

2018

Open to Public Inspection

Form 990-EZ

Short Form

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990EZ for instructions and the latest information.

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

A For the 2018 calendar year, or tax year beginning July 1, 2018, and ending June 30, 2019

B Check if applicable: Address change, Name change, Initial return, Final return/terminated, Amended return, Application pending. C Name of organization: Rhode Island Public Interest Research Group, Inc. D Employer identification number: 05-0517165. E Telephone number: (401) 608-1201. F Group Exemption Number.

G Accounting Method: [ ] Cash [x] Accrual [ ] Other. H Check [x] if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF).

I Website: www.ripirg.org

J Tax-exempt status (check only one) - [ ] 501(c)(3) [x] 501(c)(4) [ ] 4947(a)(1) or [ ] 527

K Form of organization: [x] Corporation [ ] Trust [ ] Association [ ] Other

L Add lines 5b, 6c, and 7b to line 9 to determine gross receipts. If gross receipts are \$200,000 or more, or if total assets (Part II, column (B)) are \$500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ. Total: \$ 14,428

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances (see the instructions for Part I) Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part I [x]

Table with 3 main sections: Revenue (lines 1-9), Expenses (lines 10-17), and Net Assets (lines 18-21). Includes a 'RECEIVED' stamp from IRS-OSC, OGDEN, UT, dated AUG 03 2020.

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Part V Other Information (Note the Schedule A and personal benefit contract statement requirements in the instructions for Part V) Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part V

		Yes	No
33	Did the organization engage in any significant activity not previously reported to the IRS? If "Yes," provide a detailed description of each activity in Schedule O		✓
34	Were any significant changes made to the organizing or governing documents? If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the amended documents if they reflect a change to the organization's name. Otherwise, explain the change on Schedule O. See instructions		✓
35a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year from business activities (such as those reported on lines 2, 6a, and 7a, among others)?		✓
b	If "Yes" to line 35a, has the organization filed a Form 990-T for the year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O		
c	Was the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization subject to section 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III	✓	
36	Did the organization undergo a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or significant disposition of net assets during the year? If "Yes," complete applicable parts of Schedule N		✓
37a	Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions	37a	0
b	Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?	37b	✓
38a	Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee or were any such loans made in a prior year and still outstanding at the end of the tax year covered by this return?	38a	✓
b	If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II and enter the total amount involved	38b	
39	Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter.		
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9	39a	
b	Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities	39b	
40a	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under: section 4911; section 4912; section 4955		
b	Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year, or did it engage in an excess benefit transaction in a prior year that has not been reported on any of its prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I	40b	✓
c	Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958		0
d	Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization		0
e	All organizations. At any time during the tax year, was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? If "Yes," complete Form 8886-T	40e	✓
41	List the states with which a copy of this return is filed	RI	
42a	The organization's books are in care of	John Michael Watkins	Telephone no. 303-573-5995, ext. 347
	Located at	1543 Wazee St, Ste 400, Denver, CO	ZIP + 4 80202-1450
b	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country	42b	✓
	See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR).		
c	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization maintain an office outside the United States? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country	42c	✓
43	Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of Form 1041—Check here and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year	43	
44a	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	44a	✓
b	Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	44b	✓
c	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the year?	44c	✓
d	If "Yes" to line 44c, has the organization filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O	44d	
45a	Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	45a	✓
b	Did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," Form 990 and Schedule R may need to be completed instead of Form 990-EZ. See instructions	45b	✓

46 Did the organization engage, directly or indirectly, in political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I

Table with columns Yes, No and row 46 with a checkmark in the No column.

Part VI Section 501(c)(3) Organizations Only

All section 501(c)(3) organizations must answer questions 47-49b and 52, and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51.

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part VI

47 Did the organization engage in lobbying activities or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II

Table with columns Yes, No and row 47.

48 Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E

Table with columns Yes, No and row 48.

49a Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization?

Table with columns Yes, No and row 49a.

b If "Yes," was the related organization a section 527 organization?

Table with columns Yes, No and row 49b.

50 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees, and key employees) who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

Table with 5 columns: (a) Name and title of each employee, (b) Average hours per week devoted to position, (c) Reportable compensation, (d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation, (e) Estimated amount of other compensation.

f Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000

51 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

Table with 3 columns: (a) Name and business address of each independent contractor, (b) Type of service, (c) Compensation.

d Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over \$100,000

52 Did the organization complete Schedule A? Note: All section 501(c)(3) organizations must attach a completed Schedule A

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge

Sign Here section with signature of Jenne Turner, President of the Board, dated July 3, 2020.

