

OPENTHEBOOKS.COM | AMERICAN TRANSPARENCY

2015 ANNUAL REPORT
IMPACTS AND SUCCESSES

OPEN THE BOOKS™
Every Dime. Online. In Real Time.



TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We very much appreciate your stalwart support of our transparency revolution. From the beginning, we had a simple goal: together, we can change the national narrative on tax and spend.

Our transparency movement has a constitutional basis. Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution reads: *"... a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time."* In the internet age and the age of big data, here's the meaning: Our motto – **Every Dime, On Line, In Real Time.**

Today, we are the world's largest private repository of public spending with over 2.6 billion expenditures posted online. During 2015 at OpenTheBooks.com, we successfully posted online an additional 1 billion individual government expenditures captured from federal, state and local governments across America.

We will not stop until we capture 'every dime taxed and spent from every level of government across America.' Soon, citizens everywhere will be able to answer the simple question, *'How much does my government cost me?'*

Through our website at OpenTheBooks.com, our award winning mobile application, and our partnerships with other organizations, we will continue to expose government spending at all levels so that the American people can exercise their constitutional right of government oversight.

Thank you for reviewing this report and considering furthers support of our work. If you have any questions, I can be reached at (630) 974-6181 or via email at **adam@openthebooks.com**. Thank you again for your stalwart support of our transparency revolution.

Join us. Join the Transparency Revolution!

Sincerely,

Adam Andrzejewski

Adam Andrzejewski, Founder and CEO

Matthew Tyrmand, Deputy Director
Thomas W. Smith, Chairman of the Board



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2015 ANNUAL REPORT
IMPACTS AND SUCCESSES

BACKGROUND

We are proud to announce that Thomas W. Smith recently joined our Board of Directors as Chairman of OpenTheBooks.com. Mr. Smith is a board member at Manhattan Institute for Public Research, New York City, New York and has impacted public policy across America through his own Thomas W. Smith Foundation, Boca Raton, Florida.

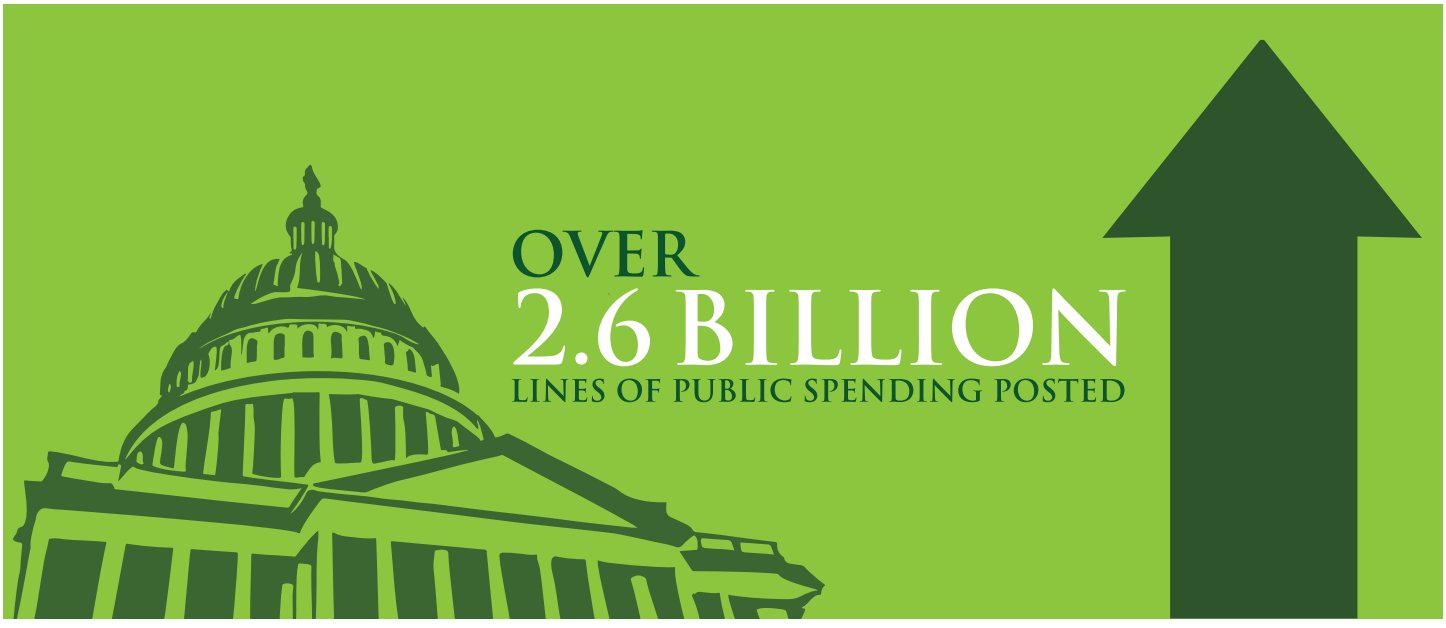
Last February, Dr. Tom Coburn formally joined our OpenTheBooks.com team as Honorary Chairman. Our Advisory Board now includes Pat Caddell, Stephen Moore, James Piereson, Grover Norquist, Mary Beth Weiss, Peter Schweitzer, James O'Keefe, Avik Roy, Vanessa Mendoza and others of national reputation and influence. Key people around the country are joining forces on the transparency revolution.

We believe that transparency is the foundation of limited government. Citizens must understand how much their government costs them. Once citizens have easy access to contextualized data, spending priorities can be debated.

Through our website, OpenTheBooks.com, and our award winning mobile application, our mission is to create a scalable data-commons of "every dime taxed and spent at every level of government." We already post over 2.6 billion lines of public spending, with a goal of acquiring another 1.5 billion lines over the next 24 months.

However, we not only capture public spending, we audit it. Our model of 'every dime online' government financial transparency coupled with our aggressive oversight has resulted in public policy change and helped shine a light on rampant waste, fraud and abuse within our government.

A summary of our 2015 accomplishments is delineated on the following pages. We are a frugal organization. In 2015, we spent $1 million to accomplish our public data capture goals, upgrade our mobile technologies, create organizational partnerships and produce impactful national oversight. Based on our track record, history and accomplishments, we are making the merit-based case that with more resources, we can provide exponentially more results.



PART I.
CAPTURED GOVERNMENT SPENDING



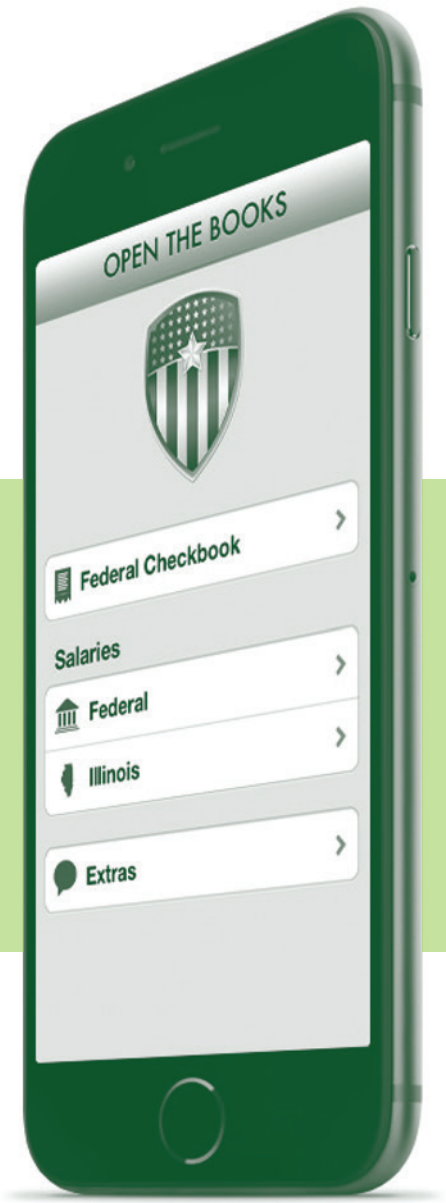
What if every citizen could easily find out how much every level of government cost them – from their hometown to Washington, D.C.?

At American Transparency, our vision is open, honest, and transparent government brought about by a more engaged and informed citizenry. Research indicates that our project is the first meaningful attempt to aggregate all public spending in an easy to search and analyze format.

Our goal over the next years is to aggregate every dime spent by every level of government, including state, local and federal – and post these records for public viewing on our website, OpenTheBooks.com, and our award-winning mobile application. If successful, within the next two years, "every dime" taxed and spent at every level of government in the country will be online.

At the end of 2015, posted at OpenTheBooks.com we displayed 2.6 billion individual government spending transactions. We are the world's largest publically accessible private repository of public spending. By the end of 2016, we feel confident that we will post nearly 'every dime' taxed and spent in the 15 most populous state covering 70-percent of the American public.

Our first mover data and technology advantage was recognized in *The Wall Street Journal* by Dr. Tom Coburn's editorial (October 6, 2015), *"Track Government Waste - There's an App for That."* Also, in the print edition of *Forbes Magazine*, November 2, 2015, Amity Shlaes showcased our big data collection prowess: *Pulling Down State Credit Rating*.



We believe that placing public spending online will empower citizens, watchdogs, journalists, and public service organizations to expose wasteful practices while ensuring a more efficient allocation of government resources.

