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# PROJECT **VOTE** SMART



[WWW.VOTE-SMART.ORG](http://WWW.VOTE-SMART.ORG) | 1.888.VOTE SMART



# EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE IN AN EXTRAORDINARY PLACE, REVOLUTIONIZING POLITICS!



## PROJECT VOTE SMART

Launched by hundreds of student interns and young volunteers. Millions of Americans turn to us for the abundant, accurate, relevant information essential in our struggle to self-govern.

## VOTE SMART WEB AND YOUTH INCLUSION WEB (www.vote-smart.org)

Where student interns from across the country provide direct access to our data on 13,000 candidates, along with voter registration information, interactive games, and places to meet and chat with our staff members. "The Best Political Web Site," on earth, says the American Political Science Association. The best "content, design, functionality and relevance." Now with a special Young Voter's section that provides instant information on issues, candidates and other facts relevant to our own unique concerns.

## VOTER'S RESEARCH HOTLINE (1.888.VOTE SMART)

Where our young trained researchers answer the phones and can instantly check out the background of any presidential, congressional, gubernatorial or state legislative candidate at your request.

## INTERNSHIPS

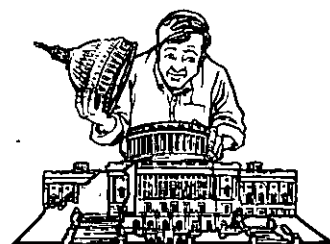
We provide scholarships to young people willing to work and study at the Project's Great Divide Ranch in Montana. Internships in political research, public information, computer science, membership and publications. Opportunities and memories that will last a lifetime at our extraordinary retreat offices on 150 acres of pristine wilderness.

## VOTER'S SELF-DEFENSE MANUAL

The Project Vote Smart story and seventy pages of facts on how your elected officials are representing you in Congress! CNN says, "We think so highly of their publications that we are distributing their material to all of our affiliates." The manual is a seventy page sampling of the millions of relevant facts on each state's congressional delegation collected for voters by the over 1000 young people who have interned or volunteered at the Project's office. This manual can be yours, free of charge, simply by calling the toll-free number or visiting our website.

The New York Times reports, "For reliable, meat-and-potatoes political information, research experts recommend Project Vote Smart...It's so good that even the Federal Government's own Congressional portal, Thomas, recommends it."

# WILL YOU GOVERN OR BE GOVERNED?



Project Vote Smart

**Detach and mail today!**

- Yes!** I support the idea of changing the face of democracy and focusing on factual information — not rhetoric — in political campaigns.
- Please sign me up for a free one-year membership in Project Vote Smart.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 College or group affiliation (how you found out about us) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check here for information regarding internships

Project Vote Smart protects the privacy of its members and will not sell your information to anyone for any purpose.

CHANGE THE FACE

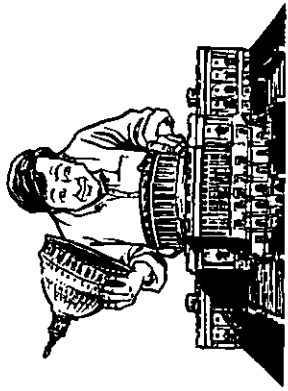
OF DEMOCRACY



1 PRESIDENT \* 100 SENATORS  
435 REPRESENTATIVES \* 7,424 STATE LEGISLATORS

26,110,000 VOTERS BETWEEN  
THE AGES OF 18 AND 25

**Behind every face, there's a vote.  
Behind every smart vote, there's Vote Smart.**



## Project Vote Smart

This brochure is made possible through a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts

### BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT # 1 PHILIPSBURG MT

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES  
PROJECT VOTE SMART  
ONE COMMON GROUND  
PHILIPSBURG MT 59858-9901



NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES



# VOTER'S RESEARCH HOTLINE

## 1-800-786-6885

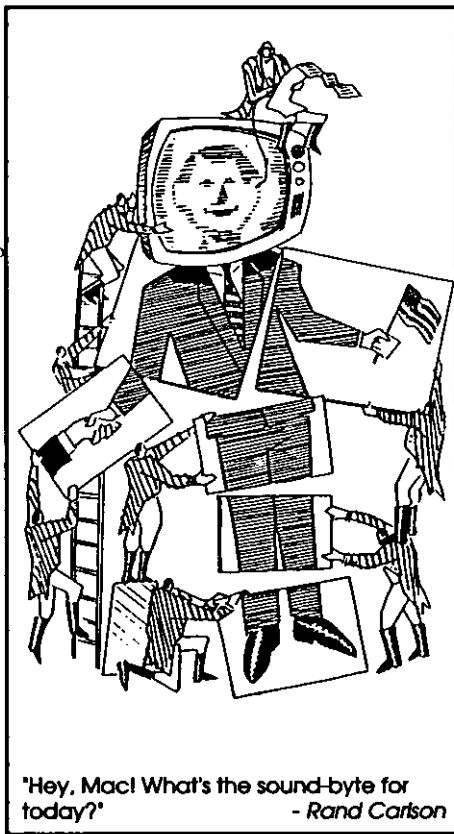
### Project Vote Smart's Other Programs

#### VOTER'S SELF-DEFENSE MANUAL

Candidate Bio's,  
Performance Evaluations  
by over 60 different  
groups--Labor vs.  
Business, Liberal  
vs. Conservative, Right to  
Choose vs. Right to Life,  
campaign finances, issue  
discussions and more.  
All editions given free  
to members. At cost  
(\$3.50) to other voters  
by calling:  
1-900-786-6885

#### NATIONAL POLITICAL AWARENESS TEST

A series of focused true/  
false and multiple choice  
questions given to every  
candidate for federal  
office in 17 different  
issue areas. Answers  
available on the Voter's  
Research Hotline:  
1-800-786-6885



#### REPORTER'S SOURCE BOOK

A 200-page reference  
guide to sources and  
experts with impartial  
discussions of key  
national issues. This  
publication, introduced  
by David Broder and  
other prominent  
national journalists, is  
available to members  
and journalists only.

#### REPORTER'S RESEARCH CENTER

A research service for  
journalists that enables  
them to check the  
accuracy of candidate  
claims. Will be open  
to all members in  
early 1993.

#### STUDENT EDUCATION

Already aiding over 200 University interns, Project Vote Smart has developed student curriculum materials, Teacher Study Guides and a video featuring Edward James Olmos that makes politics relevant to middle and high school students.

Project Vote Smart/CNIP  
129 N.W. 4th St. #204 Corvallis, OR 97330  
(503) 754-2746



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*Elected & App. Officials*

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William Clinger

*U.S. Congressman*

Morris Udall

*Former U.S. Representative*

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*U.S. Senator*

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*Exec. Dir., Nat'l Coalition*

*on Black Voter Participation*

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*Former U.S. Congresswoman*

Andrew Hernandez

*President South-West Voter*

*Registration Project*

Albert Bustamante

*U.S. Congressman*

Mary Dent Crisp

*Former Co-Chair,*

*Nat'l Republican Party*

Bill Frenzel

*Former U.S. Representative*

and 18,758  
other members

## PROJECT VOTE SMART

**On common ground**, a unique and unlikely gathering is taking place. Thousands: citizens and statesmen, conservatives and liberals, traditional enemies with vastly different backgrounds and points of view are joining for battle. If successful, Americans will experience a reemergence of political power unknown to them for many decades.

A battle for that most essential and precious element in our struggle to self-govern: *information*.

Shortly before he died, James Madison, in a letter to a friend, wrote, "a popular government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy ... a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives." Project Vote Smart is an effort to provide that power, at the whim of any and every American.

If what we propose succeeds, tolerance will no longer be the only weapon available to Americans tormented by the issueless, mudslinging campaigns that now dominate the nation's elections. Designed to manipulate us emotionally instead of informing us intellectually, these campaigns insult our citizens and threaten our democracy.

