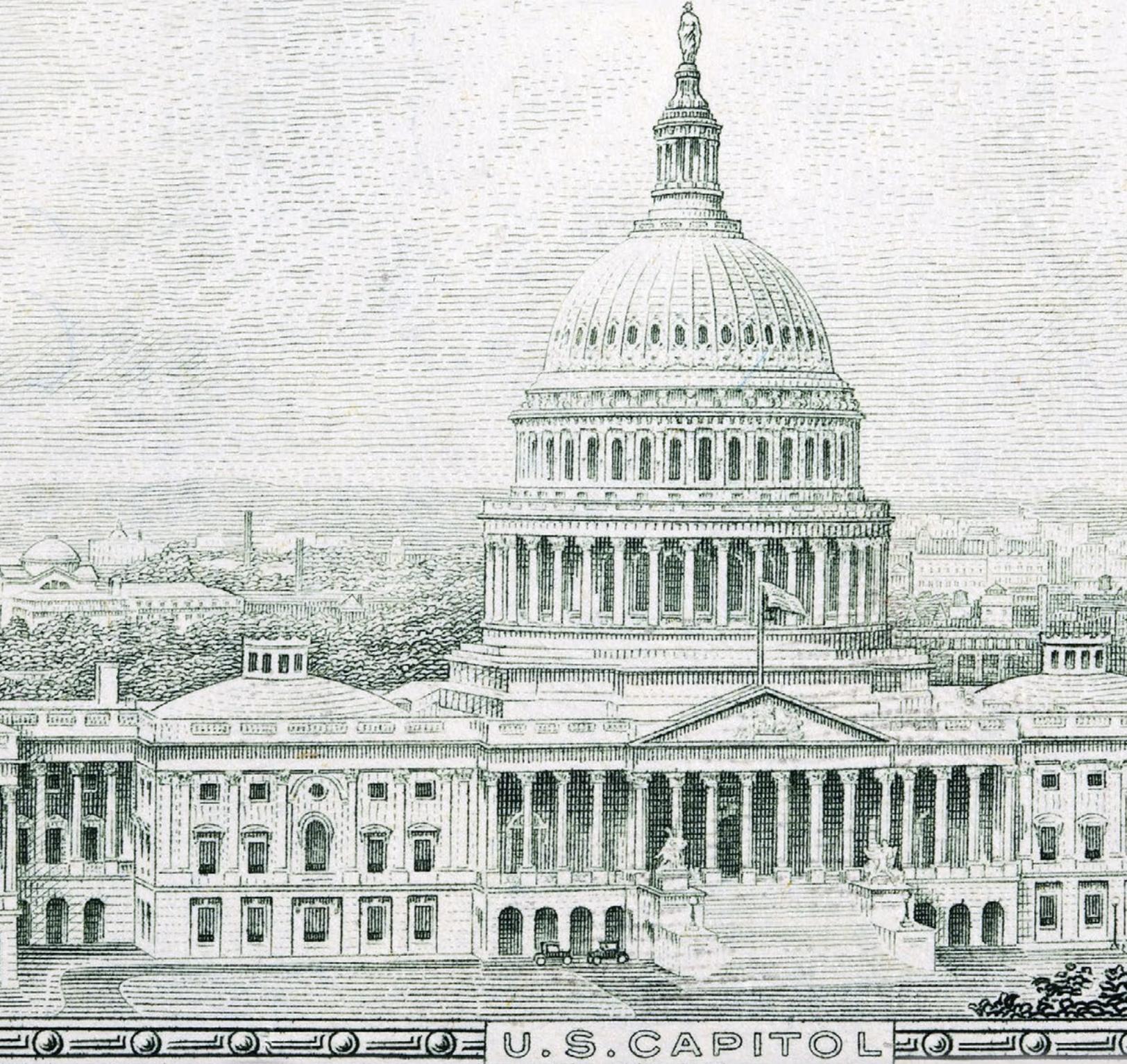


OPENTHEBOOKS

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



U.S. CAPITOL

# IN MEMORIAM



## U.S. SENATOR TOM A. COBURN, M.D.

March 14, 1948 - March 28, 2020

OpenTheBooks Honorary Chairman

Former U.S. Senator

Co-Sponsor of the 2006 "Google Your Government Act"

Public Law 109-282, 109th Congress

**TIME**100

MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE 2013

"You can be a vital part of the OpenTheBooks' drive to rally Americans."

"OpenTheBooks.com is one of the fastest growing and most effective organizations that I have seen. They expose the truth and provide us the transparency that we deserve."

"OpenTheBooks.com is doing the work I envisioned when the Coburn-Obama bill became law. Their innovative app and other tools are putting sunlight through a magnifying glass."

## REST IN PEACE



## Letter From Our Chairman Thomas W. Smith

In the last 20 years, our country's national debt has exploded. In 2001, when George W. Bush took office, the national debt was \$5.8 trillion. It took around 225 years -- booms, busts, depressions, wars, etc. -- to amass that much national debt. In just eight years, Bush and a compliant Congress doubled the number to \$11.7 trillion. In Barack Obama's two terms, another \$8.6 trillion was added. During the past four years, Donald Trump and Congress fought many battles, but not over this: In that time, America's future was mortgaged to the tune of another \$6.7 trillion. Today, the national debt is around \$27 trillion, a four-fold increase in the last two decades. That doesn't count unfunded mandates. And there is no end in sight.

Whenever human beings gather to accomplish a task, any task, without strong and effective oversight, a natural evolution takes place. Whether it be in business, academia, philanthropy, or government, every activity morphs from the original goal to self-aggrandizement. In government, this process is particularly toxic. There are no profits, let alone a profit motive. No concern with productivity. No incentive to turn off the proverbial lights. No measure of success. No motivation to end counterproductive activities.

Add to this mix the influence of public employee unions. Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry Truman were opposed to them for reasons that long ago became apparent. The goal of all unions is self-preservation - just as management's is to maximize profits. But public employee unions add two other noxious elements to the mix: (1) defending job incompetence and (2) heavy-handed involvement in the electoral process in a search for pliant politicians who can help them achieve their objectives by spending ever more of the public's money.