OPEN THE BOOKS
BIG DATA PARTNERSHIPS

Manhattan Institute for Public Research
New York, New York

We are working in partnership with the Manhattan Institute for Public Research (MI) to collect all spending from the New York - New Jersey Port Authority. Litigation will most likely be necessary to force open the public records. We prepared a nine-exhibit memo for Institute for Justice (IJ), Washington D.C. to explore the possibility of retaining IJ as our legal counsel. We also shared our database of salaries and pension data with MI on the Port Authority and they are preparing an exhaustive investigative series publishing during the spring and summer 2016.

Ohio State Treasurer Josh Mandel
Columbus, Ohio

We are working pro-bono with the State Treasurer of Ohio Josh Mandel on a white-label of our free OpenTheBooks mobile app to display all state checkbook spending. Mandel will be the first elected official in any state to push their spending to a mobile app. In September, 2015, we were the first entity of any sort to ever push a state checkbook to a mobile app. We started with ten-years of spending in Illinois and then added another 22 states. After Mandel, we are in discussions with three other state treasurers to white-label their apps as well.

Reclaim New York
New York City, New York

We are working hand-in-hand with ReclaimNY New York to first collect all local government checkbooks on Long Island and then across the state of New York. It is a process of pioneering transparency for the first time at the local level. It's been a good relationship and forced us to gainfully examine our models.

After splitting the state into nine regions, we have collected, cleaned and loaded over 2.1 million individual government spending transactions from over 271 local units of government in just Region 1 and Region 2. Our goal is to finish all nine regions by August 2016.

In order to provide reporting to ReclaimNY, we recently pioneered a 'cloud environment' to share files, information and status in-real-time. Because of the bureaucratic New York state Freedom of Information Law, we coded a customized data collection tool that automates our entire end-to-end data capture process. This process includes a daily export to ReclaimNY with update on the data-capture-effort. We are now using this tool to collect data across the entire country.



We upgraded our technologies to display local unit of government checkbooks inside our OpenTheBooks mobile application. We are the only app to display the federal checkbook (since 2001), or even state checkbook expenditures (23 states), and now local checkbook spending.

Now, ReclaimNY can install our OpenTheBooks search widget to display all local New York data on their own website at ReclaimNew York.org. In a couple of months, ReclaimNY can have a pro-bono white label of our mobile application – to track local government spending from your phone.

Judicial Watch
Washington, D.C.

We are exploring a legal partnership to begin the process of opening the books on the federal pensions. We would like to file a lawsuit against the Obama Administration rejection of our Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) for the retired federal employee pension data. The Office of Personnel Management rejected our request saying, "… clearly this is an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." We vehemently disagree. OPM did produce salary and bonus records on the 2.5 million disclosed federal employees since 2007. We publish these records at OpenTheBooks.com.

Forbes

PULLING DOWN STATE CREDIT RATINGS



by Amity Shlaes
11/02/2015 issue of Forbes

BACK IN THE 1980s a man who sat on the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission told a story about a Christmas ham he'd received from a local cemetery, Forest Lawn.

"My first Christmas as commissioner–when I received the ham–I tried to return it at once, though for the record, I did not, since no one at Forest Lawn seemed authorized to accept hams." A year later another ham from Forest Lawn arrived, and this time the commissioner gave the ham to a worthy charity.

The third year the officer gave the ham to some worthy friends, who were hosting a party. The fourth year the commissioner held his own worthy party and served the ham. The commissioner recalled what happened next: "In the fifth year, about the tenth of December, I began wondering, where is my ham?"

We all look for our hams. The only remarkable part of this story is that the official, whose name is George Lefcoe, actually decided to speak publicly about the subtle, gentle, gradual process of corruption. The rest of us may at times consult our inner commissioner, but we don't talk to others about what we take. After all, such work, especially in a state, county or city office, long took place in the shadows. In the 1970s, when Lefcoe began his work as a commissioner, the 64KB Apple II computer was state of the art, and there was no Internet chatter. There was no Internet.

Yet the decisions to take the ham add up. In the end bureaucrats make decisions that benefit the ham-givers, not the voters. Ham becomes hams, hams become pork, and a low credit rating, such as California's, results.

You can only wonder how many servings of prosciutto on melon it took for the Los Angeles City Council to approve the city's bid to host the 2024 Olympics, as it did in September. That event is certain to go over budget. A contingency fund of $400 million is already in the plans.

All the more welcome, then, are projects like openthebooks.com, a new drive that uses big data to make the work of city, state and federal government transparent. Open the Books was founded in Illinois (one of the porkiest states in the union) by Adam Andrzejewski, a big-data talent. Andrzejewski and his team have amassed the computing power to capture a great share of the federal checkbook's vendor spending in the U.S., as well as more than 48 states' checkbook payments to vendors.

Open the Books can also trace public salaries, pensions and campaign donations. Donors and subsidy recipients often turn out to be the same. Open the Books created an app that shows it all: the beauty school that receives more than 100 times in grants and student loans what it charges in tuition, or the $1.67 million in federally guaranteed loans and hundreds of thousands in subsidies and direct payments received by the brother of a former Illinois director of agriculture.

OPEN BOOKS

Open the Books is not alone. Computing power has made such work cheap and possible for any graduate student to tackle. Another team, the Environmental Working Group, has done particularly gratifying work on the tens of billions of dollars in farm subsidies that were handed out between 1995 and 2012. It turns out that in California between 1995 and 2003 the average payment was 29 times the size of that to farmers in other states. ***The Washington Post*** offered up a list of components in a recent agriculture bill, noting that the bill authorized funds for the growth of "industrial hemp"–Cannabis sativa L.–for research purposes by colleges and universities.

A spotlight makes officials squirm. The very existence of data-heavy watchdogs deters.

But one aspect of the new "expose 'em" culture warrants caution. Watchdog groups tend to leap into litigation, and not just for the purpose of prying information out of reluctant agencies via the Freedom of Information Act. Litigation itself is every bit as arbitrary as the decision to favor one ham-giver over another. Justice by litigation can be as corrupt as the subjects it targets.

Minds as thoughtful as George Lefcoe's will be leery of joining a government in which the scrutiny will be unrelenting. Only lesser brains and automatons will be willing to take a job in a place where metrics and watchdogs rule. The waste of subpar decisions by these mediocrities will cost the people plenty, too.

Still, twinned with reform laws, watchdogs are welcome. Cleaner government is something for which the public has great appetite. ■

PART II.
OVERSIGHT



OPEN THE BOOKS OVERSIGHT REPORTS: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Each of our four quarterly OpenTheBooks Oversight reports during 2015 debuted on either the front page or editorial page of a major newspaper - including The Wall Street Journal, Investor's Business Daily, The Washington Times, The Hill, and Washington Examiner - or was covered in segments aired on the FOX News Channel, or ABC, NBC, CBS and FOX local affiliates of the Sinclair Broadcast Group, or COX News Media.



Export-Import Bank Fact-Check Oversight Report

Last May, our oversight report on the **Export-Import Bank (EX-IM)** was featured in *Washington Examiner, Forbes, National Review, Newsmax, Breitbart, RedState, Daily Signal* and an editorial at *The Washington Times* by Edwin Feulner. Through FOX news contributor Deroy Murdock and Marita Noon, our content was featured in syndicated newspaper columns throughout the country. Although other national organizations were exposing the truth on Ex-Im for years, we added needed details and context to the national debate ahead of the June 30, 2015 bank reauthorization deadline.

DOWNLOAD REPORT

OPEN THE BOOKS OVERSIGHT REPORTS: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT *(Continued)*



U.S. Environment Protection Agency Fact-Check Oversight Report

Last October, our oversight report on the **U.S. Environment Protection Agency** was featured in editorials at *The Wall Street Journal* by former U.S. Senator Dr. Tom Coburn, Investor's Business Daily by Stephen Moore, and twice in The Washington Times by Edwin Feulner. Our findings included extravagant spending: $715 million fighting 'enviro-crime' with 200 armed 'Special Agents'; $92 million on high-end, luxury furniture; 200 public affairs officers paid over $160 million; and 1,000 lawyers paid over $1.1 billion.

With $72 billion in grant-making since 2000, the EPA would rank as the #1 U.S.A. private foundation. The FOX News Channel showcased our report in six segments: Megyn Kelly, Bill O'Reilly, Brett Baier, Tucker Carlson - FOX and Friends (2X), and Stuart Varney. *The Washington Times* conferred their "Golden Hammer" award on EPA for our exposure of EPA(s) $92 million in high-end furniture. Earned media highlighting our report included the Rush Limbaugh Show, *Drudge Report, Washington Free Beacon, Forbes, Breitbart, Newsmax, Daily Caller,* and many others.

DOWNLOAD REPORT



The Federal Department of Self-Promotion Fact-Check Oversight Report

Last December, we released an oversight report on federal agency expenditure on public relations: ***The Federal Department of Self- Promotion, $4.4 Billion on Public Relations.*** Our report debuted on the front page of *TheHill* and *The Washington Times* newspapers. The State Department received a 'Golden Hammer' weekly award by *The Washington Times* for the nation's worst example of waste. COX News Media ran a segment on their ABC, CBS, and FOX affiliates in twelve major cities. *Breitbart, The New York Observer, Orange County Register,* and the *New York Daily News* all covered our report. During our segment on CBS-Atlanta, COX News reported that U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (WY) called for a Government Accountability (GOA) investigation.

