a-2f						
Other Revenue	3 Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)						
	4 Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds						
	5 Royalties						
	6a Gross rents	(i) Real	(ii) Personal				
		b Less rental expenses					
		c Rental income or (loss)					
		d Net rental income or (loss)					
	7a Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities	(ii) Other				
		b Less cost or other basis and sales expenses					
		c Gain or (loss)					
		d Net gain or (loss)					
	8a Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c) See Part IV, line 18	a					
		b Less direct expenses	b				
		c Net income or (loss) from fundraising events					
	9a Gross income from gaming activities See Part IV, line 19	a					
b Less direct expenses		b					
c Net income or (loss) from gaming activities							
10a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	a						
	b Less cost of goods sold	b					
	c Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory						
Miscellaneous Revenue	Business Code						
11a _____							
b _____							
c _____							
d All other revenue							
e Total. Add lines 11a-11d							
12 Total revenue. See Instructions		2,890,759	0	0	0		

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

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

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.

	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21	2,280,000	2,280,000		
2 Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22				
3 Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, line 15 and 16				
4 Benefits paid to or for members				
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	122,343	109,488	11,694	1,161
6 Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)				
7 Other salaries and wages	144,305	129,142	13,794	1,369
8 Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401 (k) and 403(b) employer contributions)				
9 Other employee benefits	18,179	15,589	2,440	150
10 Payroll taxes	22,498	20,235	2,063	200
11 Fees for services (non-employees)				
a Management	36,000		36,000	
b Legal	52,382		52,382	
c Accounting	3,135		3,135	
d Lobbying				
e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17				
f Investment management fees				
g Other (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O)	757,511	757,511		
12 Advertising and promotion				
13 Office expenses	8,061	3,437	4,541	83
14 Information technology	945		945	
15 Royalties				
16 Occupancy	5,100		5,100	
17 Travel	34,928	32,386	2,542	
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings	1,500	1,500		
20 Interest				
21 Payments to affiliates				
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization				
23 Insurance				
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 DIGITAL PROGRAM	286,117	286,117		
b				
c				
d				
e All other expenses				
25 Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	3,773,004	3,635,405	134,636	2,963
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 <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

Part X Balance Sheet

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

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
Assets	1 Cash—non-interest-bearing	1,065,104	1	215,400
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments		2	
	3 Pledges and grants receivable, net		3	
	4 Accounts receivable, net		4	
	5 Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees Complete Part II of Schedule L		5	
	6 Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instructions) Complete Part II of Schedule L		6	
	7 Notes and loans receivable, net		7	
	8 Inventories for sale or use		8	
	9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges		9	2,274
	10a Land, buildings, and equipment cost or other basis Complete Part VI of Schedule D	10a		
	b Less accumulated depreciation	10b		10c
	11 Investments—publicly traded securities		11	
	12 Investments—other securities See Part IV, line 11		12	
	13 Investments—program-related See Part IV, line 11		13	
	14 Intangible assets		14	
	15 Other assets See Part IV, line 11		0	15
16 Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)		1,065,104	16	218,824
Liabilities	17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses		17	124,281
	18 Grants payable		18	
	19 Deferred revenue		19	
	20 Tax-exempt bond liabilities		20	
	21 Escrow or custodial account liability Complete Part IV of Schedule D		21	
	22 Loans and other payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons Complete Part II of Schedule L		22	
	23 Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties		23	
	24 Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties		24	
25 Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24) Complete Part X of Schedule D		25		
26 Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25		0	26	124,281
Net Assets or Fund Balances	27 Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34. Unrestricted net assets	1,065,104	27	94,543
	28 Temporarily restricted net assets		28	
	29 Permanently restricted net assets		29	
	30 Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 30 through 34. 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	1,065,104	33	94,543
	34 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	1,065,104	34	218,824

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	2,890,759
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	3,773,004
3	Revenue less expenses Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	-882,245
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	4	1,065,104
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	
7	Investment expenses	7	
8	Prior period adjustments	8	-99,149
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	9	10,833
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	10	94,543

Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting

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

	Yes	No
<p>1 Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990 <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p> <p>If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O</p>		
<p>2a Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant?</p> <p>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</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis</p>		No
<p>b Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant?</p> <p>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</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis</p>	Yes	
<p>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?</p> <p>If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O</p>	Yes	
<p>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?</p>		No
<p>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</p>		

Additional Data

Software ID:

Software Version:

EIN: 37-1779557

Name: THE FAIRNESS PROJECT

Form 990 (2016)

Form 990, Part III, Line 4a:

PROMOTING GENERAL SOCIAL WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE USE OF AND EDUCATION AROUND BALLOT MEASURES TO HELP PEOPLE IN AMERICA TAKE ACTION TO IMPROVE THEIR ECONOMIC LIVES

SCHEDULE D
(Form 990)

Supplemental Financial Statements

OMB No 1545-0047
2016
Open to Public Inspection

▶ **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.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization
THE FAIRNESS PROJECT

Employer identification number
37-1779557

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) Preservation of an historically important land area

Protection of natural habitat Preservation of a certified historic structure

Preservation of open space

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

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

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

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

5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds? Yes No

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

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

8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)? Yes No

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

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

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

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

(i) Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ▶ \$ _____

(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X ▶ \$ _____

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

a Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ▶ \$ _____

b Assets included in Form 990, Part X ▶ \$ _____

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 | |
| d Additions during the year | |
| e Distributions during the year | |
| f Ending balance | |
- 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" on Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a)Current year	(b)Prior year	(c)Two years back	(d)Three years back	(e)Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance					
b Contributions					
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses					
g End of year balance					