Now, out of the blue, the experts-for-hire have a new scheme to justify continued fiscal irresponsibility: modern monetary theory. It holds that so long as interest rates are lower than inflation rates, politicians can spend away. That is not a theory. It is idle wordplay, and the victim of such sophistry is the American taxpayer -- and future generations of American taxpayers.

Never in our history has fiscal soundness been more important. The exploding annual deficits of the last 20 years have produced a national debt as a percentage of the gross domestic product that is as high as it was during World War II even though our nation is at peace. Moreover, many severely underfunded programs such as Social Security and Medicaid are not included in today's debt calculations, although they should be.

The passage of a 5,593-page must-pass-quickly bill in December was indisputable evidence that the national debt will never be addressed from the top down. That legislation was sent to the Senate two hours before the vote. Who can read 2,800 pages per hour, 47 pages per minute? How can a responsible lawmakers vote on bills they have not read? While our political leaders have repeatedly told us how important this bill was to the survival of so many Americans, they delayed the bill for months for political reasons. A crucial-to-the-survival-of-so-many-Americans pork-filled bill? Some \$10 million to Pakistan for "gender programs"? Another \$700 million to Sudan for Lord knows what? And on and on and on.

History has a clear and repeated message: If we do not address this exploding debt, it will bring to life all-knowing leaders, leaders who Friedrich Hayek said possessed the "fatal conceit." They think they know more than is knowable. Leaders who have all the answers for everything they define as a problem: More regulations. More government control. More taxes. This is a noxious cure that has never succeeded, one that has left country after country in economic tatters.

Fortunately, the world is changing. Today, we have the means to address this financial irresponsibility, this threat to our country as our founders envisioned it. We are immersed in the Information Age, the Big Data world, the Cloud world, the Bitcoin world. The cost of communications is close to zero. Smartphones, iPads, and computers are a crucial part of everyday life. With the touch of a finger, one click, information on every topic is available 24 hours a day. Buy anything. Sell anything. Today, instant access to information is embedded in our culture. Why should government expenditures be exempt?

Transparency has always been the best antidote to rein in profligate government spending. Having instant information at our fingertips gives fiscally responsible Americans a powerful new weapon in the War on Waste. Today, there is no reason why every local, state, and federal government expenditure is not online, in real-time, available to every citizen. Taxpayers should be able to attend a school board meeting and pull up school expenses on their phones.

OpenTheBooks has a formidable weapon to unleash the voting public's ability to address this exploding national debt, this lack of transparency, this threat to our democracy -- the OpenTheBooks Government Expenditure Library, which contains over 5 billion (and growing) local, state, and federal government expenditures. Last year, we filed 40,500 Freedom of Information Act requests. We sued several government entities to encourage them to provide us the same information we collect from other states.

The OpenTheBooks Government Expenditure Library is open to everyone: Citizens. Politicians. Students. Academics. Scholars. Journalists. Think tanks. Everyone -- 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Transparency can be as revolutionary as the Internet has been for the economic well-being of the world. Transparency can not only enhance the odds of the survival of this, the greatest country in the history of the world but, over time, it will contribute to our prosperity, our health, and our happiness. Wasted taxpayer dollars are not just nonproductive. Waste allowed to exist encourages more waste. Fraud allowed to exist encourages more fraud. A financially sound economy, one that works to remove waste, fraud, duplication, and incompetence, will increase respect for government, for the rule of law.

OpenTheBooks places the future of this great country more firmly in the hands of the voters. To ensure our elected officials realize this, we have to communicate continuously with them what we expect and how we will vote. I suggest we begin with one clear public statement: "I will never vote for anyone who has voted for a bill they have not read." Register that statement at [OpenTheBooks.com/READTHEBILL](https://OpenTheBooks.com/READTHEBILL).

Obviously, our elected officials are unwilling to address this explosive, increasingly crucial national debt problem. Fortunately, we the taxpaying voters today have a weapon at our fingertips to successfully wage a War on Waste. Successful because our political leaders will quickly recognize that if they want to be reelected, they will have to respond accordingly.