DOWNLOAD REPORT



The Militarization of America, Outside of the Department of Defense Fact-Check Oversight Report

Currently embargoed for FOX News - our oversight report regarding federal agency expenditures on guns, ammunition, and military-style equipment: ***The Militarization of America, Outside of the Department of Defense.*** This past January, we leaked a small tranche of data: $398 million spent by 61 federal agencies on body armor. *The Washington Times* conferred its "Golden Hammer Award" and the article was highlighted at *The Drudge Report*. Respectively, Sean Hannity and Mark Levin national radio programs highlighted the report to millions of people in their listening audience. One America News also did a three-minute TV segment.

We anticipate that our full report – ***The Militarization of America*** – will be our most impactful report.

DOWNLOAD REPORT

OPEN THE BOOKS OVERSIGHT MICRO-REPORTS: STATE OF ILLINOIS



Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel Fact-Check Micro-Report

OpenTheBooks fact-checked Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel on his promise to 'clean-up the historic culture of corruption in city-hall' and 'end pay-to-play.' Pay-to-play is defined as give political cash and get a city contract. We mashed up Emanuel's campaign cash with twelve years of our captured City of Chicago vendor payment checkbook and found that 600 Emanuel donors gave him $7 million in campaign cash and have received $2 billion in city payments since 2001.

Our findings were showcased in an eight-minute segment on the John Stossel Special, 'Is Chicago the next Detroit?' At Forbes, our editorial describing our findings received over 70,000 unique views. In the third mayoral debate, Emanuel vs. Garcia, moderator Phil Ponce asked Emanuel about our report.

DOWNLOAD ARTICLE



IL Attorney General Lisa Madigan Fact-Check Micro-Report

OpenTheBooks fact-checked Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan on her 2002 campaign promise to 'prosecute public corruption… even if it means the indictment of my father' - powerful House Speaker Michael J. Madigan. We found only 15 prosecutions in Madigan's first ten-years as AG out of over 800,000 public employees in Illinois. Furthermore, she's allowed felons to serve in municipal office; out-of-towners to serve as city alderman; many politicians to hold multiple and conflicting officers; a junior college to award more than $4 million in compensation to its president without a lawful board vote; and much, much more.

DOWNLOAD ARTICLE #1

DOWNLOAD ARTICLE #2



IL Comptroller Leslie Munger Fact-Check Micro-Report

In the summer of 2015, the new Illinois comptroller was nearly held in contempt of court three times by a federal judge for not paying the vendors of the developmentally disabled in contravention of a federal consent decree. Since the comptroller claimed 'no money' to comply, we fact-checked her. We found she paid millions of taxpayer dollars to lobbyists, political bloggers, Planned Parenthood (even for abortions), and other connected vendors. The comptroller even took multiple rides on the state airplane after a grounding order by the Republican governor.

After our editorials in the largest Illinois suburban newspaper and at Forbes, the comptroller started prioritizing the payments to our most vulnerable citizens.

DOWNLOAD ARTICLE

OPEN THE BOOKS OVERSIGHT MICRO-REPORTS: STATE OF ILLINOIS *(Continued)*





IL Auditor General Frank Mautino Fact-Check Micro-Report

Ten-days after the state's top auditor started a ten-year term in office, we found campaign account irregularities and issued the clarion call for his resignation. During a ten-year period, then state representative Frank Mautino spent over $225,000 on gas and vehicle repairs for 'campaign vehicles.' Mautino paid over $94,000 to repay $26,000 in loans at his local bank. Mautino dined out over 500 times on his campaign fund with much of it at his family restaurant. Mautino spent over $100,000 at his bank for 'campaign expenses' like 'poll watchers' and 'precinct walkers.'

Major editorial boards from around Illinois called on the auditor to provide answers to our fact patterns. CBS and NBC Chicago broadcast news ran segments on our oversight. Referrals have been made to law enforcement including Illinois State Board of Elections, Internal Revenue Service, and the U.S. Attorney.

DOWNLOAD ARTICLE

College of DuPage (COD) Oversight Investigation

*2nd Largest Illinois College/University

Demonstrating the power of open data, citizen engagement, and earned media, we investigated the second largest college in Illinois – College of DuPage (COD). Working with the trustees (Vice President Kathy Hamilton), whistleblowers, traditional media (Chicago Tribune and Daily Herald) and other good-government groups (Edgar County Watchdogs) – even allies like the teacher's union (it's about addition, not subtraction), we helped prove the veracity of our aggressive watchdog model.

Between 2014 - 2015, our COD oversight efforts resulted in stopping payment on a corrupted $20 million state construction grant; discovery and exposure of $100 million in hidden college spending; discovery of hundreds of thousands of dollars in 'expense accounts' billed by administrators vs. student tuition, taxpayers and the scholarship fund. We found tens of thousands of dollars in hidden payments to the president's private shooting club and tens of millions of no-bid or non-competitive contracts to board members of the college foundation. We alleged that a radio station engineer 'insider traded' with his own company for hundreds of thousands of dollars and he was arrested.

Through our efforts, the board froze property taxes and student tuition for the first time in years. In April of 2015, a new board majority was elected and the President, Treasurer and Comptroller of the college were fired, and the $762,000 'severance' bonus to the President was stopped.

We alleged that the college President's employment contract was never legally conferred in an open meeting. The noted downstate good government group Edgar County Watchdogs made a referral to the local state's attorney resulting in a prosecution of the Open Meetings Act violations.

Our success was predicated on building friendships with other good government groups, state legislators, with the elected trustees, and cultivating traditional media relationships with the Chicago Tribune and Daily Herald – the largest suburban newspaper. In 2015, our oversight work helped lead to the passage of state legislation signed into law by the governor to further reign-in corrupt practices across Illinois. Criminal investigations are on-going at the State's Attorney as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation levels.

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DOWNLOAD ARTICLE #2

DOWNLOAD ARTICLE #3

OPEN THE BOOKS
OVERSIGHT PARTNERSHIPS

Dailycaller.com
Washington, D.C.

OpenTheBooks partnered with Daily Caller Editor-in-Chief Mark Tapscott regarding our 103,000 line EPA Grants database. After the public release of our EPA oversight report, we shared our raw data with the Daily Caller. Tapscott's investigative reporters then published approximately ten more piece on EPA grant corruption. For example, we were cited in Daily Caller pieces that highlighted a half-billion dollars in college grants that were never audited and the EPA admitted that they don't measure the effectiveness of the grants.

Our Freedom of Information Act request of the contractor on-site during the Gold-Mine toxic waste spill in the Animous River, CO was showcased at Daily Caller. Between DailyCaller and OpenTheBooks.com, we proved that the EPA claim of a non-disclosure, hush-agreement with the contractor was falsely portrayed to the New York Times, Washington Post, and The Wall Street Journal. The contractor didn't have an EPA non-disclosure agreement.

DOWNLOAD ARTICLE

Franklin Center for Public Integrity
Washington, D.C., Watchdog.org

March, 2015: We conducted an online tutorial of the Open The Books data commons for the state based Watchdog reporters at Franklin Center during National Sunshine Week. Over the next couple of weeks, the Franklin reporters wrote ten impactful stories regarding waste, fraud, corruption and abuse within the SBA loan programs. We were quoted and cited in all of these stories.

Franklin reporters searching our data for their state found SBA loans up in smoke – cigarette and liquor stores defaulted on $140 million; funded a wedding caterer who - for a separate business - was under federal indictment for receiving $30 million in allegedly fraudulent Medicaid payments; for a state senator that bilked the SBA for $748,000; for a $5.4 million 'green' hotel through a finance company based in the Kingdom of Bahrain; to polo clubs, international-award-winning cheesemakers, and top senior home franchisers; with no record of state-by-state defaults – including the nearly $1 billion in Mississippi transactions; for $150 million to Solutions Capital – who would not say where they then loaned the money; for $4.1 million to a Wisconsin private golf club charging $10,000 memberships.

DOWNLOAD ARTICLE

Forbes – William Baldwin
former Editor of Forbes Magazine (1999-2010)

At the suggestion of Mr. Baldwin, we partnered with Forbes on his impactful piece, Which States are in a Death Spiral? We provided a 'Fast Spending Fact in the 50 States.' Baldwin's piece was popular with over 25,000 unique views at Forbes. Baldwin pioneered a 'FeedMe' ratio to rank the fiscal health of the 50 states.

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Edgar County Watchdogs
Edgar County, Illinois

The Edgar County Watchdogs are transferring best practices on local oversight to our partners, ReclaimNY Team, and other allied good government groups across Illinois and the country. Over the past 39 months in Illinois, the 'Watchdogs' have pioneered a model of open data, citizen engagement, and earned-media to help successfully force-out over 167 local and elected officials. They use 'Dillon's Rule,' government only has the power to spend if conferred by law. It's one of the most robust watchdog models in the country. At Forbes, we wrote about the Watchdogs:

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PART III.
EARNED MEDIA, KEY SPEECHES, AND ORGANIZATIONAL METRICS



INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY®

DOES EPA NEED GUNS, AMMO AND ARMOR TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT?



by Stephen Moore
10/08/2015 issue of Investor's Business Daily

The Environmental Protection Agency spent millions of dollars over the last decade on guns, ammo, body armor, camouflage equipment, unmanned aircraft, amphibious assault ships, radar and night-vision gear and other military-style weaponry and surveillance activities, according to a new report by the watchdog group Open the Books.

The report raises questions about why EPA's enforcement division employs well-armed "special agents" who appear to be conducting SWAT-type operations on American businesses and households it suspects of wrongdoing.

Illinois-based Open the Books scanned tens of thousands of checks written by the EPA and totaling more than $93 billion from 2000 to 2014.

