

## FOUNDING BOARD

George McGovern  
*Fmr U.S. Senator*

Barry Goldwater  
*U.S. Senator*

Geraldine Ferraro  
*Fmr U.S. Representative*

John McCain  
*U.S. Senator*

Michael Dukakis  
*Fmr Governor of Massachusetts*

Bill Frist  
*U.S. Senator*

Bill Frenzel  
*Fmr U.S. Representative*

Peggy Lampl  
*Fmr Executive Director,  
League of Women Voters*

Jim Leach  
*U.S. Representative*

John Sununu  
*U.S. Senator*

Charles Mathias  
*Fmr U.S. Senator*

Edward Brooke  
*Fmr U.S. Senator*

Barbara Lee  
*U.S. Representative*

Claudine Schneider  
*Fmr U.S. Representative*

Kenneth Adelman  
*Dir., US Arms Ctrl &  
Disarmament Agency, Reagan  
Admin.*

Chaka Fattah  
*U.S. Representative*

Jon Trachta  
*Attorney*

Marvin Cohen  
*Fmr FAA Chair, Civil Aeronautical  
Board, Carter Admin.*

William Lacy Clay, Jr.  
*U.S. Representative*

Irene Natividad  
*Fmr. Pres., National  
Women's Political Caucus*

Pat Schroeder  
*Fmr U.S. Representative*

Gordon H. Smith  
*U.S. Senator*

Adelaide Elm  
*Historian*

William Clinger  
*Fmr U.S. Representative*

Dan O'Neill  
*Attorney*

William Proxmire  
*Fmr U.S. Senator*

John Hagelin  
*Fmr Pres. Candidate,  
Natural Law Party*

Frank Moss  
*Fmr U.S. Senator*

Susan Brandes  
*Community Activist*

Mary Dent Crisp  
*Fmr Co-Chair, Nat'l  
Republican Party*

Newt Gingrich  
*Fmr U.S. Representative*

Sonia Jarvis  
*Fmr Exec. Dir., Nat'l Coalition on  
Black Voter Participation*

Barbara Kennelly  
*Fmr U.S. Representative*

Marianne Jennings  
*Professor of Business Law*

Brent Steel  
*Professor of Political Science*

Kyle Dell  
*Political Scientist*

Tom Chandler  
*Attorney*

John Echohawk  
*Native American Rights Fund*

Henry and Margaret Kenski  
*Political Scientists*

Richard Kimball  
*PVS President  
(Partial Listing)*

# PROJECT VOTE SMART



September 29, 2008

Prof. Gerda Kamberova  
Chair  
Department of Computer Science  
Hofstra University  
Hempstead, NY 11549-1000

Dear Prof. Kamberova:

An internship like no other. Students interning at Project Vote Smart not only experience raw politics in an extraordinary high-tech wilderness park, but they also find themselves being offered full-time positions at either the Project or in political and other non-profit offices in Washington, D.C. and state capitols throughout the country.

It is the perfect opportunity to gain experience while making memories and friends that will last a lifetime.

Students will gain an insider's view of American politics, while working and living at the Great Divide Ranch, a unique wilderness retreat.

The organization, started by two former Presidents and a dozen Democratic and Republican members of Congress, has positions throughout the year in political research, IT, fundraising, graphic arts, media, food services and maintenance.

Project Vote Smart's Voter's Self-Defense System has become the most highly acclaimed political database in the country. The work is what U.S. News and World Report says, "would make the Founder's weep with joy," and is completed in one of the most beautiful wilderness parks in the nation. Located high in the Montana Rockies, students will have access to world class skiing, fishing, and hiking right out side their door along with boating, horseback rides, swimming, tennis and so much more.

Please review the enclosed brochure, poster and application packet. Please display the poster and share this information with your students. Those interested can contact me with any questions at 406-859-8683 or via email at [intern@votesmrat.org](mailto:intern@votesmrat.org). I look forward to working with you to provide your students with a unique and unforgettable experience.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Clemens  
Human Resources Director

PROJECT VOTE SMART

One Common Ground • Philipsburg, MT 59858-9767

Tel: 1-406-859-VOTE (1-406-859-8683) • Fax: 1-406-859-8680

Hotline: 1-888-VOTE-SMART (1-888-868-3762) • Website: [www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org)

## About Project Vote Smart

Project Vote Smart has built an extensive database of information on elected officials and candidates for public office. We cover national and state level candidates and officials in several areas including, but not limited to, speeches and issue positions, biographical information, interest group ratings and endorsements. We also track key votes and collect information on state elections, ballot measures, and voter registration.