Sincerely,

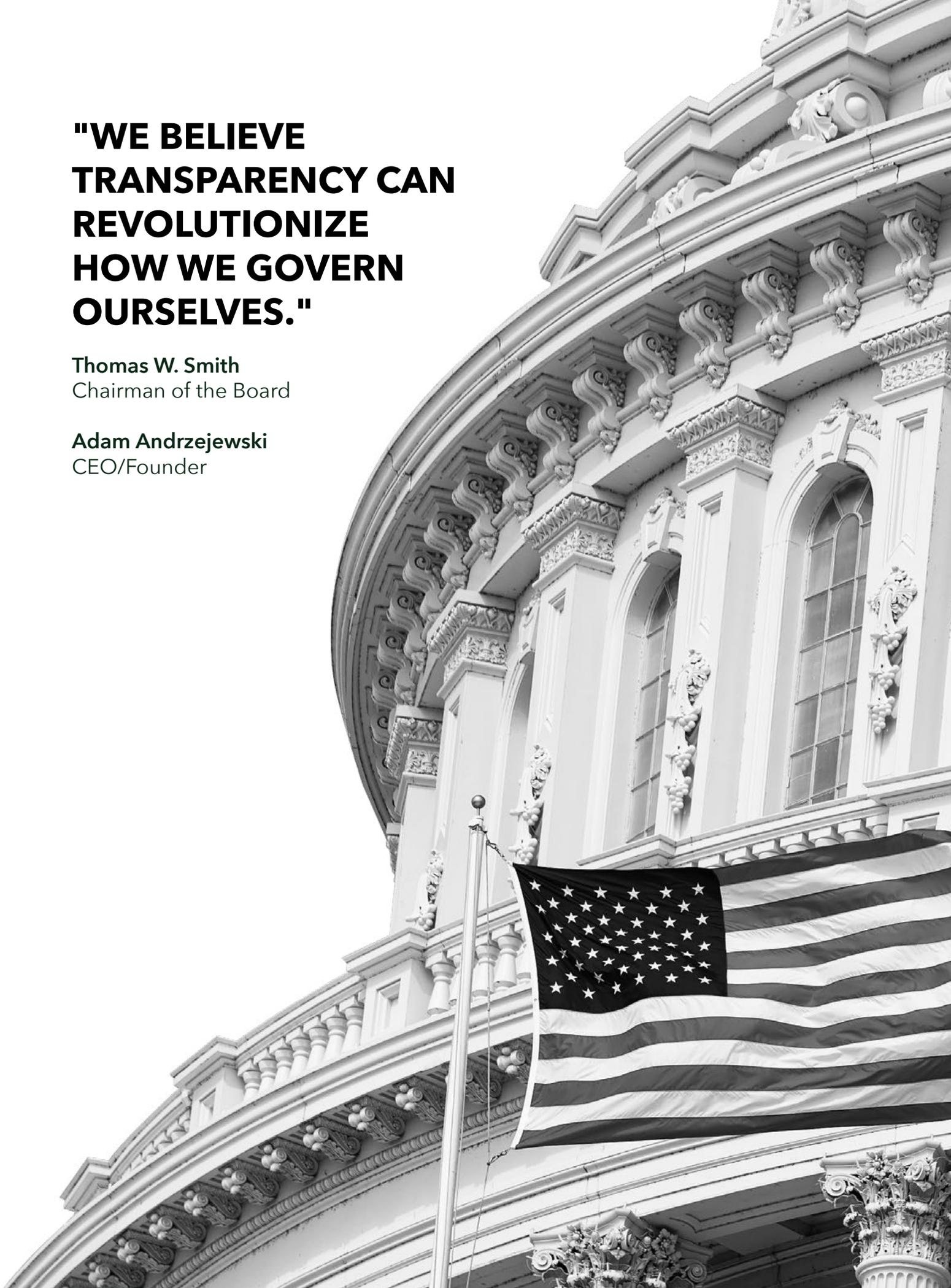


Thomas W. Smith, Chairman

**"WE BELIEVE  
TRANSPARENCY CAN  
REVOLUTIONIZE  
HOW WE GOVERN  
OURSELVES."**

**Thomas W. Smith**  
Chairman of the Board

**Adam Andrzejewski**  
CEO/Founder



## Letter From Our Chief Executive Officer & Founder Adam Andrzejewski

### Little did we know what 2020 would bring...

Thanks to your help, 2020 was our strongest year. We refused all government bailouts and kept all our promises to open and audit the books.

In March 2020, we shifted to a war footing by cutting all unnecessary expenses. Yet, we published more reports, received more media coverage, increased our website traffic, and our budget.

In 2020 we filed 40,500 Freedom of Information Act requests; published 40 investigations in the national media; launched six federal oversight reports; and sued California for their state checkbook expenditures.



### Our national reputation continues to grow.

The Tucker Carlson Show on Fox News, The New York Times, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, Boston Globe, C-SPAN, and many others cited our work. Our investigations published at Forbes received 5 million views. On YouTube, our presentation to the Hillsdale National Leadership Seminar has 2 million views. The President's Budget To Congress FY2021 cited our organization and two of our oversight reports.

Today, we are the world's largest private database of government spending with \$6 trillion in captured expenditures posted online.

**In 2021, our goal is 100 oversight studies.** Our objective is to promote our database as the OpenTheBooks Government Expenditure Library - so that everyone - all tax-paying citizens across America - can have access to public spending, at every level.

OpenTheBooks.com is the strongest voice in America for robust transparency and auditing of all public expenditures. Our mission has a constitutional basis. Article I, Section 9 of the United States Constitution reads, "...a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time."

We believe that transparency is revolutionizing U.S. public policy and politics.

Thank you for playing such a significant role in the Transparency Revolution!

Adam Andrzejewski  
CEO/Founder, OpenTheBooks.com

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"Power tends to corrupt and  
absolute power corrupts absolutely."  
**Lord Acton**

# OPENTHEBOOKS 2020 AT A GLANCE

"When you can't make them see the light, make them feel the heat."  
President Ronald Reagan



## \$6 TRILLION

CAPTURED  
TOTAL PUBLIC  
EXPENDITURES



## 23 MILLION

VIRTUALLY EVERY PUBLIC  
EMPLOYEE SALARY  
& PENSION RECORD  
AT EVERY LEVEL OF  
LOCAL, STATE, & FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT (FY2018)

Forbes

## 10.2 MILLION

ALL-TIME VIEWS AT  
FORBES ON OUR  
150 EDITORIALS



## 14.2 MILLION

FACEBOOK ENGAGEMENTS

(LIKES, CLICKS, REACTIONS, COMMENTS, ETC.)



## 1,087,472

WEBSITE SESSIONS AT  
OPENTHEBOOKS.COM



## 502,585

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS



## 200,000

EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS

## 41,500

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT  
REQUESTS FILED

## 3,062

MEDIA MENTIONS

## 40

INVESTIGATIONS  
PUBLISHED

## 6

OVERSIGHT REPORTS

## 49 of 50

CAPTURED STATE CHECKBOOKS  
BY OPENTHEBOOKS.COM

## 1

LAWSUIT AGAINST CALIFORNIA  
FOR REFUSING TO PRODUCE  
THEIR STATE CHECKBOOK

## 2 MILLION

YOUTUBE VIEWS ON  
*THE DEPTH OF THE SWAMP*  
BY CEO/FOUNDER  
ADAM ANDRZEJEWSKI

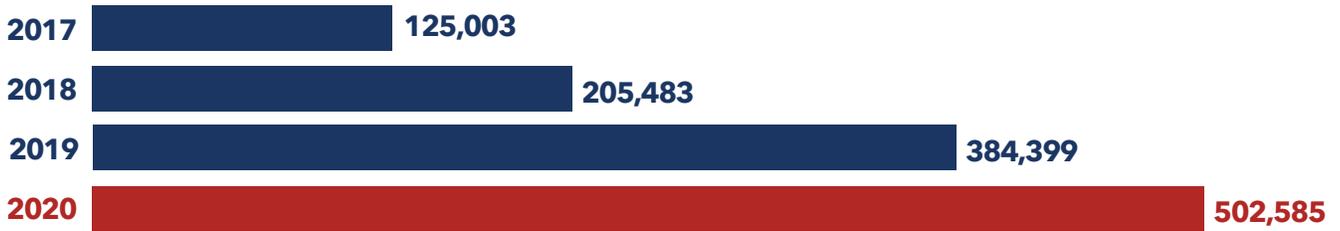
National Leadership Seminar  
Hillsdale College  
Naples, FL | February 2020

