

September 5, 2012

Aaron Hamlin
Director, Officer
The Center for Election Science
1421 E. Kalamazoo St. Apt. 10
Lansing, MI 48912

Ms. Faye Ng
Exempt Organizations Specialist
Room 4522, Group 7821
Internal Revenue Service
Exempt Organizations
P. O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

RE: Information Request

The Center for Election Science Exemption Application
EIN: 45-2334002

Dear Ms. Ng,

Below are the responses to your information request. You'll also find the letter requesting the information and the application identification sheet enclosed, per your directions.

Additional information requested:

1. You stated on your Form 1023 and attached materials that you will provide logistics advice to governmental and non-governmental groups performing election-related functions. You may provide advice on the type of voting procedures for an election, candidate debate format or ballot interface. You indicated that you may charge fees for your logistics advice services.

- a. Please describe the election-related advice services you have provided thus far. Submit a copy of an executed contract or sample contract for advice services.**

We've decided to make our advice services free and will continue to do so. Consequently, no contracts are necessary. We've advised voting method procedures and ballot design for three different minor parties and a political club, each varying widely in political affiliation.

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- b. Describe the limitations, if any, of the groups that may receive election related advice from you. Are your advice services available to all entities without limitation? If no, please describe any limitations on your services.**

Examples of election-related advice services that we may provide include: choice of voting method, ballot design, tabulation procedure, addressing software issues, and ballot verification procedures.

Our advice services are open to everyone regardless of affiliation. And assisting an organization by no means whatsoever represents any kind of endorsement to that organization.

- c. Please state who, within your organization, will provide the election-related advice services. Please submit information on the background and qualifications of these individuals.**

Multiple people within The Center for Election Science may consult or assist those who do. These individuals include:

Clay Shentrup

Clay is a software engineer and has been studying voting theory for over five years. He's performed election consulting prior and has particular expertise on software and tactical voting analysis.

Andy Jennings

Andy is a Ph.D. mathematician who did his dissertation on voting theory. He also owns a software company (unrelated to voting). His particular expertise is in mathematical analysis of voting methods and tactical voting issues.

Aaron Hamlin

Aaron has a research, statistics, and legal background with multiple graduate degrees. He has already acted as an elections consultant. His particular expertise is on constitutional issues with voting methods, multi-winner voting methods, and ballot design.

Jan Kok

Jan is a programmer and computer engineer. His particular expertise is tabulation software for alternative voting methods.

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Warren D. Smith

Warren is a Princeton Ph.D. mathematician. Within our organization, we lean on Warren to provide expertise on high-level math within voting theory. He's developed more efficient apportionment algorithms, new proportional multi-winner methods, and numerous other advancements in voting theory.

- d. Please describe the circumstances in which you will charge fees for your advice services and the circumstances in which you will provide advice services free of charge. If you provide free advice services under certain circumstances, please describe how your free advice service policy is made known to the public.**

The Center for Election Science has decided not to charge for any advice services under any circumstance.

- e. Please provide a fee schedule of your election-related advice services.**

The Center for Election Science has decided not to charge for any advice services under any circumstance.

- f. Please describe how your advice service fees were determined.**

The Center for Election Science has decided not to charge for any advice services under any circumstance.

- g. Please provide the revenues you have received or expect to receive for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 from advice services you offer. What percentage of your total income or projected income will be derived from fees received from advice services?**

The Center for Election Science has decided not to charge for any advice services under any circumstance.

- h. Please describe how you have made your advice services known to the public. Submit any brochures, flyers and marketing/advertising materials you have relating to your advice services.**

Currently, our advice services are spread through word of mouth and networking. Later, we anticipate notifying the public of this free service via our website.

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2. You also indicated that you may develop software/applications such as custom web applications or downloadable programs for vote calculation or ballot creation. You provided that you may charge fees for your software/application development services.

- a. Please describe the software applications you have developed thus far. Submit a copy of an executed contract or sample contract for software and applications development services.**

The Center for Election Science has not completed any software applications thus far. We have decided not to charge for future software and thus we will not have contracts.