The audit discovered hundreds of millions of dollars of questionable expenses, including high-end luxury furnishings, sports equipment and "environmental justice" grants to raise awareness of global warming.

It also revealed that seven of 10 EPA workers make more than $100,000 a year and that more than 12,000 of its nearly 16,000 employees were given bonuses last year despite agency budgets that were supposed to be constrained by budget caps and sequester cuts.

EPA's $8 billion budget also found room for more than 1,000 attorneys, which would make the agency one of the largest law firms in the nation.

And more than $50 million of EPA funds since 2000 went to international organizations — dollars that flowed to countries such as China and Mexico. These activities appear to have little or no connection to the EPA mandate of safeguarding the air and water here in the U.S.

But the eye-grabber in the report is the agency's ongoing military-type purchases. Some $75 million is authorized each year for criminal enforcement, including money for a small militia of 200 "special agents" that appear to be snooping on industry and preparing to use deadly force to enforce EPA edicts.

"We were shocked ourselves to find these kind of pervasive expenditures at an agency that is supposed to be involved in clean air and clean water," said Open the Books' founder, Adam Andrzejewski. "Some of these weapons are for full-scale military operations."

Those who keep an eye on the agency have also been stunned by such outlays. "EPA has always been primarily an agency that is involved in analysis and regulation. Even its enforcement arm is mainly involved in litigation," notes Marlo Lewis, who covers environmental issues for the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

"Since when did we start going down this road of allowing agencies of government to engage in military-style operations?"

In 2013, the EPA was involved in what many residents called an armed raid at a small town in Alaska where local miners were accused of polluting local waters. Fox News reported that EPA "armed agents in full body armor participated."

The Justice Department has reported that there are now 40 federal agencies with more than 100,000 officers authorized to carry guns and make arrests. They include the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Park Service.

EPA has numerous joint projects with the Homeland Security Department. In 1988 the agency's criminal enforcement division was granted police powers.

The EPA website describes the activities and mission of the criminal enforcement division as "investigating cases, collecting evidence, conducting forensic analyses and providing legal guidance to assist in the prosecution of criminal conduct that threatens people's health and the environment." But nothing about the use of lethal force.

Asked for comment on the Open the Books findings, EPA said purchases of armaments are necessary for "environmental crime-fighting."

"For more than 30 years," it said, "there has been broad, bipartisan agreement about the importance of an armed, fully-equipped team of EPA agents working with state and federal partners to uphold the law and protect Americans."
The equipment is needed to "access potential crime scenes as quickly as possible," it added.

One former EPA administrator with more than 30 years at the agency says of the Open the Books report: "EPA has been increasingly captured by the environmental left, and the purchases of military-style armaments has increased accordingly."

The new report comes at a time when the EPA is under fire over a new regulation approved last week by the agency to tighten ozone emission rules. The National Association of Manufacturers calls it one of the most expensive EPA rules ever.

There's also a fight in Washington over whether federal agencies can withstand another sequester spending reduction without jeopardizing vital services. The White House says further agency cuts would be disastrous.

But reports such as the latest by Open the Books are sure to be promoted by Republicans as evidence of rampant waste and misspending. ■

The Washington Times

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ARMY?

The EPA doesn't need to be armed to the teeth



by Ed Feulner
10/26/2015 issue
of The Washington Times

ANALYSIS/OPINION:
Even those of us who have worked in Washington for many years and become accustomed to the inner workings of government can still be amazed by what lurks behind the curtain sometimes. Case in point: the Environmental Protection Agency.

Most Americans have at least heard of the EPA, even if they have only a dim notion of what the agency actually does. It tends to skate along under the radar, unless something unusual happens, such as the toxic spill that turned the Colorado's Animas River orange last August. Of course, what really made the spill unusual is that the EPA itself caused it.

Otherwise, Americans don't hear much about the agency. So many of them would probably be as unpleasantly surprised as I was by a new report by Open the Books, a nonprofit group that promotes government transparency. Its look into the EPA's spending habits is alarming, to put it mildly.

The first thing that strikes you is the EPA's spendthrift ways. Even if times were flush and government coffers were overflowing (which is far from the case), the agency spends money like it's expecting the Second Coming next week. The Open the Books audit covered tens of thousands of checks the EPA wrote from 2000 to 2014, with hundreds of millions going toward such things as luxury furnishings, sports equipment and "environmental justice" grants to raise awareness of global warming.

The second thing that hits you is where the rest of the money goes. The headline of an op-ed by economist Stephen Moore in Investor's Business Daily sums it up well: "Why Does the EPA Need Guns, Ammo, and Armor to Protect the Environment?"

And not just a few weapons. Open the Books found that the agency has spent millions of dollars over the last decade on guns, ammo, body armor, camouflage equipment, unmanned aircraft, amphibious assault ships, radar and night-vision gear and other military-style weaponry and surveillance activities.

"We were shocked ourselves to find these kinds of pervasive expenditures at an agency that is supposed to be involved in clean air and clean water," said Open the Books founder Adam Andrzejewski. "Some of these weapons are for full-scale military operations."

Among the EPA's purchases:
- $1.4 million for "guns up to 300mm."
- $380,000 for "ammunition."
- $210,000 for "camouflage and other deceptive equipment."
- $208,000 for "radar and night-vision equipment."
- $31,000 for "armament training devices."

The list goes on. It's filled with the kind of equipment you'd expect to be purchased by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, not an agency ostensibly designed to protect the environment.

But as it turns out, armed, commando-style raids by the EPA are not unheard of. One such raid occurred in 2013, in a small Alaskan town where armed agents in full body armor reportedly confronted local miners accused of polluting local waters. Perhaps the agency is gearing up for more operations like that one?

If so, the EPA wouldn't be all that unique. According to the Justice Department, there are now 40 federal agencies with more than 100,000 officers authorized to carry guns and make arrests. They include the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The EPA audit underscores the need for serious budget cuts at the agency. In July, before the Colorado spill and the Open the Books report, environmental policy expert Nicolas Loris called on Congress to shrink the EPA's budget, and outlining several specific cuts that could be done immediately and with no detrimental effect on the environment.

"The proposed cuts outlined here merely scratch the surface of a rogue agency that has wildly spent and regulated outside its purview," Mr. Loris concluded. After reviewing the Open the Books report, who can disagree? ■

THE HILL

FEDS SHELLING OUT BILLIONS TO PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRMS



by Megan R. Wilson
12/08/2015 issue of The Hill.

The federal government has spent more than $4 billion on public relations services since 2007, according to a watchdog group, with more than half of the money going to the world's largest firms.

A review conducted by Open the Books found that there are now 3,092 public affairs professionals working in the government, an increase of 15 percent — or about 400 people — over the past seven years.

During that time, 139 federal agencies inked $2.02 billion in outside contracts with firms that perform public relations, polling, research and marketing consulting.

"We always applaud agencies who make information available," Open the Books said in its report. "But ... agencies are not charged with making that information interesting or newsworthy. Agencies certainly aren't charged with using taxpayer funds to engage in thinly-veiled propaganda campaigns that are primarily designed to protect their budgets and hype outcomes."

The $2 billion tally calculated by the watchdog group includes millions of dollars on international polling for the State Department and $57.7 million in marketing and advertising contracts from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to promote the National Flood Insurance Program.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, which has come under fire for long patient wait times, awarded $5.3 million in contracts to survey "veteran enrollees health and reliance on VA" between 2011 and 2014, the report found. The VA also awarded Gallup $1.7 million in contracts to measure the engagement and satisfaction of agency employees.

A VA spokeswoman said that it is obligated by law to inform veterans and their families about the benefits and services for which they are entitled.

"We are committed to improving both the veteran and customer experience through real and meaningful change," the agency spokeswoman said in an email.

To calculate the number of federal employees working in public affairs, Open the Books counted anyone on the executive branch payroll with a title "public affairs officer," excluding press secretaries and communications directors.
The earnings of public affairs officers cost taxpayers $2.34 billion between fiscal 2007 and fiscal 2014, according to the report. In 2014, about 60 percent of these officials had base salaries of more than $100,000, and nearly 19 percent earned more than $125,000 before bonuses.

Public affairs officers can earn several different types of additional compensation. Performance bonuses are the only ones made public, and totaled $10.9 million from 2007 to 2014.

A board member of the National Association of Government Communicators defended the public relations officers, saying they carry out crucial duties under difficult circumstances.

"The vast majority of communication shops within government are understaffed and under-resourced for the volume and type of work asked of the government communication professionals working within, particularly when contrasted to corporate communication offices or public relations firms," said Chris O'Neil, an official at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Public Affairs.

"The responsibility for transparency and accountability is paramount. That responsibility is met through timely, accurate and effective communication, executed by government communicators on behalf of their agencies," he added.

Although the report cites the Bureau of Labor Statistics putting the average annual "public relations specialist" salary at $55,680, some experts say that federal salaries need to be higher in order to attract top talent.

"That is not the average salary in a place like Washington and New York," said Ivan Adler, a principal at The McCormick Group, an executive search firm. "A fair comparison would be to organizations of similar size and, more accurately, of like complexity of issues."

Adler said that someone with a government employee's knowledge of the intricate issues handled by federal regulators could triple their salary by going to the private sector. Illustrating the point: Six out of the 10 top-paid public affairs officers in the government work at financial services agencies.