## 2

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET TO CONGRESS FY2021 CITED OUR *USE-IT-OR-LOSE-IT SPENDING SPREE* OVERSIGHT REPORT AND OUR REPORT ON THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT OF THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

# KEY METRICS (2017-2020)

## Facebook Followers



## FORBES Editorials Page views (OpenTheBooks)



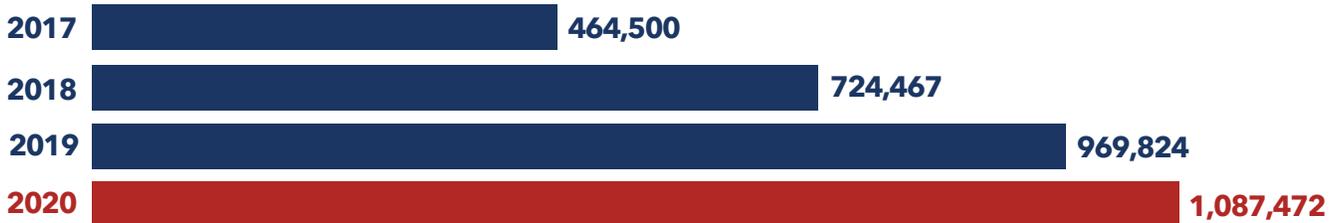
## Total Media Mentions

Source: Meltwater

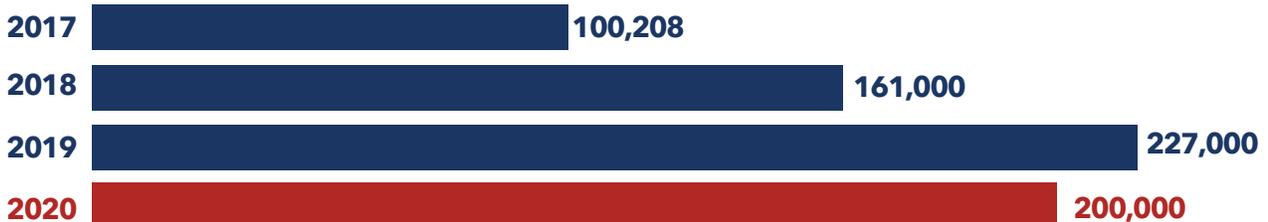


## Website Sessions

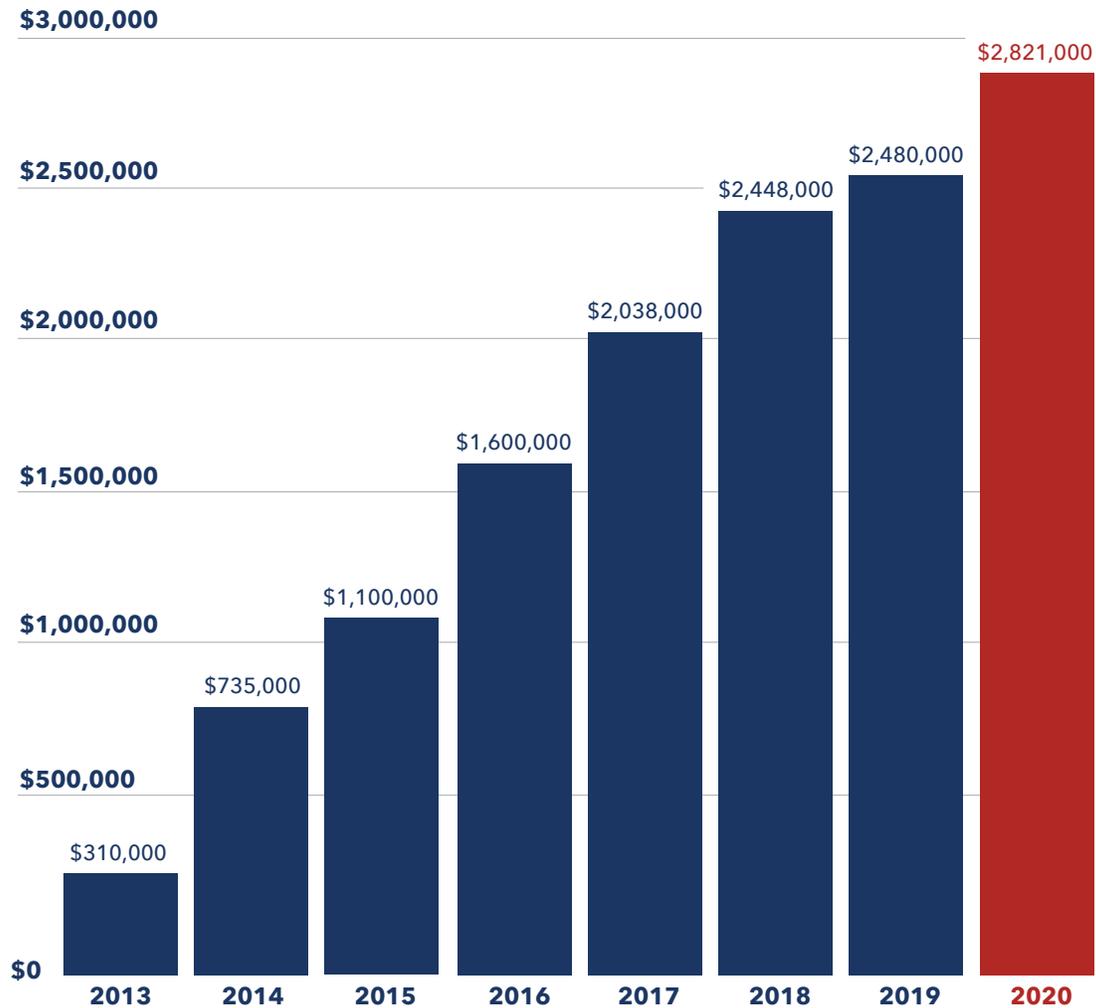
SOURCE: GOOGLE ANALYTICS



## Email Subscribers



# REVENUE BY FISCAL YEAR



## MORE DONATIONS = MORE INVESTIGATIONS

Thanks to your investments, our revenues continue to climb.

