



35 YEARS OF IMPACT

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Now more than ever, Americans on both sides of the aisle are saying they are fed up with excessive government secrecy, runaway spending, and the lack of accountability. They say there are too many backroom deals producing policies that only benefit special interests.

We agree. Since 1981, POGO has been working for a more open, ethical, accountable, and effective federal government.

In 2015, we continued the fight for robust reforms that force the government to open its books. We also held powerful people accountable for their actions, facilitating the removal of four senior government officials who were hostile to whistleblowers and forcing the FDA to take another look at the safety of a billion-dollar drug. POGO also teamed up with Congress to save a cost-effective and combat-effective military aircraft, the A-10 "Warthog," and worked with lawmakers to improve the troubled Veterans Affairs (VA) agency.

Our mission in 2016—our 35th anniversary year—is to keep fighting to fix the problem with money in policy. You've heard a lot about money in *politics*, but there is also a critical need to address money in *policy*—the undue influence of powerful special interests that takes place in between elections.

With your help over the years, POGO has made great strides toward ensuring a better government. I hope you will continue to support our work in 2016, and I look forward to celebrating our 35th anniversary with you!

Sincerely,



Danielle Brian
Executive Director

35 YEARS OF IMPACT



2015



CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT BOOT CAMP

POGO partners with the Levin and Lugar Centers to launch a two-day boot camp for congressional staffers, offering intensive instruction and hands-on exercises on how to conduct effective government oversight.



STRAUS MILITARY ADVISORY BOARD

The Straus Military Advisory Board is launched and the first Jack Shanahan Fellow, Dan Grazier, is brought on board.



EXPOSING DRUG PROBLEMS AT THE FDA

POGO exposes systemic weaknesses in the FDA's oversight of prescription drugs. Following POGO investigations spotlighting flaws in clinical trials of blood thinners, the FDA reassesses past regulatory action and announces it will tighten standards.



PROTECTING VETERANS AFFAIRS WHISTLEBLOWERS

Three POGO investigators testify at hearings on the VA's handling of whistleblowers. Based on our testimony, Senators Mark Kirk (R-IL) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) introduce a bipartisan bill to improve how whistleblower complaints are handled at the agency and how those who retaliate against VA whistleblowers are punished.

2015 MEDIA HITS:

2,803

FEATURED IN MEDIA OUTLETS:

The New York Times
Newsweek

The Washington Post
The Daily Caller
Politico

CNN Politics
Wall Street Journal

The American Conservative
The Intercept
NPR

2015 SOCIAL MEDIA SNAPSHOT

RETWEETS

FACEBOOK SHARES

4.3K

4.5K

OF TWEETS
WITH THE HULK
(aka Mark Ruffalo)



AVG. FACEBOOK
VIEWS / DAY

4.2K



THWARTING ABUSERS OF POWER

Inspectors General (IGs) at the Departments of Commerce and Veterans Affairs and the Deputy IG of the Department of Defense resign after POGO highlights their ineffective oversight. Pressure from POGO also results in Air Force General James Post being removed from command for accusing A-10 whistleblowers of committing “treason.”



JUSTICE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY WHISTLEBLOWERS

TSA whistleblower Robert MacLean, fired for raising concerns about TSA's air marshal program in the wake of 9/11, wins Supreme Court ruling after POGO fought for over a decade to reverse his wrongful termination.

Lt. Col. Jason Amerine was placed under criminal investigation for raising concerns to Congress about the United States' dysfunctional hostage recovery process. After POGO's advocacy, the Army dropped the investigation, awarded him the prestigious Legion of Merit medal, and allowed him to retire with full benefits.

7

TIMES POGO
TESTIFIED
BEFORE
CONGRESS
IN 2015



2014 UNCOVERING MASS MISCONDUCT

POGO reveals that hundreds of federal prosecutors and other Department of Justice employees violated rules, laws, and ethical standards over the course of nearly a dozen years (2002-2013).



2013 CLOSING THE SEC LOOPHOLE

POGO spotlights an SEC ethics exemption that allows former employees to lobby the agency immediately after leaving, rather than waiting for a year or more as employees at other federal agencies must do. The exemption is revoked.



2012 CDI AND STRAUS MILITARY REFORM PROJECT

Center for Defense Information merges with POGO to enhance capacity to advocate for needed policy and spending reforms at the Pentagon.



2008 FEDERAL CONTRACTOR MISCONDUCT DATABASE

POGO is instrumental in getting a law passed to create a database of government contractor performance. The government modeled its database after ours, contractormisconduct.org.



2010 STRENGTHENED ETHICS RULES

After 15 years of pressure from POGO on conflicts of mission at the Minerals Management Service (MMS), the government heeds POGO's advice and divides the agency into separate bureaus with strengthened ethics rules.