- b. Describe the limitations, if any, of the groups that you may develop software/applications for. Are your software development services available to all entities without limitation? If no, please describe any limitations on your services.**

We will make future software publically available on our website to all entities without limitation.

- c. Please state who, within your organization, will develop the election-related software and applications. Please submit information on the background and qualifications of these individuals.**

The following individuals are most likely to be the software developers (qualifications repeated):

Clay Shentrup

Clay is a software engineer and has been studying voting theory for over five years. He's performed election consulting prior and has particular expertise on software and tactical voting analysis.

Andy Jennings

Andy is a Ph.D. mathematician who did his dissertation on voting theory. He also owns a software company (unrelated to voting). His particular expertise is in mathematical analysis of voting methods and tactical voting issues.

Jan Kok


Jan is a programmer and computer engineer. His particular expertise is tabulation software for alternative voting methods.

- d. Please state who will own the copyrights or intellectual rights to the election related software and applications you develop. Please explain what Creative Commons**

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license is and how it relates to the licensing of your software development products. Please explain the intellectual property rights, if any, that you will retain and charge fees on.

The software we develop will only have attribution rights under a Creative Commons license. A Creative Commons license is a concept created by the nonprofit Creative Commons. It provides explanations for specific copyrights in plain English. These Creative Commons licenses tend to be less restrictive to users wishing to utilize a licensed work.

The Center for Election Science uses (and holds) an attribution license under Creative Commons noted as: .

Simply, this means that others are free to share and remix the work. This copyright automatically grants them that permission. But they must attribute The Center for Election Science for the work (and not suggest The Center for Election Science endorses any new rendition). When we use this symbol it links to both a simplified explanation of the license and a detailed explanation.

Again, we do not plan to charge for any software that we create. We plan to use this type of copyright for future software.

- e. Please describe the circumstances in which you will charge fees for your software and applications development services and the circumstances in which you will provide these services free of charge. If you provide free software and applications development services under certain circumstances, please describe how your free software development service policy is made known to the public.**

We will make our software free of charge to the general public without restriction. Any software will be made available on our website.

- f. Please state the fees you charge for your election-related software and applications development and submit a copy of your fee schedule.**

We will not charge for election-related software and application development.

- g. Please describe how your software/application development fees were determined.**

We will not charge for election-related software and application development.

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- h. Please provide the revenues you have received or expect to receive for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 from election-related software and applications development. What percentage of your total income or projected income will be derived from fees received from software and applications development?**

We will not charge for election-related software and application development.

- i. Please describe how you have made your software and applications development services known to the public. Submit any brochures, flyers and marketing/advertising materials you have relating to your software and applications development services.**

We will make the software available on our website. We currently have no software or materials promoting future software.

3. You indicated that you are supported in part by membership fees.

- a. Please state the membership fees you charge.**

The Center for Election Science is not a membership organization. It is a directorship. It has NO FORMAL MEMBERS. No one beyond directors has any voting rights.

See bylaws Article 13. INFORMAL MEMBERS, Section 1 Determination of Informal Members:

SECTION 1. DETERMINATION OF INFORMAL MEMBERS

Any use of the term “membership” by the organization refers to informal members, not the traditional legal definition of member. This organization is a non-membership organization. Informal membership is granted by payment of \$30 in annual dues. Informal members only have the rights that the board of directors assigns to them. The board of directors reserves the ability to extend the rights of informal membership to include voting privileges as seen fit by the board. The board grants an extension of such voting rights upon a majority vote.

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b. Describe the services members receive in exchange for the fees paid.

The only rights informal members get, as granted under the bylaws, is the right to be informed of board elections. See bylaws Article 13. Informal Members, Section 1 Determination of Informal Members:

SECTION 2. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

The board must give informal members notice of at least *one week* concerning location, time, and date for open meetings and two weeks for board elections. The board will give such notice either through e-mail or publication on the electology website.

Again, The Center for Election Science is not a membership organization. It has NO FORMAL MEMBERS.

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this information, including accompanying documents, and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information contains all the relevant facts relating to the request for the information, and such facts are true, correct, and complete.

If you have any further concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Aaron Hamlin

Director, Officer

The Center for Election Science

Enclosure