## AS SEEN IN



# ★ CALIFORNIA LAWSUIT

OpenTheBooks vs. The State of California



OUT OF THE 50 STATES, CALIFORNIA IS THE ONLY STATE THAT REFUSES TO PRODUCE ITS STATE CHECKBOOK TO OUR AUDITORS.  
**AS A RESULT, WE SUED THEM.**

Sign the Petition at <http://bit.ly/CAPetition> to help force California to open their books.

Our lawyers: Cause of Action, Washington, D.C.

# OPENTHEBOOKS GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE LIBRARY

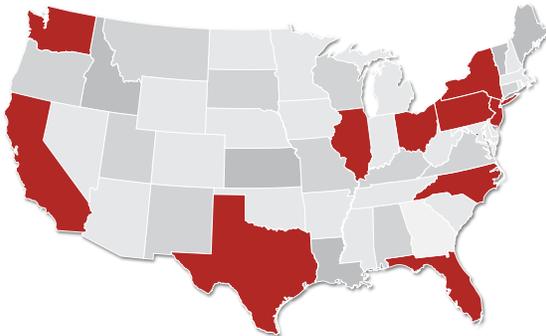
## DATA CAPTURE BY CRAIG MIJARES, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER & TEAM

Over the past 12 months, OpenTheBooks has filed **40,500 Freedom of Information Act requests** – the most in American history – enabling our auditors to capture 23.5 million public employee salary and pension records and \$6 trillion in public-spending.

OpenTheBooks captured 100% of 2019 federal salaries, bonuses and checkbook spending available. We have captured all available 2019 state salaries, pensions, and checkbook spending.

<b>SALARIES</b> 18.8 million total transactions \$983 billion	<b>CHECKBOOKS</b> 164 million total transactions \$6.01 trillion	<b>PENSIONS</b> 4.7 million total transactions \$9.1 billion monthly/ \$109 billion annually
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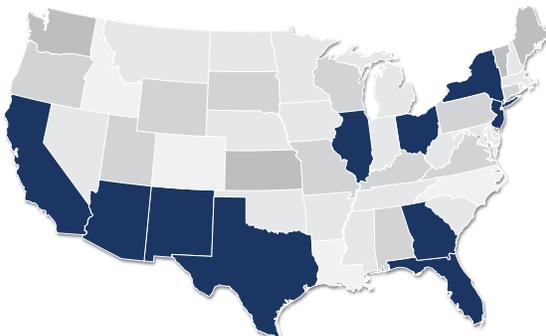
### TOP 10 SALARY SPENDING STATES



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1. CALIFORNIA</b><br/>\$131,642,608,776 spent<br/>1,885,254 salary records</p> <p><b>2. NEW YORK</b><br/>\$95,734,774,625 spent<br/>1,745,501 salary records</p> <p><b>3. TEXAS</b><br/>\$75,474,608,431 spent<br/>1,616,578 salary records</p> <p><b>4. FLORIDA</b><br/>\$38,582,954,632 spent<br/>875,955 salary records</p> <p><b>5. ILLINOIS</b><br/>\$35,897,521,481 spent<br/>646,905 salary records</p> | <p><b>6. OHIO</b><br/>\$27,708,673,339 spent<br/>655,503 salary records</p> <p><b>7. NEW JERSEY</b><br/>\$26,446,973,023 spent<br/>398,919 salary records</p> <p><b>8. WASHINGTON</b><br/>\$26,424,534,050 spent<br/>488,741 salary records</p> <p><b>9. NORTH CAROLINA</b><br/>\$25,002,854,175 spent<br/>569,574 salary records</p> <p><b>10. PENNSYLVANIA</b><br/>\$23,254,524,069 spent<br/>425,337 salary records</p> |
|--|--|

*\*Please note this data is inclusive of both state and local salary collection.*

### TOP 10 CHECKBOOK SPENDING STATES



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1. CALIFORNIA</b><br/>We are suing California for their state checkbook.</p> <p><b>2. NEW YORK</b><br/>\$369,937,779,925 spent<br/>16,552,924 transactions</p> <p><b>3. TEXAS</b><br/>\$191,761,288,118 spent<br/>22,471,942 transactions</p> <p><b>4. FLORIDA</b><br/>\$118,381,891,406 spent<br/>5,800,778 transactions</p> <p><b>5. ILLINOIS</b><br/>\$102,117,796,411 spent<br/>4,755,389 transactions</p> | <p><b>6. OHIO</b><br/>\$99,252,611,534 spent<br/>23,968,717 transactions</p> <p><b>7. NEW MEXICO</b><br/>\$81,924,911,103 spent<br/>2,504,361 transactions</p> <p><b>8. NEW JERSEY</b><br/>\$81,793,092,424 spent<br/>1,661,281 transactions</p> <p><b>9. ARIZONA</b><br/>\$80,526,668,903 spent<br/>15,623,582 transactions</p> <p><b>10. GEORGIA</b><br/>\$79,425,109,680 spent<br/>1,093,271 transactions</p> |
|--|--|

*\*Please note this data is inclusive of both state and local checkbook collection.*

# THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET 2021

## Submitted to Congress

Published February 2020



### The Budget Highlights our OpenTheBooks Oversight Report entitled *The Federal Government's Use-It-Or-Lose-It Spending Spree:*

“September, the end of the Federal fiscal year, is traditionally characterized by a surge in spending. Studies of Federal spending have shown that one out of every nine dollars in Federal contracts was spent in the last week of the fiscal year. On average, the Federal Government spends \$3.2 billion a day in contracts. In the last two days of 2018 alone 1, agencies spent \$10 billion a day.