Paid Preparer Use Only section with fields for Preparer's name, signature, date, firm's name, EIN, and address.

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions

**SCHEDULE C**  
**(Form 990 or 990-EZ)**

**Political Campaign and Lobbying Activities**

OMB No 1545-0047

**2018**

**Open to Public Inspection**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**For Organizations Exempt From Income Tax Under section 501(c) and section 527**  
▶ **Complete if the organization is described below.** ▶ **Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.**  
▶ **Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for instructions and the latest information.**

If the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 3, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 46 (Political Campaign Activities), then

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations Complete Parts I-A and B Do not complete Part I-C
- Section 501(c) (other than section 501(c)(3)) organizations Complete Parts I-A and C below Do not complete Part I-B.
- Section 527 organizations Complete Part I-A only

If the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 4, or Form 990-EZ, Part VI, line 47 (Lobbying Activities), then

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)) Complete Part II-A. Do not complete Part II-B
- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)) Complete Part II-B Do not complete Part II-A.

If the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 5 (Proxy Tax) (see separate instructions) or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 35c (Proxy Tax) (see separate instructions), then

- Section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) organizations Complete Part III.

Name of organization <b>Rhode Island Public Interest Research Group, Inc.</b>	Employer identification number <b>05-0517165</b>
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**Part I-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c) or is a section 527 organization.**

- 1 Provide a description of the organization's direct and indirect political campaign activities in Part IV. (see instructions for definition of "political campaign activities")
- 2 Political campaign activity expenditures (see instructions) . . . . . ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Volunteer hours for political campaign activities (see instructions) . . . . . ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

**Part I-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3).**

- 1 Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by the organization under section 4955 . . . . . ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by organization managers under section 4955 . . . . . ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 If the organization incurred a section 4955 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year? . . . . .  Yes  No
- 4a Was a correction made? . . . . .  Yes  No
- b If "Yes," describe in Part IV.

**Part I-C Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c), except section 501(c)(3).**

- 1 Enter the amount directly expended by the filing organization for section 527 exempt function activities . . . . . ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Enter the amount of the filing organization's funds contributed to other organizations for section 527 exempt function activities . . . . . ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Total exempt function expenditures. Add lines 1 and 2. Enter here and on Form 1120-POL, line 17b . . . . . ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Did the filing organization file **Form 1120-POL** for this year? . . . . .  Yes  No
- 5 Enter the names, addresses and employer identification number (EIN) of all section 527 political organizations to which the filing organization made payments. For each organization listed, enter the amount paid from the filing organization's funds. Also enter the amount of political contributions received that were promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization, such as a separate segregated fund or a political action committee (PAC). If additional space is needed, provide information in Part IV.

(a) Name	(b) Address	(c) EIN	(d) Amount paid from filing organization's funds If none, enter -0-	(e) Amount of political contributions received and promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization If none, enter -0-
(1)	-----			
(2)	-----			
(3)	-----			
(4)	-----			
(5)	-----			
(6)	-----			

**Part II-A** Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).

- A** Check  if the filing organization belongs to an affiliated group (and list in Part IV each affiliated group member's name, address, EIN, expenses, and share of excess lobbying expenditures).
- B** Check  if the filing organization checked box A and "limited control" provisions apply.

<b>Limits on Lobbying Expenditures</b> (The term "expenditures" means amounts paid or incurred.)		(a) Filing organization's totals	(b) Affiliated group totals												
<b>1a</b>	Total lobbying expenditures to influence public opinion (grass roots lobbying)														
<b>b</b>	Total lobbying expenditures to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying)														
<b>c</b>	Total lobbying expenditures (add lines 1a and 1b)														
<b>d</b>	Other exempt purpose expenditures														
<b>e</b>	Total exempt purpose expenditures (add lines 1c and 1d)														
<b>f</b>	Lobbying nontaxable amount. Enter the amount from the following table in both columns.														
<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:</th> <th style="text-align: left;">The lobbying nontaxable amount is:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Not over \$500,000</td> <td>20% of the amount on line 1e</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000</td> <td>\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000</td> <td>\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000</td> <td>\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$17,000,000</td> <td>\$1,000,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:	Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 1e	Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000.	Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000.	Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.	Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000		
If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:														
Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 1e														
Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000.														
Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000.														
Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.														
Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000														
<b>g</b>	Grassroots nontaxable amount (enter 25% of line 1f)														
<b>h</b>	Subtract line 1g from line 1a. If zero or less, enter -0-														
<b>i</b>	Subtract line 1f from line 1c. If zero or less, enter -0-														
<b>j</b>	If there is an amount other than zero on either line 1h or line 1i, did the organization file Form 4720 reporting section 4911 tax for this year?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No												

**4-Year Averaging Period Under Section 501(h)**  
(Some organizations that made a section 501(h) election do not have to complete all of the five columns below. See the separate instructions for lines 2a through 2f.)