- 2** Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as
- a** Board designated or quasi-endowment ▶
 - b** Permanent endowment ▶
 - c** Temporarily restricted endowment ▶
- 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 | Yes | No |
| 3a(i) | | |
| (ii) related organizations | | |
| 3a(ii) | | |
| 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' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land				
b Buildings				
c Leasehold improvements				
d Equipment				
e Other				
Total. Add lines 1a through 1e (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c)) . . . ▶				0

Part VII Investments—Other Securities. Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11b. See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

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

Part VIII Investments—Program Related. Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11c. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

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

Part IX Other Assets. Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11d. See Form 990, Part X, line 15

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

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

(a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
1. Federal income taxes	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 25)	

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

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

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

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements		1	2,890,759
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12			
a	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	2a		
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b		
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c		
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	2d		
e	Add lines 2a through 2d		2e	0
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	2,890,759
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1 :			
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a		
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	4b		
c	Add lines 4a and 4b		4c	0
5	Total revenue. Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12)		5	2,890,759

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

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

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements		1	3,762,171
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25			
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a		
b	Prior year adjustments	2b		
c	Other losses	2c		
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	2d		-10,833
e	Add lines 2a through 2d		2e	-10,833
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	3,773,004
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	0
5	Total expenses. Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18)		5	3,773,004

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
See Additional Data Table	

Additional Data

Software ID:

Software Version:

EIN: 37-1779557

Name: THE FAIRNESS PROJECT

Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
PART X, LINE 2	THE ORGANIZATION EVALUATES UNCERTAINTY IN INCOME TAX POSITIONS BASED ON A MORE-LIKELY-THAN -NOT RECOGNITION STANDARD IF THAT THRESHOLD IS MET, THE TAX POSITION IS THEN MEASURED AT THE LARGEST AMOUNT THAT IS GREATER THAN 50% LIKELY OF BEING REALIZED UPON ULTIMATE SETTLEMENT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015, THERE ARE NO ACCRUALS FOR UNCERTAIN TAX POSITIONS IF APPLICABLE, THE ORGANIZATION RECORDS INTEREST AND PENALTIES AS A COMPONENT OF INCOME TAX EXPENSE TAX YEARS FROM INCEPTION THROUGH THE CURRENT YEAR REMAIN OPEN FOR EXAMINATION BY TAX AUTHORITIES

Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
PART XII, LINE 2D - OTHER ADJUSTMENTS	GRANT REFUND -10,833

Schedule I (Form 990)

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

OMB No 1545-0047

2016

Open to Public Inspection

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

Attach to Form 990.

Information about Schedule I (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization THE FAIRNESS PROJECT

Employer identification number 37-1779557

Part I General Information on Grants and Assistance

- 1 Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the amount of the grants or assistance, the grantees' eligibility for the grants or assistance, and the selection criteria used to award the grants or assistance? [X] Yes [] No
2 Describe in Part IV the organization's procedures for monitoring the use of grant funds in the United States

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

Table with 7 columns: (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, (g) Description of non-cash assistance, (h) Purpose of grant or assistance

2 Enter total number of section 501(c)(3) and government organizations listed in the line 1 table
3 Enter total number of other organizations listed in the line 1 table

Part III Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Individuals. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 22

Part III can be duplicated if additional space is needed

(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
(1)					
(2)					
(3)					
(4)					
(5)					
(6)					
(7)					

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

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

Additional Data

Software ID:
Software Version:
EIN: 37-1779557
Name: THE FAIRNESS PROJECT

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

(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
MAINE PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE 565 CONGRESS ST STE 200 PORTLAND, ME 04101	01-0383493	501(C)(4)	55,000				PROGRAM SERVICES
LIFT UP CALIFORNIA 777 S FIGUEROA ST STE 4050 LOS ANGELES, CA 90017	47-5396777	501(C)(4)	300,000				PROGRAM SERVICES

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
MAINERS FOR FAIR WAGES AND HEALTHY FAMILIES 565 CONGRESS ST STE 200 PORTLAND, ME 04101	47-5379114	501(C)(4)	125,000				PROGRAM SERVICES
COLORADO FAMILIES FOR A FAIR WAGE 745 18TH AVENUE DENVER, CO 80203	81-1642810	501(C)(4)	875,000				PROGRAM SERVICES

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
RAISE UP WASHINGTON 5030 1ST AVENUE S SUITE 103 SEATTLE, WA 98134	81-1046456	501(C)(4)	400,000				PROGRAM SERVICES
ARIZONANS FOR FAIR WAGES AND HEALTHY FAMILIES 3120 N 19TH AVE STE 109 PHOENIX, AZ 85015	81-1940147	501(C)(4)	525,000				PROGRAM SERVICES

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

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.

2016

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization
THE FAIRNESS PROJECT

Employer identification number

37-1779557

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 11B	REVIEW OF FORM 990 FORM 990 IS APPROVED BY THE ENTIRE VOTING BOARD OF DIRECTORS BEFORE FILING WITH THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 15	DETERMINING COMPENSATION THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS DETERMINES THE COMPENSATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND OTHER EMPLOYEES BASED ON COMPARABLE SALARY STUDIES

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION C, LINE 19	GOVERNING DOCUMENTS THE ORGANIZATION DOES NOT MAKE ITS GOVERNING DOCUMENTS, CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART IX, LINE 11G	STRATEGIC SERVICES PROGRAM SERVICE EXPENSES 360,000 MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES 0 F UNDRAISING EXPENSES 0 TOTAL EXPENSES 360,000 RESEARCH & DATA PROGRAM SERVICE EXPENSES 3 97,511 MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES 0 FUNDRAISING EXPENSES 0 TOTAL EXPENSES 397,511

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART XI, LINE 9	GRANT REFUND 10,833

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART XII, LINE 2C	THE ORGANIZATION HAS NOT CHANGED IT'S OVERSIGHT PROCESS FROM THE PRIOR YEAR