Project Vote Smart is completely non-partisan. For our interns, this means a ten week experience stepping into an office for 40 hours a week and separating themselves from their personal political beliefs in the pursuit of making politically unbiased facts available to all citizens. Project Vote Smart has, since its conception, maintained a policy of political balance and therefore does not allow any of our board members to join unless a member of their political opposition is joining as well. This facilitates such a diverse group of founding board members as former U.S. Senators Barry Goldwater (R) and George McGovern (D), and former U.S. Representatives Newt Gingrich (R) and Geraldine Ferraro (D). Project Vote Smart's goal over the past 16 years has been for every candidate - Democrat, Republican, third party, or independent - to be treated with equal deference, with only relevant and unbiased facts presented. Project Vote Smart does not lobby, support or oppose any candidate, position or issue. All Project staff and interns are required to sign a pledge, affirming their commitment to absolute impartiality.

As a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, Project Vote Smart is funded exclusively through private donations by over 38,000 members, and grants from private philanthropic foundations including the Carnegie and Ford Foundations. All member contributions are tax deductible. To guarantee its integrity and accountability as a nonpartisan and wholly objective service to the American people, Project Vote Smart does not accept financial contributions from lobbyists, governmental organizations, corporations, businesses or special interests. Over the years 5000 public libraries and over 250 national and local news organizations, including CNN, C-SPAN, Cox News, Fox, Knight-Ridder, MTV, National Journal, NBC, Newsweek, PBS, MSNBC and Washington Week in Review, have supported Project Vote Smart.

## About the Location

Participation in PVS and the goal of helping voters become more informed is only part of the reward. The true reward lies almost entirely in the Project's surroundings. The Great Divide Ranch is approximately 27 miles from the nearest town and is nestled in the wilderness of the Northern Rockies. At an altitude of around 6,000 ft with creeks running directly through the ranch and the regular moose deer and elk sightings, PVS offers a once in a lifetime opportunity to gain hands on political experience at a mountain escape. Summer and winter activities include: hiking, biking, skiing, camping, fishing, swimming, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and much more. The facilities and amenities themselves allow interns to create a home away from home.

Over the past seven years PVS has transformed the Great Divide Ranch into a getaway that suits our specific needs. We are able to offer amenities such as wireless Internet access, satellite television, row and paddleboats, snowmobiles, basketball/tennis courts, a brand new library with thousands of books, an indoor gym with a sauna, and horseback rides.

Interns are able to get to know other students from across the country and share their passion for politics in this community style living environment. The housing facilities consist of lodges divided into rooms that sleep between two and six people. Students should expect to have

# Project Vote Smart

## National Internship Program



### ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY?

Project Vote Smart and over 6,000 staff members, volunteers, and interns have worked for the past 16 years to collect and disseminate information on thousands of candidates at the local, state and national level. After all of this hard work PVS, is now ready to announce the completion of the nation's first comprehensive Voter Self-Defense System. You can become part of this exciting effort by joining our National Internship Program. This program gives college students from across the country and around the world the chance to have a once in a lifetime opportunity. Interns gain hands on experience in politics and public relations while spending their free time in one of the country's most beautiful and unique settings. Interns spend their weekdays working on projects ranging from tracking and summarizing key legislation to contacting candidates for issue positions and sending out press releases. Evenings and weekends can be spent exploring the Northern Rockies. This is truly one of the most unique internships available today. For more information about Project Vote Smart and its National Internship Program please read on or visit our website [www.votesmart.org](http://www.votesmart.org). To hear about the experiences and see photos of previous interns please visit our blog, The Voter's Speakeasy, at [www.votesmart.org/blog](http://www.votesmart.org/blog).

"There's no better place to start than Project Vote Smart ([www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org)). Here you can learn nearly all you need to know about Congressional candidates and many state office hopefuls you may see on the ballot."

-Chicago Tribune

"Project Vote Smart would make the Founders weep for joy."

-U.S. News & World Report

at least two roommates. We have a full-time lodge manager as well as a full-time cook who prepares all meals. As part of living in a group, students are required to help with weekly cleaning and maintenance chores assigned by the lodge manager.

## **About the Internship**

Project Vote Smart's National Internship Program provides students with unique practical and educational experiences. We seek students who are genuinely interested in working to accomplish our goal of making factual, unbiased political information easily and freely accessible to all. The overriding qualification for securing an internship position is your willingness to commit 100% to the Project's goals and mission.

To qualify for a PVS internship you must meet the following requirements:

1. Set aside personal and political beliefs, be objective and non-partisan while working.
2. Be in good standing with your university/school.
3. Commit to 10 consecutive weeks.
4. Remember that our research facility is located in an extraordinarily beautiful but remote area. You will be expected to help maintain the facility.

## **About the Work**

Below please find a short list of common intern responsibilities provided by the various department directors:

*Political Courage Test Assistant* - Maintain candidate lists on the website; administer the Political Courage Test to candidates through mailings and phone calls; collect and enter candidate issue position responses; process election results.