<b>Lobbying Expenditures During 4-Year Averaging Period</b>					
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2015	(b) 2016	(c) 2017	(d) 2018	(e) Total
<b>2a</b>	Lobbying nontaxable amount				
<b>b</b>	Lobbying ceiling amount (150% of line 2a, column (e))				
<b>c</b>	Total lobbying expenditures				
<b>d</b>	Grassroots nontaxable amount				
<b>e</b>	Grassroots ceiling amount (150% of line 2d, column (e))				
<b>f</b>	Grassroots lobbying expenditures				

**Part II-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and has NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).**

For each "Yes," response on lines 1a through 1j below, provide in Part IV a detailed description of the lobbying activity.

	(a)		(b)
	Yes	No	Amount
1 During the year, did the filing organization attempt to influence foreign, national, state, or local legislation, including any attempt to influence public opinion on a legislative matter or referendum, through the use of:			
a Volunteers?			
b Paid staff or management (include compensation in expenses reported on lines 1c through 1i)?			
c Media advertisements?			
d Mailings to members, legislators, or the public?			
e Publications, or published or broadcast statements?			
f Grants to other organizations for lobbying purposes?			
g Direct contact with legislators, their staffs, government officials, or a legislative body?			
h Rallies, demonstrations, seminars, conventions, speeches, lectures, or any similar means?			
i Other activities?			
j Total. Add lines 1c through 1i			
2a Did the activities in line 1 cause the organization to be not described in section 501(c)(3)?			
b If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred under section 4912			
c If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred by organization managers under section 4912			
d If the filing organization incurred a section 4912 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year?			

**Part III-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6).**

	Yes	No
1 Were substantially all (90% or more) dues received nondeductible by members?	1	✓
2 Did the organization make only in-house lobbying expenditures of \$2,000 or less?	2	✓
3 Did the organization agree to carry over lobbying and political campaign activity expenditures from the prior year?	3	✓

**Part III-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6) and if either (a) BOTH Part III-A, lines 1 and 2, are answered "No," OR (b) Part III-A, line 3, is answered "Yes."**

1 Dues, assessments and similar amounts from members	1	
2 Section 162(e) nondeductible lobbying and political expenditures (do not include amounts of political expenses for which the section 527(f) tax was paid).		
a Current year	2a	
b Carryover from last year	2b	
c Total	2c	
3 Aggregate amount reported in section 6033(e)(1)(A) notices of nondeductible section 162(e) dues	3	
4 If notices were sent and the amount on line 2c exceeds the amount on line 3, what portion of the excess does the organization agree to carryover to the reasonable estimate of nondeductible lobbying and political expenditure next year?	4	
5 Taxable amount of lobbying and political expenditures (see instructions)	5	

**Part IV Supplemental Information**

Provide the descriptions required for Part I-A, line 1, Part I-B, line 4, Part I-C, line 5, Part II-A (affiliated group list); Part II-A, lines 1 and 2 (see instructions); and Part II-B, line 1. Also, complete this part for any additional information.

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**SCHEDULE O**  
**(Form 990 or 990-EZ)**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ**

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on  
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.  
▶ Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for the latest information.

OMB No 1545-0047

**2018**

**Open to Public  
Inspection**

Name of the organization

Rhode Island Public Interest Research Group, Inc.

Employer identification number

05-0517165

**Part I, Line 16**

Filing Fees: \$116, Insurance \$253; Telephone \$5

**Part II, Line 24, Column A**

Accounts Receivable: \$80,563

**Part II, Line 24, Column B**

Accounts Receivable: \$7,654

**Part II, Line 26, Column A**

Accounts Payable: \$58,323

**Part II, Line 26, Column B**

Accounts Payable: \$5,160

**Part III, Organization's Primary Exempt Purpose**

The purpose of the corporation is to promote social welfare within the meaning of Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. The corporation's activities may include public education, research, litigation, and advocacy on issues affecting the public interest. The corporation is not organized for gain or individual profit and it shall be operated exclusively for social welfare purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.