According to data from the nonprofit group, Open the Books, of the \$97 billion spent by 67 Federal agencies in a “Use It or Lose It” spending spree in the final two days of 2018, expenditures included:

- China tableware (\$53,004)
- Alcohol (\$308,994)
- Golf carts (\$673,471)
- Musical equipment, including pianos, tubas, and trombones (\$1.7 million)
- Lobster tails and crab (\$4.6 million)
- Workout and recreation equipment (\$9.8 million)

While there are many reasons that last-minute improper spending occurs, there are currently misaligned incentives in the budgeting process which encourages this practice. Agencies recognize that if significant balances are left in their accounts at the end of a fiscal year, the Congress will likely reduce their topline budget in future fiscal years.

While some end of year spending is legitimate, the Administration is committed to closely scrutinizing how it spends money at the end of the fiscal year, and curtailing wasteful and questionable purchases. Americans deserve a Government that is meticulous at avoiding wasteful and unnecessary spending.”

### A Budget for America's Future - Page 17

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE BUDGET](#)

# 2020 OVERSIGHT REPORTS



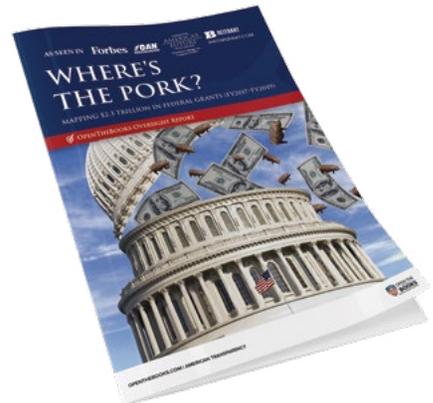
[✓ READ THE REPORT](#)

**Congressional Membership Has Its Privileges**  
Salaries, Pensions, Travel & Other Taxpayer-Funded Perks



[✓ READ THE REPORT](#)

**The Federal Government's Use-It-Or-Lose-It Spending Spree**  
How the Federal Government Spent \$91 Billion in September 2019



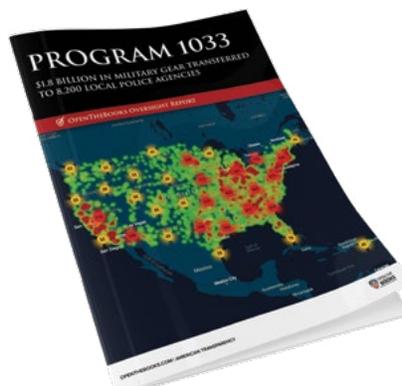
[✓ READ THE REPORT](#)

**Where's The Pork?**  
Mapping \$2.3 Trillion in Federal Grants (FY2017-FY2019)



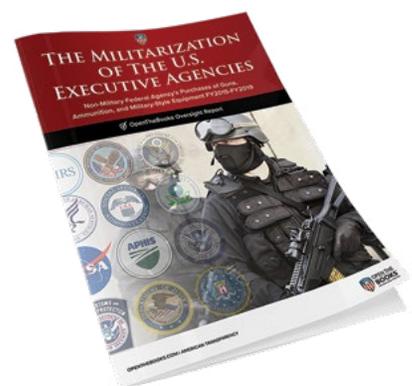
[✓ READ THE REPORT](#)

**Improper Payments**  
Analyzing \$2.3 Trillion Mistakenly Spent by the U.S. Government Since 2004



[✓ READ THE REPORT](#)

**Program 1033**  
\$1.8 Billion in Military Gear Transferred to 8,200 Local Police Agencies



[✓ READ THE REPORT](#)

**The Militarization of the U.S. Executive Agencies**  
Non-Military Federal Agency's Purchases of Guns, Ammunition & Military Style Equipment (FY2015-FY2019)

AS SEEN IN



# CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES

Salaries, Pensions, Travel & Other Taxpayer-Funded Perks  
Published: June 2020

[READ THE REPORT](#)

## MEDIA AND LEGISLATIVE IMPACTS

- **CNBC's American Greed:** No convicted Member of Congress has ever been stripped of their federal pension. Showcased Jesse Jackson, Jr.; Duncan Hunter; and Chaka Fattah. Airing: First Quarter, 2021
- **Forbes, Editors' Pick:** *Why Are U.S. Taxpayers Providing Public Pensions To Millionaire Members Of Congress?* June 30, 2020 | 458,056 views
- **Forbes, Editors' Pick:** *Perks Members Of Congress Give To Themselves* | May 29, 2020 | 93,588 views
- **Sinclair Broadcast Group:** ABC, NBC, CBS & FOX 200 stations, *Congressional Approval May Be Low, But The Perks Are Plentiful* | June 12, 2020 | 2.3 million audience
- **Forbes:** *Disgraced Congressman Chris Collins Will Likely Lose His Federal Pension - No Member Has Ever Been Stripped Of Their Pension*, October 1, 2019 | 59,997 views.
- **Forbes, Editors' Pick:** *Disgraced Congressman Duncan Hunter Will Likely Get His \$1.2 Million In Federal Pension - Despite His Felony Guilty Plea*, January 9, 2020 | 62,960 views
- **Legislation:** Sen. Mike Braun's (R-IN) bill to give Members the choice to opt-out of their congressional pension (S. 439). Legislation passed the U.S. Senate – June 2020