Despite thousands working to shape government public relations efforts, shops in the private sector — including FleishmanHillard, Ogilvy Public Relations and Young & Rubicam — reap billions from federal contracts.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was the largest spender

on such contracts, obligating more than $412.7 million. The next highest spender, the Department of the Army, obligated $255 million.

Many of the CDC's contracts deal with promotional campaigns such as flu shots, safe teen driving, early detection cervical cancer screenings and AIDS testing. The agency spent roughly $14.3 million on an "evaluation of the CDC's national tobacco education campaign."

The CDC says that the way contract data is reported mischaracterizes the work as public affairs when it is generally "health campaigns with life-saving information."

"In order to achieve CDC's mission of saving lives and protecting Americans, it is important that we conduct research to determine the best ways to communicate health information to doctors, nurses, and the public so people can make decisions to protect their health and the health of their patients," a CDC spokeswoman said in an email.

The top 10 federal spenders on outside PR services each spent more than $50 million from fiscal year 2007 to fiscal year 2014, representing about 68 percent of the outside PR spending during that period.

Top spenders include FEMA, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of the Navy and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

The State Department, which ranked sixth in its outside PR spending, spent $36.5 million worth for surveys in Britain, Poland, the Palestinian territories, Fiji, Sri Lanka, Kuwait, Lebanon, Korea, Italy, Greece and Hungary, among many other countries.

Those assessments included a $25,000 survey of the medical insurance in Spain, a $51,000 look at the "public attitudes towards domestic and international affairs in Austria," and a $75,000 "face-to-face survey among a representative sample of 500 Muslims living in Germany."

Overall, the State Department spent nearly $80 million on public affairs contracts between 2007 and 2014.

"The Department of State endeavors to be good stewards of taxpayer money. We look for efficiencies in our programs and review expenses, always aware of the fiscal restraints in which all government institutions must operate," a State official told The Hill in an email. "U.S. embassies conduct a broad range of surveys that help inform how to most effectively engage with foreign publics and explain American foreign policy abroad."

The outside PR firms billed the government up to hundreds of dollars per hour, according to the labor rates compiled by Open the Books.

The top three — IQ Solutions, Westat and the American Institutes for Research (AIR) — banked more than $287 million in public affairs contracts during the seven-year period.

AIR counts the CDC, the National Institutes of Health, the Education Department, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Agency for International Development among its clients.

From 2007 to 2014, AIR earned $95 million in contracts, according to the report. It charges the government anywhere between $70 and $269 per hour per employee for its work, depending on the job title.

A "toolkit," defined as a "collection of materials sometimes including print, booklets, audio, video (CD, DVD), and other products for educational use" costs $151,922.78 to compile, according to a pricing schedule. A focus group runs the government $33,628.21.

Many other firms report similar or steeper pricing structures, according to figures in the report and other General Service Administration documents reviewed by The Hill. ■

Forbes

MORAL BANKRUPTCY OF CHICAGO'S ELITES



by Adam Andrzejewski
03/25/2015 issue of Forbes.

As the city approaches financial bankruptcy, Chicago's elite's line-their-pockets with taxpayer money.

There is real pain in Chicago. In the last four years, 10,000 shootings have left the city scarred. Nearly 21,000 students are trapped in failing schools. Homeowners face rising property taxes – monthly property tax payments now rival mortgage payments.

One million residents have fled the city since 1950 for prosperity elsewhere.

Rumors of financial insolvency are not exaggerated. There is a staggering $19,000 public pension liability per each city resident.

As a mayoral candidate in 2010-11, Rahm Emanuel gave regular people hope with his repeated assertion that he would "stop pay-to-play in City Hall" and "end the historical culture of corruption." Emanuel was right.

Public sector corruption was forestalling private sector production. Ending "pay to play" seemed like the only way back for the city.

In the months following his election, Emanuel seemed to execute on his promise by signing an executive order preventing city contractors from giving campaign cash to the mayor's funds. It was a nice soundbite, but the measure was weakly designed. It lacked an enforcement mechanism and was riddled with loopholes.

Last week, our organization American Transparency – with the data at OpenTheBooks.com – fact checked Emanuel's ethics policy for the John Stossel Special, Chicago Corruption: Is Pay-to-Play in Chicago Still Legal? Click here to watch segment:

WATCH THE VIDEO

Here's what we found: 600 city vendors gave Emanuel $7 million in campaign cash during the past four years and received $2 billion in city payments since 2002. And here's how we found that data: We looked at a universe of 1,500 companies or their affiliated employees funding Rahm Emmanuel's campaign since 2010. We then matched those company names with payments from the City of Chicago vendor checkbook. It's a confluence of campaign cash and contractor payments or benefits.

Even United and American airlines, who have current city contracts, bundled campaign cash for the current election cycle. Ten American executives in two states and Washington D.C. all contributed the same $5,300 campaign donation on the same day in March 2014. Last fall, United executives bundled $73,000 from 42 executives on the same day in November 2014. View source documents here.

Even "new money" entrepreneurs are gaming the system. For example, Eric Lefkofsky is CEO of Groupon, President of Blue Media LLC, and co-founder of Lightbank. In the fall of 2010, when Groupon was valued at $6 billion, IL Governor Pat Quinn announced a $3.5 million package of job growth incentives. Two days later, Blue Media LLC gave a $100,000 campaign donation to Rahm Emanuel. Over the next few years, Lefkofsky became CEO of Groupon and took prestigious board appointments from Emanuel. Since 2014, Lefkofsky has given Mayor Emanuel's fund another $250,000 for his 2015 re-election campaign. View all source documents here.

Overall, our findings led to two conclusions: pay-to-play is still legal in Chicago and Rahm Emanuel has complete control of the entire corrupt Daley political machine. In all the examples identified above, the individual transactions are probably completely legal at arm's length, but the patterns are troubling.

But there's a deeper problem. Our so-called leaders are funding a decadent and corrupt machine that exists to serve themselves rather than the city. The players are extracting extreme and undue profits as the city careens into financial insolvency. Residents face bleak futures while the players enjoy bright futures. The fact that Chicago is famous for this "machine" is disgraceful.

The hard truth is our elites – business and civic leaders – have sold the city out. While they strip the city of needed funds with their no-bid, non-competitive contracts for millions of dollars, they recycle a portion back into politics by funding the political machine that is designed to protect their own positions.

Let's look at another example – the lawyers. Since Emanuel's executive order on May 15, 2011 banning pay-to-play, Schiff Hardin LLP attorneys have given $31,850 in campaign cash to Emanuel and received $370,000 in city legal work. Over the past four years they've received $1.2 million. Jenner and Block attorneys have donated $37,200 since the executive order and have been paid more than $4 million for city legal work since 2010 with much of it coming recently.

How does this happen? The legal work is no-bid and circumvents a competitive procurement process. According to the city transparency website, these firms are paid for city legal work without a contract. They submit payment vouchers that are paid via a direct payment scheme. City of Chicago direct payments don't disclose work product or purpose on their "transparency" website. ■

OPEN THE BOOKS
KEY TELEVISION APPEARANCES: SEGMENTS

John Stossel Special – Is Chicago the Next Detroit?
New York, New York

Eight minute national segment that fact-checked Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel's 2011 campaign promise to stop corruption in city-hall. Using our City of Chicago spending data, we empirically proved that corruption is on steroids. Our YouTube of the Stossel segment has received nearly 5,000 views:

WATCH THE VIDEO

FOX News – Special Report with Bret Baier
Washington, D.C.

Bret Baier's show highlighted our oversight report on the U.S. Environment Protection Agency exposed $160 million spent on EPA public relations staff and outside-consulting/ advertising firms. Andrzejewski also highlighted the 'thunderclap' PR social media product that within months would be ruled illegal by an administrative court.

WATCH THE VIDEO

COX National Media
Washington, D.C.

A specially produced segment with the national COX bureau for airing in their twelve major television markets across America. The segment debuted on ABC- Action News 2 in Atlanta.

The segment showcased our OpenTheBooks Oversight Report - The Department of Self-Promotion, $4.4 Billion Spent on Public Relations (FY2007-FY2014) - found some of the worlds' largest advertising firms charging federal agencies up to $88/hour for interns. "We have taxpayer dollars being spent to convince taxpayers to spend more taxpayer dollars on the growth of government," said Adam Andrzejewski founder of OpenTheBooks.com.

WATCH THE VIDEO

Sinclair Media – Full Measure with Sharyl Attkisson
Washington, D.C.

A specially produced segment for the investigative journalist national news program.

Showcasing our EPA oversight report on the militarization of federal agencies. We showcased our specific findings: 200 'special agents' cost $216,000 each annually; $6.4 million spent on guns, ammo and military-style equipment, plus another $6 million on joint policing projects with Homeland Security. Other Washington D.C. think tanks were included in the piece and sounded the alarm.

WATCH THE VIDEO

One America News Network (OAN) TV
Washington, D.C.

Deputy Director Matthew Tyrmand was interviewed in Washington, D.C. for a segment regarding our OpenTheBooks.com transparency and oversight work. The segment played for three days during January 2016 and showcased our findings at EPA and on the federal agencies spending of $4.4 billion on public relations.

WATCH THE VIDEO

College of DuPage – NBC Chicago Nightly News Interviews
Glen Ellyn, IL

Throughout 2015, the new reform board at the College of DuPage – the second largest college in Illinois – continued to clean-up the governance. When the President of the college was given a $762,000 severance bonus, we turned-out 500 citizens, battled it and gave interviews. When the President, Comptroller, and Treasurer were fired, we were there and gave interviews. OpenTheBooks.com helped to drive the oversight investigation of the college from May, 2014 through 2015.

WATCH THE VIDEO

WGN TV – Local City and Village Manager IL Salary Report
Chicago, IL

Our micro-report on 'The Big Dogs of Illinois Municipal Government' found 52 city and village managers out-earn every governor of the 50 states. School district treasures are hauling in up to $500,000. Rank-and-file county employees are racking up $260,000 with massive lifetime pension spikes. But, incredibly, the top three 'municipal employees – with salaries over $300,000 plus – don't even work for government. Watch YouTube here:

WATCH THE VIDEO

OPEN THE BOOKS
KEY RADIO APPREARANCES: SEGMENTS



CEO Adam Andrzejewski averages three radio appearances per month advocating OpenTheBooks topics. In 2015, Andrzejewski did approximately 36 local, state, and regional radio appearances. Either Andrzejewski appeared on or OpenTheBooks.com content was the highlight of the following prominent shows: **1. Rush Limbaugh Show** – five-minute segment dedicated to our work exposing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; **2. KOGO in San Diego** highlighting our clarion call to 'open the books on the California state checkbook;' **3. Sean Hannity** radio and **4. Mark Levin** radio highlighting our oversight report on federal PR spending; and **5.** a national five-minute segment on the **Mike Gallagher Show** on the Salem Radio network regarding an overview of our transparency mission.

OPEN THE BOOKS
KEY SPEECHES



World Taxpayer's Conference Transparency & Accountability
Berlin, Germany

March, 2016– "Open The Books at Every Level of Government" by Matthew Tyrmand, Deputy Director of American Transparency



What on God's Green Earth is Wrong? South Carolina Tea Party Coalition Convention

January, 2016 – Myrtle Beach, South Carolina | By Adam Andrzejewski, CEO of American Transparency. Sponsored by Breitbart, the speech was sandwiched between Sen. Ted Cruz and Donald J. Trump two weeks before the South Carolina presidential primary. Packed room of 1,000 people and 200 national media.

WATCH THE VIDEO

OPEN THE BOOKS WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA METRICS



Captured Data at OpenTheBooks.com Statistics

At the end of 2015, posted at OpenTheBooks.com we displayed 2.6 billion individual government spending transactions. We are the world's largest publically accessible private repository of public spending. By the end of 2016, we feel confident that we will post nearly 'every dime' taxed and spent in the 15 most populous state covering 70 - percent of the American public.

OpenTheBooks.com Website and OpenTheBooks Mobile App for Apple/Android Statistics

138,710 unique users rendered 908,120 pageviews (data searches) during an average session of 4:40 minutes. A gross majority of our website users were from outside of Illinois – 64-percent – as we have taken our message and data across America. OpenTheBooks mobile app added 18,859 unique users for 1.2 million screenviews with an average duration of 5:05 minutes per session. These stats show the power of our 'palm-of-your-hand' technologies to slice, dice and display government spending by location.

OpenTheBooks Email Subscribers

In 2015 to March 15, 2016, we have emailed subscribers 69 special alerts. These alerts were sent to 3.7 million individual email addresses and opened 465,979 times - with an open rate of just over 14-percent. Our subscriber list is growing and is currently at 62,000 active addresses. Between our subscriber email list and our mobile app downloads (we can 'text' those cell phones), at OpenTheBooks.com, we can 'electronically touch' over 110,000 key politicians, pundits, media, citizens, activists and key influencers across America.

Forbes® Contribution Statistics

OpenTheBooks.com founder and CEO Adam Andrzejewski is a contributor at Forbes.com. All of Andrzejewski's editorials are in regard to OpenTheBooks data and oversight work. In 2015, over 252,000 unique views were logged on 22 posted editorials. Since May of 2014, Andrzejewski has over 493,000 unique views on 37 editorials. Many of Andrzejewski's editorials led the editorial page as 'Most Popular' in the days following their release.



YouTube® Statistics

In 2015, total watch time was 32,327 minutes on 9,653 views for an average view of 3:20. We only posted 10 videos. We only post content from key speeches or TV segments regarding our work.

So far in 2016, we've already received a total watch time of 10,702 minutes on 2,856 views with an average duration of 3:44 minutes. We've only posted three new videos.

Facebook® Statistics

Starting 2015, OpenTheBooks.com had approximately 1,000 Facebook followers. Ending the year, we grew the page to 16,000 followers and already have over 20,415 as of today. Our goal in 2016 is to quadruple the page to 60,000 'likes.' Former U.S. Senator Dr. Tom Coburn's Director of Communications John Hart manages our social media.



TWITTER® STATISTICS

In 2016, we are hiring a full-time manager for Twitter.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION STATISTICS
AMERICAN TRANSPARENCY

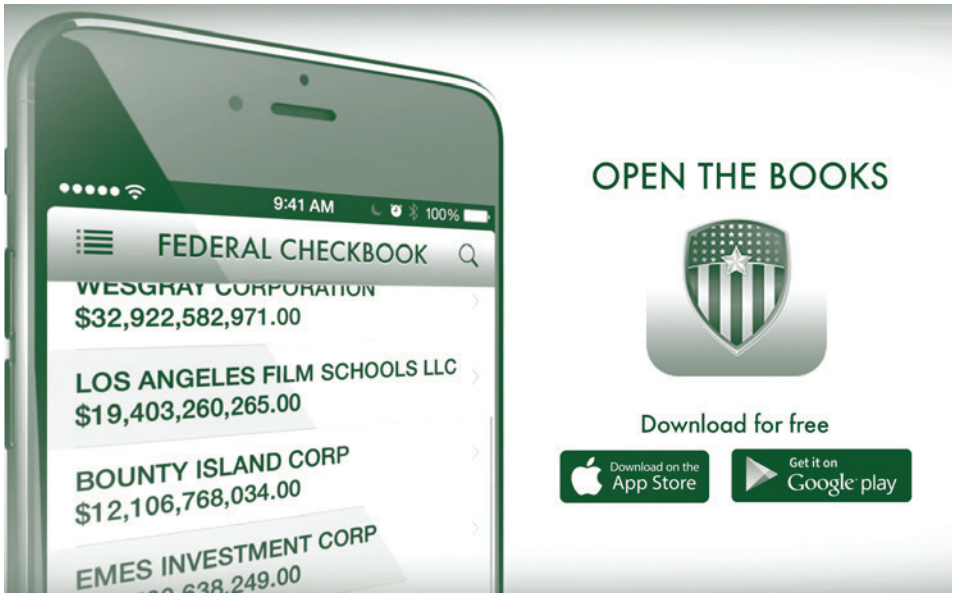
In 2015, we grew our revenues from $785,000 to $1.13 million from 352 individual donors, 21 foundations and 4 corporations. In FY2015, OpenTheBooks.com is proud that we were able to grow our top-line revenues by 44-percent. Our FY2016 revenue goal is $1.8 million – growth of 50-percent.

On a quarterly basis, we are running 'crowd-funding' campaigns regarding specific funding needs. In the Fourth Quarter of 2015, our first campaign produced funding of $79,037 on a goal of $50,000: 158-percent of our funding goal.

Our crowdfunding campaign included "REWARDS": a pledge of $1 or more received a 'Join The Transparency Revolution!' bumper sticker; pledging $50 or more received our OpenTheBooks cotton baseball hat; pledging $75 or more received a copy of U.S. Senator Tom A. Coburn MD.D. *"The Debt Bomb"* hardcover book.

We filmed and posted our first crowdfunding video which helped procure the donations:

WATCH THE VIDEO

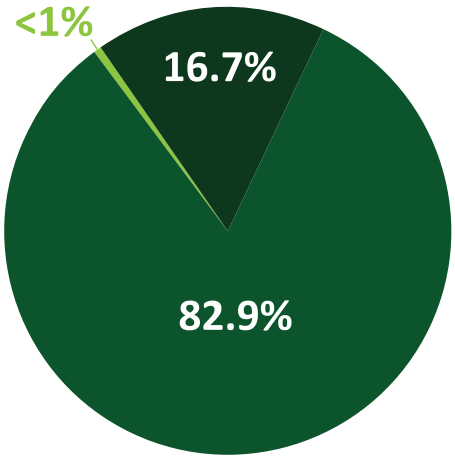


Percentage breakdown of donations FY2015:

INDIVIDUAL DONORS:
$188,235

CORPORATIONS:
$4,750

FOUNDATIONS:
$937,200



PART IV.
CONCLUSION



This is an exciting moment. For the first time in America's history, the possibility exists to capture close to "every dime" taxed and spent from every unit of government – local, state and federal.

Once successful, citizens will not need a search warrant (or even file a Freedom of Information Act request) to simply track how government spends virtually all public money.

At OpenTheBooks.com, we envision a sweeping new era of citizen driven government.

Our vision is open, honest, and transparent government brought about by a more engaged and informed citizenry. Placing public spending online in an easy to access manner will empower citizens, watchdogs, journalists, and public service organizations to expose wasteful practices while ensuring a more efficient allocation of government resources.

Within twelve to fifteen months, in the fifteen most populous states, our goal is to finish capturing all public spending. Then, we'll finish the rest of the country over the next twelve months.

Currently, at OpenTheBooks.com, we have captured 2.6 billion individual government transactions representing nearly all disclosed spending at the federal and state levels. But, there are 90,000 local units of government across the fifty states. In many of these local governments, salaries, pensions and vendor transactions remain cloaked in 'privacy.'

It's time for a transparency revolution.

AMERICAN TRANSPARENCY
OPENTHEBOOKS.COM



AMERICAN TRANSPARENCY (OPENTHEBOOKS.COM) BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Honorable Dr. Tom Coburn
Honorary Chairman

Muskogee, OK. Former U.S. Congressman, United States Senator and 2014 Time List: 100 Most Influential People in the World. Co-Sponsor of 2006 "Google Your Government Act" which opened United States Government checkbook spending to online transparency for the first time in history. Identified the "Bridge to No Where" in Alaska which helped to end the congressional practice of wasteful earmarks. Coburn's annual Waste Book was an oversight primer on federal taxpayer abuse. An entrepreneur with a career in obstetrics, Dr. Coburn delivered over 4,000 babies before the Senate passed a rule to stop his practice of medicine. Married to Miss Oklahoma (1967), Tom and Carolyn Coburn raised three girls.



Thomas W. Smith
Chairman of the Board

New York, NY. Mr. Smith is the founding partner of Prescott Investors. He was the managing partner of Whitcom Investment Company in New York and a partner with Reynolds and Company. Mr. Smith is currently a trustee of the Manhattan Institute, on the board of Socrates Sculpture Park, and on the Advisory Board of Metro Bank in London. He has served on a number of corporate boards. He is the past Chairman of the National Center for Policy Analysis and the past Chairman of St. Ann School in New York City. He was a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. He received his Master's Degree in Economics from the University of California – Berkeley and his Bachelor's Degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.



Adam Andrzejewski
Founder, Board Member
& Chief Executive Officer

Hinsdale, IL. Andrzejewski co-founded HomePages® directories from his apartment (1997). After nine years of effort, sales grew to $20 million, and the company grew to employ 150 people. Today, HomePages® continues as the nation's largest publisher of community telephone directories. In 2007, Andrzejewski sold his share of the company and founded For the Good of Illinois 501(c)4 to focus on a life of public service.

In 2009-10, Andrzejewski ran for Governor of Illinois, garnering 110,000 votes, winning 11 counties, and coming within approximately five percent of the eventual nominee. Adam was endorsed by Nobel Laureate and Solidarity founder Lech Walesa. Andrzejewski's campaign promise was to post "every dime, online, in real time" of public spending. OpenTheBooks.com, mobile application, and data commons is the fulfillment of this vow.

Today, Andrzejewski is the CEO of American Transparency. The first mover advantage of American Transparency was recognized by The Wall Street Journal publishing Andrzejewski's editorial, Track Government Spending on Your Phone, May 29, 2013.

AMERICAN TRANSPARENCY (OPENTHEBOOKS.COM) BOARD OF DIRECTORS *(Continued)*



Hilary Till
Board Member, Treasury

Lake Forest, IL. Ms. Till has B.A. with General Honors in Statistics from the University of Chicago and MSc. Degree in Statistics from the London School of Economics (LSE). She studied at the LSE under a private fellowship administered by the Fulbright Commission. Ms. Till is a principal of Chicago-based Premia Capital Management, LLC. Previously, she was a senior vice president at Putnam Investments in Boston; and prior to joining Putnam, she was a quantitative analyst at Harvard University's endowment. Ms. Till is a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's Working Group on Financial Markets, and also serves on the North American Advisory Board for the London School of Economics.



Bruno Behrend, J.D.
Board Member, Secretary

Bruno Behrend, J.D. - Board Member, Secretary River Forest, IL. Mr. Behrend, J.D., is the past Chairman of American Transparency. Just prior to helping found American Transparency, he was the director of the Center for Transforming Education at The Heartland Institute, where he remains a Senior Fellow on education issues. Behrend is a graduate of the University of Illinois (1983) with a degree in finance and a graduate of IIT-Kent College of Law (1990). He is licensed to practice law in Illinois. In 2008, Behrend coauthored Illinois Deserves Better - The Ironclad Case for an Illinois Constitutional Convention, the release of which coincided with a campaign to pass a referendum calling for a Constitutional Convention in Illinois.



Lisa Markham
Board Member

Chicago, IL. Ms. Markham has been a lifelong Libertarian since reading Hayek's The Road to Serfdom at age 15. She attended Smith College where she read Medieval History, French and Italian. A VP with Citibank she has an MBA from Kellogg at Northwestern and a Master's Degree in the Fine and Decorative Arts from the University of Glasgow in Scotland. She participates in the promoting the Reason Foundation, Competitive Enterprise Institute, and local think tanks in Illinois.

AMERICAN TRANSPARENCY (OPENTHEBOOKS.COM) BOARD OF DIRECTORS *(Continued)*



Jameson G. Campaigne
Board Member

Ottawa, IL. Mr. Campaigne co-founded (1960) and later was a long term board member of Young Americans for Freedom, the first nationwide conservative youth group. After college, Jameson rose to managing editor at the Henry Regnery Company, and published works by Frank Meyer, William F. Buckley, Jr., Russell Kirk, and many others. In 1975, he founded Green Hill Publishers and Jameson Books (1986) producing more than fifteen million copies of conservative books.

Jameson serves the American Conservative Union board (since 1974), and the National Humanities Institute, Mont Pelerin Society member (1971), and helped found or served on the board of the National Tax Limitation Committee, The Media Institute, and The Philadelphia Society.

AMERICAN TRANSPARENCY (OPENTHEBOOKS.COM) KEY PERSONNEL



Craig Mijares
Director of Information Technology

Boca Raton, FL. Craig Mijares is the Chief Technology Officer for American Transparency. Mr. Mijares has a B.A. in Computer Information Systems from DeVry University. He has worked in executive compensation and benefits administration for over 20 years with an industry leading firm where he has lead teams of over 100 associates. Mijares is responsible for our overall technology direction, and is the chief designer of the OpenTheBooks.com portal. Mijares is the prime driver of our award winning Open The Books mobile application, widget, interactive mapping features, proprietary data capture tools, spending clocks, and SNAPSHOT™ Transparency Reports.



Matthew Tyrmand
Deputy Director

New York, NY. Matthew Tyrmand is the Deputy Director for American Transparency. Matthew Tyrmand joined Adam Andrzejewski in 2013 to aid in evolving OpenTheBooks into a national transparency leader. Previously, Tyrmand spent a decade on Wall Street running healthcare and telecommunications portfolios for top hedge funds on Wall Street. Matthew is a graduate of the Atlas Leadership Academy and Think Tank MBA and a member of The Philadelphia Society. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 2003. Matthew's father, Leopold Tyrmand, was a fierce anti-communist writer and was the co-founder of the Rockford Institute and founding editor of Chronicles of Culture after he left Poland for America. Matthew's autobiography (2013) debuted on the best-seller list in Poland and he is active, as a Polish dual citizen, in the Polish civil, political, and economic debates and acts as an adviser to the current Polish government.



John Hart
Senior Advisor

Washington, D.C. John Hart is the founder of Mars Hill Strategies and was the longtime communications director to former U.S. Senator Tom Coburn. Hart, an award-winning writer, co-authored two books with Coburn – Breach of Trust: How Washington Turns Outsiders into Insiders and The Debt Bomb: A Bold Plan to Stop Washington from Bankrupting America. His commentaries have appeared at National Review, RealClearPolitics, Fox News, The Washington Examiner, the Federalist and more. He lives in Fairfax, VA with wife, Kimberly, and four children.

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Patrick Caddell
Board Advisor

Washington, D.C. Mr. Caddell is a Democratic pollster and Fox News contributor. He served as pollster for President Jimmy Carter, Gary Hart, Joe Biden and others. He is a Fox News political analyst and co-host of "Political Insiders" Sundays on Fox News Channel. Caddell is a public opinion pollster who worked for Democratic Presidential candidates George McGovern in 1972 and Jimmy Carter in 1976, an expert in analyzing public opinion in the United States. President of Cambridge Survey Research, which conducts public opinion research and analysis for political candidates, business firms, and other clients. Publisher of the quarterly Cambridge Reports, which provide in-depth surveys on various subjects. He handled publicity and marketing research for director Francis Ford Coppola's film Apocalypse Now (1979). Famous quote: "I went to one statistics class [at Harvard University] and lasted five minutes. I discovered that whatever they were doing and I was doing had nothing in common."



Edwin Feulner
Board Advisor

Washington, D.C. Mr. Feulner's leadership as president of The Heritage Foundation transformed the think tank from a small policy shop into America's powerhouse of conservative ideas and what the ***New York Times*** calls "the Parthenon of the conservative metropolis." He is a longtime officer and director of three grant-making foundations: the Sarah Scaife Foundation, the Aequus Institute, and the Thomas A. Roe Foundation. Born in Chicago, Feulner graduated from Regis University with a bachelor's degree in English, and received an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business in 1964. He later attended Georgetown University and the London School of Economics, and then earned a doctorate degree at the University of Edinburgh in 1981. Feulner is the author of eight books: ***The American Spirit*** (2012), ***Getting America Right*** (2006), ***Leadership for America*** (2000), ***Intellectual Pilgrims*** (1999), ***The March of Freedom*** (1998), ***Conservatives Stalk the House*** (1983), ***Looking Back*** (1981) and ***Trading with the Communists*** (1968). He and his wife, Linda, have two grown children.