*Research Assistant* - Collect and enter candidate and elected officials biographical information; Update our database of city and county officials; update our political resources database including political parties, news media, political trivia, etc.; update ratings/evaluations produced by special interest groups; update our public statements/speeches database.

*Legislative Research and Hotline Assistant* - Monitor Congress and state legislatures for key votes and issues. Highlight, edit and present to staff documented summaries of congressional and state legislation; articulate the mission of Project Vote Smart and answer research related special requests and e-mails from the general public via the Hotline.

*Media/PR Assistant* - Assists in scouting out potential events for the Project Vote Smart national bus tour, also supports our team that is on the bus; maintains contacts with media outlets from across the nation to publicize PVS events and resources; This position can also include a variety of special tasks associated with various partnerships that PVS has with other organizations.

*Membership Assistant* - Works in all aspects of the membership department - Marketing, fund raising, data entry, bulk mailing, research and statistical analysis, contacting members, processing special requests and contacting vendors.

*Information Technology Assistant* - Assists the IT department in maintaining the office workstations, servers and network, as well as take part in continued development of the Project's website and applications; provides technical support, website

development in PHP and HTML, application development in Java and JSP, network and system administration. The ideal candidate will be comfortable working in a Unix environment, experienced with website development, and have some familiarity with Java and JSP.

*Facilities and Recreation Assistant* - Repair and enhance the living facilities and grounds (minor repairs, painting, fencing, landscaping, etc).

*Lodge Assistant* - Assist with day-to-day operations of non-profit student housing and commercial kitchen (facilities mgt, meal preparation and planning).

Note: The majority of our National Interns work in our Research and Political Courage Test departments. However, we have a limited number of positions available in Membership, News, Graphic Design and Information Technology. The Internship Director will make all position assignments based on individual applicants skills, departmental priority, and projects available. If you have a position preference, please indicate the preferred position in your cover letter stating the reasons for the preference. There is a possibility that interns may not be assigned to the position that they request. In addition to their assigned programs, interns at Project Vote Smart may also be asked on occasion to perform special projects including painting, yard maintenance, minor repairs, etc.

## **About Applying**

### **Student Interns must submit the following:**

1. Completed application form.
2. Cover letter.
3. Resume.
4. Minimum of three references. References need only be names and contact information, not necessarily letters.

All application materials must be submitted together. Students must specify the term for which they are applying. Applications can be downloaded from our website <http://www.votesmart.org/> or may be requested by calling our toll-free hotline 1-888-VOTE-SMART (1-888-868-3762).

## **Contact Information**

If you have any questions or would like to receive additional information, please contact the Internship Coordinator:

Internship Coordinator  
One Common Ground  
Philipsburg, MT 59858  
(406) 859-VOTE (8683)

Project Vote Smart Web:  
[www.votesmart.org](http://www.votesmart.org)  
Email Address:  
[intern@votesmart.org](mailto:intern@votesmart.org)

# National Internship Program Application Form

## Location and Date

The Great Divide Ranch, Montana

(Contact the National Internship Coordinator for information on positions available.)

When would you begin your internship? Internships are for 10 full weeks.

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year

## General Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Code

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Effective Until \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Code

Permanent Phone \_\_\_\_\_ US Citizen?  Yes  No

Do you have any disability or medical condition of which Project Vote Smart should be made aware?  Yes  
If yes, please explain on a separate sheet.  No

Gender  Female  Male Racial/Ethnic background  African-American  Asian Pacific Islander  
 Native American  Hispanic  
Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  Caucasian  Other \_\_\_\_\_

(Answers to these three questions are for statistical and administrative purposes only and are optional.)

How did you learn about internship opportunities at Project Vote Smart? \_\_\_\_\_

## Statement of Confirmation:

I am willing and able to work in an atmosphere of political information without letting my personal political beliefs interfere with providing unbiased, non-partisan information or adversely affecting my relationships with others on the job.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Last, First): \_\_\_\_\_

### Academic Information

College/University \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Graduation Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_ Minor \_\_\_\_\_ GPA (on 4.0 scale) \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be receiving credit for this internship?  Yes  No  Unknown

If yes, please include, on a separate sheet of paper, the number of credits you will be receiving, the department awarding the credit, and your advisor's name, address, phone, fax number, and email address.

### Financial Assistance

All interns accepted to our program receive the Barry Goldwater General Scholarship, which provides interns with full room and board for the duration of their internships.

**You must submit this completed form along with a cover letter, resume and three references to:**

#### Internship Coordinator

Project Vote Smart  
One Common Ground  
Philipsburg, MT 59858  
406-859-8683 (phone)  
406-859-8680 (fax)  
[intern@vote-smart.org](mailto:intern@vote-smart.org)

Please include any additional information you feel is important to your application or unique about your situation on a separate sheet of paper.