Project Vote Smart's goal is simple: turn the same slick, high-tech campaign technology used by

(OVER)

Project Vote Smart/Center for National Independence in Politics  
129 N.W. 4th Street #204 Corvallis, OR 97330 (503) 754-2746

FAX(503)754-2747

Recycled Paper

candidates around to the citizen's advantage instead. Allow each individual citizen to decide for themselves what information is important and then provide them instant access to it. **In our democracy no power is more decisive, no political weapon more potent than dependable, accurate, factual information.**

With seed money provided by the Carnegie, Markle, MacArthur, Ford, and Joyce foundations, Project Vote Smart is gathering together the enormous body of useful, factual information that exists on candidates and then providing each citizen with instant access to the information relevant to their own unique concerns. **What you want to know, when you want to know it, and who you want to know it about.**

Try it: pick a Congressperson or Senator of interest to you along with an issue you think is important and call 1-800-786-6885. In your defense, two hundred volunteers and student researchers stand trained and ready to access a massive database of factual information on all general election candidates for federal office: their actual voting records; biographies; campaign contributors; and issue positions; along with the performance evaluations done by over 60 different competing organizations (labor vs business, conservative vs liberal, Right to Life vs Right to Choose, etc.).

Much is at stake. This Voter's Research Hotline is just one of six elements (outlined on the back page and the enclosed defense card) in our effort to radically reverse the flow of information and rearm our citizens with its awesome power.

Every prior American generation has labored to preserve, protect, and ennoble this endless struggle to self-govern. Yet, today as we witness people throughout the world struggling in the streets for some small measure of the freedom we have enjoyed at our leisure, it has begun to die here in the nation of its birth. If our democracy is to survive for the generations of the 21st century, it is going to need help from those of us ending the 20th century. Please help us if you can!



To insure absolute independence we have refused all government, corporate, and organizational assistance of any kind.

**Project Vote Smart must be funded by the American people or not at all.**

The bombardment of self-serving political commercials with their often misleading and abusive claims has started. As candidates get up to make their self-aggrandizing claims or trash their opponents, citizens become trapped in issueless nonsense that threatens their ability to make informed and prudent choices on November 3rd. We must try to help as many Americans as we can defend themselves against these efforts to exploit them. This manipulative and dangerous spectacle has begun again in campaigns all across our nation. We can help but demands on our student interns and volunteers are enormous.

If you understand the importance of making this historic stand in the defense of our people and are financially able, please lend a hand. Fill out the attached form and join us. Our inaugural-year members will receive free Voter's Self-Defense Manuals, special research services, and regular performance updates on the representatives you elect. If you cannot join, at least hold on to the **enclosed defense card**, use it when needed and share it with others we simply cannot afford to reach.

Good luck to you and to all of us in this extraordinary and crucial election year.

Best wishes,



Richard Kimball  
Board President

**PLEASE HELP US IF  
YOU CAN**



Hundreds of volunteers have given thousands of hours to make this all possible. They need and deserve our help.

**CUT OUT AND MAIL IN**

*Become an inaugural- year member.* You will receive a free Member's Edition of our Voter's Self-Defense Manual, special research services on our Voter Research Hotline, and regular performance updates on those you choose to elect.

- General \$35
- Supporting \$100
- Sustaining \$250
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(We protect our members. Project Vote Smart does not sell or allow anyone to use our membership list.)

Send to: Project Vote Smart • 129 NW  
4th St., #204 • Corvallis, OR 97330

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING:

*"They are the straightest group around. They have a very, very good reputation for just the facts."*

--Ellen Miller  
Director  
Center for Responsive Politics

*"These people can do things the Library of Congress can't."*

--William Proxmire  
Former U.S. Senator

*"If citizens support this effort candidates will have no place to hide when it comes to issues and voting records."*

--Peggy Lampl  
Former National Director  
League of Women Voters