Brian Kelly
Board Advisor

McHenry, IL. Mr. Kelly is the Chairman and CEO of BulkLift International Special Packaging. Buying a majority stake in 2001, BukLift has produced over 40 million bags since its inception in 1972. Mr. Kelly is a 1992 graduate of Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management (MBA); 1986 recipient of Alexander Hamilton Youth Leadership award for Most Outstanding Youth Leader in New York State; and served President Ronald Reagan as a White House Intern. Mr. Kelly also helped found Patriots United- a group dedicated to five pillars: pro- family, limited government, free market economy, national defense, and choice in education.

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Suhail A. Khan
Board Advisor

Washington, D.C. Director of External Affairs at Microsoft Corporation, a member of Conservative Action Project, and Senior Fellow at the Institute for Global Engagement- a Christian religious freedom think tank. Mr. Khan served the Bush Administration White House and U.S. Department of Transportation - was awarded the Secretary's Team Award (2005) and the Secretary's Gold Medal for Outstanding Achievement (2007). Elected to the Board of Directors of the American Conservative Union (2006) and awarded the Young Conservative Coalition's Buckley Award (2010). RNC Chairman Reince Prebus appointed Khan to the RNC Asian Pacific American Advisory Council (2014). Education: University of California at Berkeley, B.A. and University of Iowa, J.D.



Ruth King
Board Advisor

New York, NY. Ms. King is on the executive committee of Americans for a Safe Israel and contributes a monthly column to their publication "Mideast Outpost," and on the Board of the London Center for Policy Research. As a contributing editor of Family Security Matters she researched and published "2014 Where They Stand" - a comprehensive guide to the 2014 national elections that covered the Senatorial and Congressional races in every district in all fifty states, detailing the domestic and foreign policies of all incumbents and challengers of both major political parties. This project will be updated in the 2016 elections. She is also editor and publisher of Ruthfullyyours.com a daily blog which lists many columns on the Middle East, terrorism, foreign policy, and domestic issues such as immigration, energy, and politics.



Vince Kolber
Board Advisor

Chicago, IL. Mr. Kolber started RESIDCO in 1982- completing both aviation & rail transactions in excess of $1.2BN- including syndications, non-recourse debt securitizations, restructurings, hedging, asset repositioning and remarketing assignments. Pioneered the use of privately placed derivatives in large ticket equipment leasing; established applications for residual value insurance & puts in both aviation & rail structured financings. Graduated with an MBA from the University of Chicago and a B.S. from Wharton. Mr. Kolber is active in parochial school philanthropy at Sacred Heart & the Big Shoulders Foundation and serves as Chairman of the Chicago Committee of the Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C.

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Herbert London
Board Advisor

New York, NY. Prominent and influential activist, politician, professor, academic and tutor. Mr. London is President of London Center for Policy Research. London ran for Governor of New York (1990) and New York Comptroller (1994) – credibly running both campaigns. Former President of Hudson Institute (1997 – 2011), London is currently President Emeritus. He is the former John M. Olin Professor of Humanities at New York University creating the Gallatin School of Individualized Study (1972) serving as dean until 1992.



Vanessa Mendoza
Board Advisor

New York, NY. Ms. Mendoza is the executive vice president of the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, New York City. She joined the Institute in 2006 as a policy analyst for the Center for Legal Policy, where her work focused on the center's 'Loser Pays' project. She was recruited to work with the development team, was named vice president for development in 2009 and in 2012, named executive vice president of the Institute. Vanessa earned her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law and her B.A. from New York University with a concentration in the fields of political science, history, and election law. Vanessa lives in Brooklyn, N.Y. with her husband and son. Vanessa serves on the board of the next generation leadership organization, Teneo.



Stephen Moore
Board Advisor

Washington, D.C. Leading economic writer and policy analyst. In 1999, he founded and served as president of the Club for Growth. Mr. Moore is a former member of The Wall Street Journal editorial board from 2005 – 2014. The Heritage Foundation announced that Moore would become a Distinguished Visiting Fellow (2014). Education: B.A. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; M.A. from George Mason University in economics. Moore also spent ten years as a fellow of the Cato Institute.

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Deroy Murdock
Board Advisor

New York, NY. Political commentator and Fox News Contributor, a Media Fellow with the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace at Stanford University, and a Senior Fellow with the Atlas Network. Mr. Murdock's weekly column — "This Opinion Just In…" — appears in the New York Post, The Washington Times, the Boston Herald, The San Francisco Examiner, and other newspapers across America. A frequent guest on CNBC, CNN, C-Span, MSNBC, and other TV and radio outlets, Murdock has spoken/debated at Cato Institute, the Council on Foreign Relations; Harvard Medical School, the Heritage Foundation; the National Academy of Sciences; Dartmouth, Stanford, and many other venues. Murdock is a native of Los Angeles, a graduate of Georgetown University, and earned an MBA from New York University.



Grover Norquist
Board Advisor

Washington, D.C. Mr. Norquist is the founder and president of Americans for Tax Reform. He is the creator and organizer of the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, a public written commitment to oppose any and all tax hikes, signed by most members of the U.S. Congress. Norquist chairs the Washington, DC - based "Wednesday Meeting," a weekly gathering of more than 150 elected officials, political activists, and movement leaders. He serves on the board of directors of the American Conservative Union, the Center for the National Interest, the Parental Rights Organization and the National Rifle Association. Norquist is a graduate of Harvard College & Harvard Business School. He lives in DC with his wife, Samah, & daughters, Grace and Giselle.



James O'Keefe III
Board Advisor

New York, NY. Mr. O'Keefe is an American journalist, filmmaker, and Founder of Project Veritas, a nonprofit organization dedicated to citizen journalism. His work has prompted state and federal investigations, congressional action, and inspired several states to reform their election laws and induced high-level resignations in Washington. O'Keefe is a graduate of Rutgers University. A congressional resolution was introduced in 2009 praising him for his work. He is the recipient of the Robert Novak Award for Journalistic Excellence (2011) and was placed on the Forbes 30 under 30 for media moguls.

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James Piereson
Board Advisor

New York, NY. President of the William E. Simon Foundation, a private grant-making foundation located in New York City. The foundation has broad charitable interests in education, religion, and problems of youth. For 20 years, from 1985 to 2005, he was executive director and trustee of the John M. Olin Foundation. A preeminent conservative scholar, educator, author and representative, Piereson serves on the boards of several other tax-exempt institutions, including: The Pinkerton Foundation, the Thomas W. Smith Foundation, The Center for Individual Rights, The Philanthropy Roundtable (Chairman, 1995-99), the Foundation for Cultural Review (Chairman), the American Spectator Foundation, the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, and DonorsTrust.



Adrienne Price
Board Advisor

Scarsdale, NY. Ms. Price specialized in real estate investment banking at Goldman Sachs, then ran a commercial real estate company where she owned and managed warehouses, and sold the business in January, 2007. Currently, Ms. Price is a private investor. She was a Wexner Heritage Foundation Fellow, and served on a variety of national and local boards. Currently, she serves on the Boards of the Middle East Forum and Friends of Yemin Orde. A proud graduate of the University of Pennsylvania with 3 degrees (Wharton, The College, The Graduate School), Ms. Price is the President of her class and serves on the Executive Board of the Alumni Class Leadership Council. Ms. Price also holds an M.M. from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.



Avik Roy
Board Advisor

Washington, D.C. Leading economic writer and policy analyst. In 1999, he founded and served as president of the Club for Growth. Mr. Moore is a former member of The Wall Street Journal editorial board from 2005 – 2014. The Heritage Foundation announced that Moore would become a Distinguished Visiting Fellow (2014). Education: B.A. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; M.A. from George Mason University in economics. Moore also spent ten years as a fellow of the Cato Institute.

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Peter Schweizer
Board Advisor

Peter Schweizer is the President of Government Accountability Institute and a best-selling author. He is a partner in the Washington, D.C. firm Oval Office Writers which provides speechwriting and communications services. From 2008-9, he was a consultant to the Office of Presidential Speechwriting in the White House. His books have been translated into eleven languages and include several New York Times or Washington Post bestsellers. Peter is the author of the book Extortion: How Politicians Extract Your Money, Buy Votes, and Line Their Own Pockets. Both Extortion and his previous book, Throw Them All Out were New York Times bestsellers and were featured on CBS's 60 Minutes. Schweizer's most recent work was "Clinton Cash LP." His articles have appeared in Foreign Affairs, The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, National Review, and elsewhere. Peter received his M.Phil. from Oxford University and his B.A. from George Washington University. He lives in Florida with his wife, Rhonda, and his children.



Norb Svanascini
Board Advisor

Park Ridge, IL. Mr. Svanascini is Founder and Chairman of AmericanEagle.com-the technology vendor for American Transparency. Americaneagle.com is an industry leading one-stop shop in Web site design, development, hosting and marketing. Mr. Svanascini's two sons, Tony and Michael, also own and run the business that has provided service to over 5,000 websites including WhiteHouse.gov, the Big Ten, Atlantic 10, Big East, NFL, NHL, NBA, NASCAR, Fortune 100, and Meadowlands Super Bowl Stadium. An immigrant to America at age 7, Mr. Svanascini has patented a network based card game of skill, can explain How Economies Work in under Ten Minutes, and is a licensed pilot.



Mary Beth Weiss
Board Advisor

Hinsdale, IL. Entrepreneur and owner of Hawthorne Rand in Carpentaria, CA. Mary Beth is the acting Chairman of Franklin Center for Government and Public Integrity, Washington, D.C. She is on the Financial Advisory Board of Midwest Division of the Salvation Army. Married to Richard Weiss, they have extensive national and local networks in the non-profit, political, tea party, think tank, academic and conservative journalist communities across America.

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