2006 IMPROVING OVERSIGHT IN CONGRESS

POGO launches a monthly training series teaching Congressional staff how to conduct better government oversight.

OUR RECORD FOR THE LONGEST FOIA RESPONSE:

9 YEARS 3 MONTHS 17 DAYS

(We're patient.)

TOTAL # STAFFERS WHO
HAVE ATTENDED OUR
CONGRESSIONAL TRAININGS

1,553



2001 OIL COMPANIES PONY UP TO TAXPAYERS

A \$440 million settlement with oil companies is reached for not paying what they owed for drilling on public lands. The money goes to public education, taxpayers, and land and water conservation funds.



1993 \$11 BILLION SAVED

POGO is credited with the cancellation of the wasteful Superconducting Super Collider—the largest government program ever scrapped until that time.



1995 AREA 51: THE TRUTH EXPOSED

The Air Force retroactively classifies an Area 51 document we obtained outlining environmental abuses at the famed secret site. The military threatens, but fails, to confiscate POGO files.



1990 PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

Renamed POGO, the organization broadens its mission to include the entire federal government.



1985 CUTTING DOWN ON PENTAGON CRONYISM

Exposing Pentagon “revolving door” policies leads to a law limiting government employees from going to work for companies they had overseen.



1981 PROJECT ON MILITARY PROCUREMENT

POGO’s predecessor is established to expose waste, fraud, and abuse in the defense budget.

POGO HAS SAVED
TAXPAYERS AT LEAST

\$70.1BN

IN CANCELED WASTEFUL
PROGRAMS

2015 FINANCIALS

REVENUE →

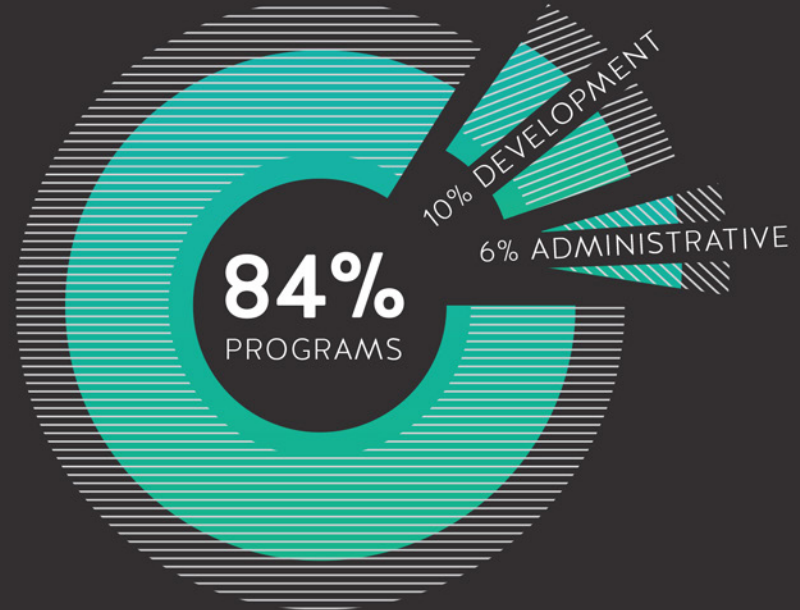
Grants	2,919,809
Contributions	564,868
Investment income	(33,154)
Contributed goods and services	18,000
Publications and other income	93,397
TOTAL REVENUE	\$3,562,920

PROGRAMS →

Congressional Oversight Initiative	532,252
Government Accountability	479,388
Straus Military Reform Project	430,998
Contract Oversight	248,950
Energy and Natural Resources	188,648
Public Health	150,193
Nuclear Weapons Security	132,146
Whistleblower Protections	107,578
Inspectors General	53,211
Direct and grassroots lobbying	30,545
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	\$2,353,909

SUPPORTING SERVICES →

General and administrative	157,020
Development	294,696
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	\$451,716
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,805,625



OVERVIEW →

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$757,295
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$2,400,824
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$3,158,119

This statement of activities from January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2015, has been audited.

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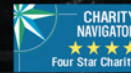
\$1 - \$249

WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO
THE MANY CONTRIBUTORS WHO GAVE
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YOU ARE THE FOUNDATION OF OUR
ORGANIZATION. THANK YOU!

ABOUT

Founded in 1981, the Project On Government Oversight is a nonpartisan independent watchdog that fights the influence of money in policy and champions good government reforms.

POGO's investigations into corruption, misconduct, and conflict of interest achieve a more effective, accountable, open, and ethical federal government.



POGO is rated a Four Star Charity by Charity Navigator, a Gold Participant of GuideStar, and a Top-Rated Nonprofit by GreatNonProfits. POGO meets all 20 Charitable Accountability Standards set by the Better Business Bureau.

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