AS SEEN IN



# THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S USE-IT-OR-LOSE-IT SPENDING SPREE

How the Federal Government Spent \$91 Billion in September 2019

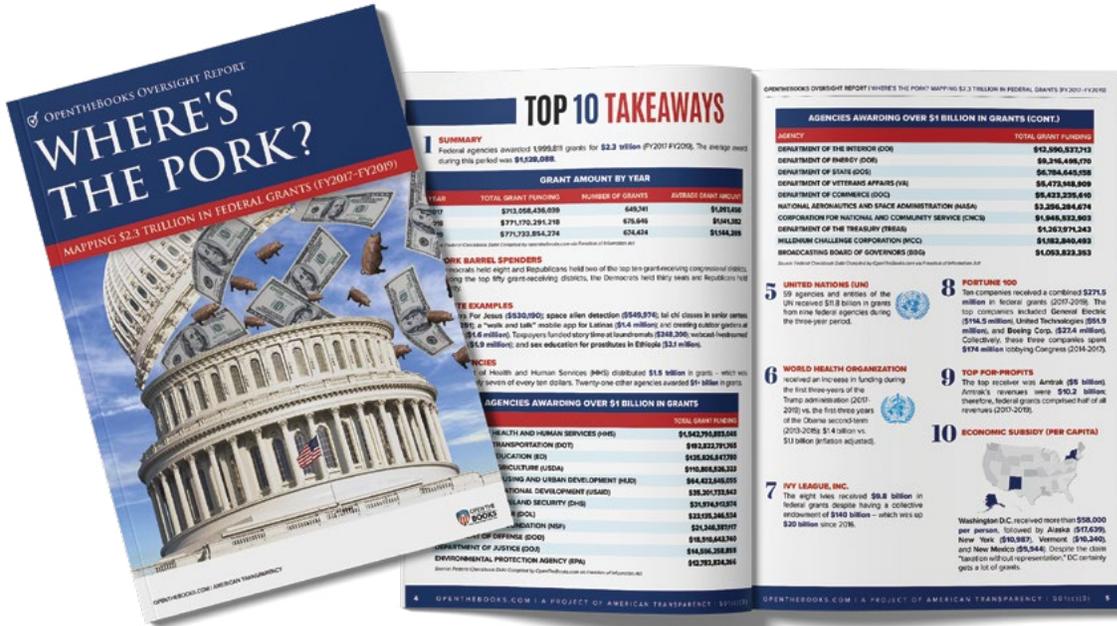
Published: August 2020

[READ THE REPORT](#)

## MEDIA AND LEGISLATIVE IMPACTS

- **CSPAN's Washington Journal** program hosted CEO Adam Andrzejewski for a prime-time 45-minute interview in exclusive TV launch of the report- Available in 50 million US homes - August 31, 2020
- Cited in the **President's Budget to Congress FY2021** (Feb 2020)
- **Legislation:** U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst Year-End Fiscal Responsibility Act (S.1238) & Rep. Dan Crenshaw Year-End Fiscal Responsibility Act (H.R.4559)
- **Paul Bedard's Washington Secrets** column highlighted our report at the Washington Examiner - August 21, 2020
- **Forbes, Editors' Pick, Ten Ways Binge Buying Bureaucrats Spent \$91 Billion In A Year-End Spending Spree 2019** - August 25, 2020
- **The Epoch Times**, Mark Tapscott's Politics Colum - August 20, 2020
- September **Squeal Award by Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA)** and oversight letter to Health and Human Services regarding their excessive Use-It-Or-Lose-It 2019 spending.
- **Jim Bohannon's Radio Show** featured 60-minute radio interview - 500 radio stations across the country with 6.5 Million listeners and a Talkers' Top 17 host - September 2, 2020

# AS SEEN IN



## WHERE'S THE PORK?

Mapping \$2.3 Trillion in Federal Grants (FY02017-FY2019)

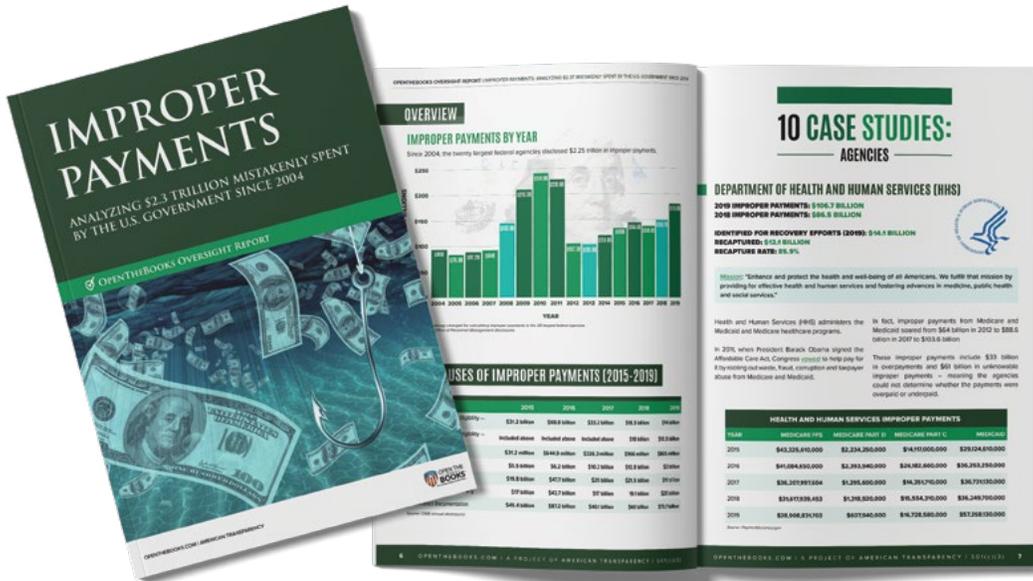
Published: October 2020



### MEDIA AND LEGISLATIVE IMPACTS

- Inspired the new chapter, Eliminating Wasteful Spending in the **President's Budget To Congress FY2021**.
- **Forbes, Editors' Pick:** \$3.5 Billion Has Flowed From U.S. Taxpayers To The World Health Organization Since 2010 | April 14, 2020 | 52,066 views. Data featured simultaneous to the Executive Order to defund WHO.
- **Bill Martinez Live:** Featured on 300 radio stations through the show syndicated on the Genesis Radio Network with a 20-minute interview.
- Interview segment on **One America News Television Network**. Available in 35 million homes.
- Featured by **PJ Media at Instapundit**, Mark Tapscott post - October 1, 2020
- Initiated **RealClearPolitics' daily #WasteOfTheDay** featured blog to include daily examples of "Where's The Pork" - debuting February 15, 2021.

## AS SEEN IN



# IMPROPER PAYMENTS

Analyzing \$2.3 Trillion Mistakenly Spent by the U.S. Government Since 2004

Published: November 2020

[READ THE REPORT](#)

### MEDIA AND LEGISLATIVE IMPACTS

- **ABC, NBC, CBS, & FOX affiliates of the COX Media Group (CMG):** Federal Government Pays People Who Shouldn't Be Receiving Payments | November 30, 2020 | Watchdog Says Six Million Active Social Security Numbers For People 112+ | December 18, 2020
- **Forbes**, 20 Largest U.S. Federal Agencies Admit Improper And Mistaken Payments Of \$2.3 Trillion Since 2004 | December 3, 2020
- **Real Clear Policy** posted our oversight report on their website.
- Radio interviews included **Jim Bohannon's 500 stations**, **Michael Berry's (Houston, TX), WLS Chicago Bill Cameron**, **Rob Schilling podcast**, **Jeff Reynold PJ Media podcast**, and **Dave Ellsworth- Little Rock, AR**.
- **Washington Examiner**, 20 Large Federal Agencies Wasted \$2.3 Trillion In Improper Payments Since 2004 | December 7, 2020

## AS SEEN IN



# PROGRAM 1033

\$1.8 Billion in Military Gear Transferred to 8,200 Local Police Agencies

Published: September 2020

**READ THE REPORT**

### MEDIA AND LEGISLATIVE IMPACTS

- **Forbes**, \$14.8 Billion Flows To Five Major U.S. Cities Where Civil Unrest Looms And Police Stand Down. "What's at stake in the defunding of lawless cities." August 8, 2020 | 62,841 views.
- **Forbes, Editors' Pick:** California Leads All States In Taking Advantage Of Military Surplus Wear-Gear Under Program 1033- September 17, 2020
- Popular interactive OpenTheBooks map of Program 1033 gear by ZIP Code received 34,714 views
- **Legislation:** U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst's Ending Taxpayer Funding of Anarchy Act (S. 4085) to restrict federal funding to anarchist jurisdictions - June 25, 2020. Our data used in Ernst's Squeal Award (August 2020)

SOFT LAUNCH: DECEMBER 31, 2020  
HARD LAUNCH: JANUARY 2021



# THE MILITARIZATION OF THE U.S. EXECUTIVE AGENCIES

Non-Military Federal Agency's Purchases of Guns, Ammunition, and Military-Style Equipment for FY2015-FY2019

**READ THE REPORT**

## KEY FINDINGS

- 27 traditional law enforcement agencies spent \$800 million on guns, ammunition, and military-style equipment during fiscal years 2015 and 2019.
- 76 administrative agencies spent \$110.6 million on guns, ammunition, and military-style equipment between fiscal years 2015 and 2019.
- Non-DOD federal employees with firearms (200,000+) now out-number U.S. Marines (186,000).
- Non-military federal spending on guns and gear averaged an inflation-adjusted \$192 million per year since 2006. In the last two years examined (2018-2019), spending averaged \$173 million, about 10 percent below the long-term average.
- The Internal Revenue Service, with its 2,159 “Special Agents,” spent \$21.3 million on guns, ammunition and military-style equipment between fiscal years 2006 and 2019. The agency stockpiled 4,500 guns and five million rounds of ammunition.
- Veterans Affairs spent \$25.5 million including 11 million rounds of ammunition since 2010. The VA has 3,957 law enforcement officers up from zero in 1996.

# PUBLISHED AT FORBES OUR MOST POPULAR INVESTIGATIONS

**TOP 10 ILLINOIS PUBLIC SCHOOL SALARIES & PENSIONS**

EDWARD MANSFIELD HOMEWOOD FLEETWOOD DISTRICT 233	SALARY	\$397,803.92
GREGORY JACKSON FOUR RIVERS SCHOOL 0908	SALARY	\$359,483.07
PRENTISS LEA LIBERTYVILLE COMMUNITY HS 0120	SALARY	\$359,054.15
LAWRENCE WYLLIE LINCOLN-WAY GSD 0210	PENSION	\$341,019.48
TIMOTHY KILBEE LYONS TOWNSHIP DISTRICT 04	SALARY	\$335,005.50
BRIAN HARRIS BARRINGTON CSD DISTRICT 729	SALARY	\$333,968.33
JAMES GUNWALT A.E.R.O. SPECIAL EDUCATION	SALARY	\$333,808.80
HENRY BANGSER NEW TIER RSD DISTRICT 202	PENSION	\$331,489.50
GARY CATALANI COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL 0930	PENSION	\$330,015.12
KEVIN MOHELY DOLTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 148	SALARY	\$324,725.21

### Why Illinois Is In Trouble

109,000 Public Employees With \$100,000+ Paychecks Cost Taxpayers \$14 Billion  
906,313 views | Published: April 27, 2020

**TOP 10 CALIFORNIA PUBLIC SCHOOL SALARIES & PENSIONS**

RONNIE EVEREST	DIANE TAYLOR	SALARY	\$450,115
CONNOR ANDER UNIFIED	MICHAEL LIN	SALARY	\$443,875
FREMONT UNION HS DISTRICT	POLLY DUVE	SALARY	\$395,357
ORANGE COUNTY DEPT. OF EDUCATION	WILLIAM HADENBERG	PENSION	\$389,096
ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT	CHRISTOPHER HOFFMAN	SALARY	\$351,885
ORANGE COUNTY DEPT. OF EDUCATION	AL MALIKS	SALARY	\$348,276
EDWIN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT	BREBBY FRANKLIN	SALARY	\$344,966
MOROS SECONDARY SCHOOL	MARY BREBY	SALARY	\$334,116
ELAN BEAUBORDING CITY UNIFIED	DALE MARDEN	SALARY	\$331,919
REDWOOD BEACH UNIFIED	STEVEN KELLER	SALARY	\$331,874

### Why California Is In Trouble

340,000 Public Employees With \$100,000+ Paychecks Cost Taxpayers \$45 Billion  
750,811 views | Published: May 19, 2020



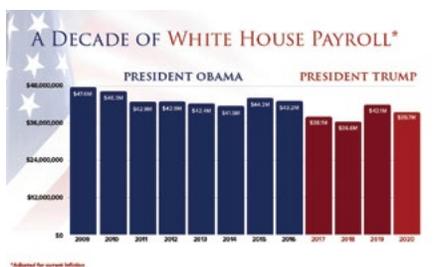
### