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SCANNED SEP 29 2009

Form **990-EZ**

Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No 1545-1150

2008

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code
(except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

► Sponsoring organizations of donor advised funds and controlling organizations as defined in section 512(b)(13) must file Form 990. All other organizations with gross receipts less than \$1,000,000 and total assets less than \$2,500,000 at the end of the year may use this form

► The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements

A For the 2008 calendar year, or tax year beginning July 1, 2008, and ending June 30, 20 09

B Check if applicable: <input type="checkbox"/> Address change <input type="checkbox"/> Name change <input type="checkbox"/> Initial return <input type="checkbox"/> Termination <input type="checkbox"/> Amended return <input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	Please use IRS label or print or type. See Specific Instructions.	C Name of organization Maryland Public Interest Research Foundation Number and street (or P O box, if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite 3121 Saint Paul Street 26 City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4 Baltimore, MD 21218	D Employer identification number 52 1033638 E Telephone number (410) 467-9389 F Group Exemption Number . . . ►
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• Section 501(c)(3) organizations and 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts must attach a completed Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ).

G Accounting method Cash Accrual
Other (specify) ►

I Website: ► <http://www.marylandpirg.org/foundation>

J Organization type (check only one) – 501(c) (3) ◀ (insert no) 4947(a)(1) or 527

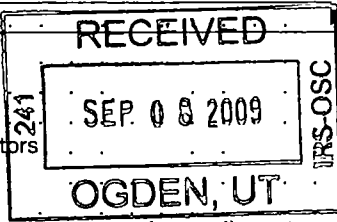
H Check ► if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF)

K Check ► if the organization is not a section 509(a)(3) supporting organization and its gross receipts are normally not more than \$25,000. A return is not required, but if the organization chooses to file a return, be sure to file a complete return

L Add lines 5b, 6b, and 7b, to line 9 to determine gross receipts, if \$1,000,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ ► \$ **96,989**

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances (See the instructions for Part I.)

	Description	Code	Amount
Revenue	1 Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received	1	84,006
	2 Program service revenue including government fees and contracts	2	
	3 Membership dues and assessments	3	
	4 Investment income	4	12,983
	5a Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	5a	
	5b Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	5b	
	5c Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (Subtract line 5b from line 5a) (attach schedule)	5c	
	6 Special events and activities (complete applicable parts of Schedule G). If any amount is from gaming, check here ► <input type="checkbox"/>		
	6a Gross revenue (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1)	6a	
6b Less: direct expenses other than fundraising expenses	6b		
6c Net income or (loss) from special events and activities (Subtract line 6b from line 6a)	6c		
7a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	7a		
7b Less: cost of goods sold	7b		
7c Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (Subtract line 7b from line 7a)	7c		
8 Other revenue (describe ► _____)	8		
9 Total revenue. Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6c, 7c, and 8	9	96,989	
Expenses	10 Grants and similar amounts paid (attach schedule)	10	
	11 Benefits paid to or for members	11	0
	12 Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits	12	45,796
	13 Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors	13	34,824
	14 Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance	14	6,187
	15 Printing, publications, postage, and shipping	15	3,256
	16 Other expenses (describe ► Conferences, depreciation, insurance, travel, supplies, etc.)	16	8,437
	17 Total expenses. Add lines 10 through 16	17	94,592
Net Assets	18 Excess or (deficit) for the year (Subtract line 17 from line 9)	18	2,397
	19 Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	19	432,211
	20 Other changes in net assets or fund balances (attach explanation)	20	
	21 Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 18 through 20	21	434,609



Part II Balance Sheets. If Total assets on line 25, column (B) are \$2,500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ

(See the instructions for Part II.)

	(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
22 Cash, savings, and investments	416,154	22	461,222
23 Land and buildings	0	23	0
24 Other assets (describe ► <u>accounts receivable, accumulated depreciation</u>)	28399	24	1,650
25 Total assets	444,553	25	468,863
26 Total liabilities (describe ► <u>accounts payable</u>)	12,342	26	34,255
27 Net assets or fund balances (line 27 of column (B) must agree with line 21)	432211	27	434,609

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Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
 (Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2004	(b) 2005	(c) 2006	(d) 2007	(e) 2008	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	158,618	\$171,341	\$62,063	\$115,870	\$84,006	\$591,898
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Total. Add lines 1-3	158,618	\$171,341	\$62,063	\$115,870	\$84,006	\$591,898
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						\$273,280
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4.						\$318,618

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2004	(b) 2005	(c) 2006	(d) 2007	(e) 2008	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	158,618	\$171,341	\$62,063	\$115,870	\$84,006	\$591,898
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	\$541	\$6,469	\$16,641	\$22,654	\$12,983	\$59,288
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)		0	0	0	0	0
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						\$651,186
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc (see instructions)				12		0
13 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2008 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	49 %
15 Public support percentage from 2007 Schedule A, Part IV-A, line 26f	15	55.5 %
16a 33 1/3 % support test—2008. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3 % or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
b 33 1/3 % support test—2007. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3 % or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		
17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2008. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		
b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2007. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)
(Complete only if you checked the box on line 9 of Part I.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2004	(b) 2005	(c) 2006	(d) 2007	(e) 2008	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
6 Total. Add lines 1-5						
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of 1% of the total of lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12 for the year or \$5,000						
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public support (Subtract line 7c from line 6)						

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2004	(b) 2005	(c) 2006	(d) 2007	(e) 2008	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6						
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b						
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
12 Other income Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV)						
13 Total support. (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12)						

14 **First five years.** If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2008 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	15	%
16 Public support percentage from 2007 Schedule A, Part IV-A, line 27g	16	%

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2008 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	17	%
18 Investment income percentage from 2007 Schedule A, Part IV-A, line 27h	18	%

19a **33 1/3 % support tests—2008.** If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3 %, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3 %, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

b **33 1/3 % support tests—2007.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3 %, and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3 %, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

20 **Private foundation.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions

Attachment to Part III:

In the face of powerful opposition from energy companies and utilities, Maryland PIRG Foundation continued our work to chart Maryland towards a clean, safe and affordable energy future.

Maryland continues to face serious energy challenges. Utility bills have skyrocketed 85 percent in the past ten years with hundreds of thousands of people receiving shut-off notices because they can't afford to pay their utility bills. Meanwhile energy forecasters predict the state could face brownouts or even blackouts in the near future.

The good news is that energy efficiency offers a solution to both problems – by helping customers lower their energy consumption through using energy more wisely we can lower bills and reduce demand for electricity.

Maryland PIRG Foundation and its 501(c)(4) sister organization Maryland PIRG Citizen Lobby have worked on the front-lines to make Maryland more energy efficient. In the spring of 2008 Maryland PIRG Citizen Lobby successfully passed two critical pieces of energy efficiency legislation for the state of Maryland. The EmPOWER Maryland energy efficiency initiative set a statewide goal for reducing per-capita electricity use 15 percent by 2015 and set interim goals that utility companies have to meet. The second bill established a dedicated \$34 million per year fund for energy efficiency programs, half of which will target low and moderate income households that the utility companies are likely to ignore.

Maryland PIRG Foundation helped create the political climate necessary for these reforms through research and advocacy. In March 2008 we published our report *Energy Saved, Dollars Earned: How Energy Efficiency Can Benefit Maryland Consumers* which profiled success stories of energy efficiency in other states. This report provided clear stories to the media and decision-makers about the benefit that supporting energy efficiency programs has on consumers of all kinds. We released the report in the home of a Crofton resident who had recently done a number of energy efficiency improvements to her home. The contractor who had done the work joined us for the news conference as well as leaders from the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA). The homeowner gave reporters a tour of her house and the contractor demonstrated a 'blower door test', one of the methods he uses to find air leaks in the house where heat can escape. The report provided the factual knowledge and the news conference provided the visibility necessary to raise the profile of the issue in the public's eye.

In the spring of 2009 under pressure from the economic downturn, Gov. O'Malley proposed diverting \$70 million from energy efficiency programs, and advisors to the General Assembly proposed diverting all of the funds to help address the budget shortfall. We organized low-income advocates including Catholic Charities, Energy Advocates, the Fuel Fund of Maryland and others to speak at news conferences and testify in Annapolis to demand long-term solutions like energy efficiency for these constituents. We also mobilized clean energy businesses, who are counting on continuity in energy efficiency funding to keep their businesses afloat. Small business owners from Baltimore to Montgomery County joined us to testify before the General Assembly and faxed their Representatives letters urging them to keep the energy efficiency funding intact. While we were pleased that lawmakers didn't raid all the funds as some had proposed and believe it is likely that our work played a role in preventing deeper cuts, they ultimately decided to divert \$70 million from energy efficiency programs over the next two years. Maryland PIRG

Foundation and our allies will continue working to build support in communities around the state to get these important funds reinstated.

We also continued our work to challenge Constellation Energy's plans to build a new nuclear reactor in Maryland. In July, 2008 we held a news conference alongside religious leaders like Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin, clean energy businesses from Southern Maryland and climate change activists to release the report "Powering Maryland's Future: How Clean Energy Outperforms Nuclear Power in Delivering a Reliable, Safe and Affordable Supply of Electricity". This report includes concrete analysis to show that there are better ways to meet Maryland's energy challenges than building a new nuclear reactor.

In August more than 60 people attended a public hearing at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore to submit public comments into the Public Service Commission's record to ask them to not grant Constellation Energy the permit they need to build a new reactor. We co-organized the event together with the Chesapeake Safe Energy Coalition, (the alliance we helped found in 2007), recruited speakers, attendees and media and ensured that a stenographer was present to capture all of the comments that had been submitted.

All in all we generated more than 74 media hits on this program area between June 2008 and June 2009, as well as one editorial board meeting with the Maryland Gazette newspapers.

Environmental Health:

Maryland PIRG Foundation and Maryland PIRG are working to protect public health by reducing exposure to dangerous toxic chemicals.

In 2008 and 2009, Maryland PIRG significantly ramped up its work to replace toxic chemicals with safer alternatives.

On June 10, 2008 Maryland PIRG Foundation held a news conference in Catonsville to release a survey of formaldehyde in children's nursery furniture that had been put together by the Environment California Research & Policy Center. The report garnered coverage on four area television stations, the *Baltimore Sun* and the *Baltimore Examiner*. Many of these media outlets linked to our report and a number of concerned parents contacted us in response. We added these parents to our listserv and continue to communicate with them about opportunities to get involved.

In September, 2008, the Environmental Working Group released a report on the toxic chemical decaBDE. The report concludes that children in the U.S. have the highest levels of decaBDE in their systems of any children in the world. Additionally, U.S. children have on average three times more decaBDE accumulated than their parents. Maryland PIRG Foundation's Kristi Horvath worked with Brenda Afzal from the University of Maryland School of Nursing and found a concerned mother who was willing to hold a news conference at her home to release the report. The event was covered and featured by a number of media outlets, including Baltimore's NBC network. We continue working with the mother who hosted the news conference to organize a broader network of concerned moms in the area.

Another opportunity to make new connections on toxics reform arose when Maryland PIRG Foundation released its 23rd Annual Toy Safety Report at three different locations throughout the state: Baltimore, Salisbury, and College Park. We partnered with local doctors, citizens and elected officials to publicly celebrate the recent federal victories to remove toxic phthalates and lead from our products and strengthen connections with key allies. Attorney General Doug Gansler spoke at our event in Baltimore; Delegate James Hubbard joined us for our College Park event; and we were joined at the Salisbury event by a pediatrician and a children's advocate. The three events resulted in more than 15 media hits on outlets between Ocean City, MD and Frederick, MD and helped push the Consumer Product Safety Commission to re-evaluate their weakening of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act.

The toy safety report release proved to be a valuable outreach tool as well. As a result of our media coverage on the issue, Johanna Neumann was invited to talk with a group of more than 60 Head Start parents in Northwest Baltimore about the dangers of toxic chemicals in children's products and the need for policy reform. In addition to being informed, many of the mothers agreed to write letters to their elected officials about their desire to reform chemical policy. We continue to communicate with the Head Start Coordinator about our toxics work.

We plan to continue to engage these partners on efforts to reform toxics policy. Our sister organization, Maryland PIRG Citizen Lobby, is working to pass legislation to eliminate the use of a toxic chemical known as decaBDE (decabrominated diphenyl ether) from consumer products by April 2009. DecaBDE is a flame retardant that is added to a variety of household products including some mattresses, couches, televisions, and computers, and over time it leeches out of the products and gets into the air. Studies demonstrate that it is a neurotoxin that impairs learning and memory, causes hyperactivity, damages reproductive organs, and causes liver cancer. Children are particularly at risk since their brain and bodies are undergoing development.

Maryland PIRG Foundation and Maryland PIRG Citizen Lobby have already laid the groundwork for replacing decaBDE and other toxic chemicals with safer alternatives. Thanks in part to this grant, Maryland PIRG Foundation has developed relationships across the state with key allies. Meanwhile, Maryland PIRG Citizen Lobby's advocate Fielding Huseeth, met with dozens of state senators to talk about decaBDE and the need for toxics reform. Nearly all senators were unfamiliar with the chemical decaBDE and the majority of senators knew little about chemical regulation in general. After meeting with one senator and discussing the issues, he indicated an interest in taking state level action to implement a "green chemistry" approach in which chemicals must be proven safe before hitting the market.

In early February, Fielding brought together a panel of witnesses including Brad Heavner of Environment Maryland, a representative of Environmental Working Group, a representative of MDE (Maryland Department of the Environment), and a strong coalition of firefighter groups to testify before the Environmental Matters Committee of the House of Delegates on decaBDE.

We also used our organization's existing outreach efforts to build momentum on the campaign. In February, 2009, Maryland PIRG Citizen Lobby began its phone campaign to contact Maryland PIRG members across the state to raise awareness on the issue, gather public comments, and raise funds for our advocacy efforts. Through the phone campaign our outreach staff will have conversations with hundreds of active members of the organization and gather a hundred petition signatures by the end of February.

We also conducted a letter-writing drive and generated more than 100 hand-written letters to Joan Carter Conway, the Chair of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee in the Senate, from her constituents. Sen. Conway was a critical target on this issue, since she controlled whether the bill would be called for a vote in the Senate Committee. Towards the end of session, we delivered more than 1,200 fliers to neighborhoods in her district urging her constituents to contact Sen. Conway and urge her to call the bill for a vote.

Unfortunately, pressure from the bromine industry, including intense lobbying and political contributions, kept Sen. Conway from calling the bill for a vote. But the bill gave us a platform to generate momentum for broader chemical policy reform in the coming year. The decaBDE bill proved critical for educating lawmakers on the need for new chemical policy, and in the process our c4 sister organization, Maryland PIRG Citizen Lobby, identified a new champion in the State Senate who is motivated to take action upon learning about our vision.

This program area generated more than 32 media hits between September 2007 and June 2008.

Transit Not Traffic:

Maryland PIRG Foundation is working to move forward a 21st Century Transportation System for Maryland.

Over the course of the past year, Maryland PIRG Foundation engaged in extensive research and outreach to lay the groundwork for reform on transportation policy at the state level.

From July 2008 through March 2009, we signed more than 30 local elected officials onto Maryland PIRG Foundation's 21st Century Transportation Principles, which advocate for more and better public transit, for fixing our roads and bridges before building new ones, and of working to reduce our dependence on oil and our air pollution. Signers include Mayor Sheila Dixon (Baltimore City), the City of Rockville (by City Council endorsement; Susan R. Hoffmann, Mayor). Mayor Andrew Hanko (New Carrollton), Mayor Adam Ortiz (Edmonston), Mayor Bruce Williams (Takoma Park), Howard County Executive Ken Ulman, Baltimore City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake as well as 6 of her colleagues on the City Council, the Asst. City Manager/Dir. of Economic Development Michael D. Jackson (Mount Rainier), a Takoma Park City Councilman, and more than 19 State Senators and Delegates.

On March 10, Maryland PIRG Foundation joined forces with students at the University of Maryland College Park to celebrate Transportation Freedom Day, the date by which the average family in the Washington-Baltimore region has earned enough income to cover transportation costs for the year.

We also engaged the media on the importance of expanding transportation options in Maryland. In December 2008, we released a whitepaper entitled "Economic Stimulus for the 21st Century or Roads to Nowhere?," a 16-state analysis of how states proposed using federal stimulus funds for transportation projects. Maryland PIRG Foundation commended Gov. O'Malley for proposing to use almost 40 percent of federal stimulus funds for public transportation.

On March 5, Maryland PIRG Foundation released a new report called "Making Tracks: The Case for Building a 21st Century Transportation Network in Maryland". Five TV outlets and two newspapers

attended the event and ran stories. Fellow speakers included MTA Deputy Administrator Henry Kay, CMTA President Otis Rolley, and a commuter named Ben Larson. At that event, we also released a statewide transit map that lays out a vision for what a 21st century transportation system in the state might look like (see enclosed).

Now Maryland PIRG Foundation is part of a statewide effort called Transportation for Maryland which is an alliance of organizations working to push for transportation solutions at the state and federal level in a coordinated way.

Democracy:

By working to reduce the influence of powerful special interests on the political process, Maryland PIRG Foundation is defending the core principles of our democracy.

Together with the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland, Common Cause Maryland, Democracy for Maryland, the Sierra Club, TrueVote and others, Maryland PIRG Foundation and Maryland PIRG Citizen Lobby worked to ensure that the transition to a secure voting system would continue in time for the 2010 election. Maryland PIRG Foundation helped to make the case for a secure voting system through research and media relations, while Maryland PIRG Citizen Lobby engaged in direct advocacy with lawmakers about taking action.

I am happy to report that in June 2009, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation clarifying the law that requires our state's voting system to produce a paper record of votes cast that can be used in case of a recount.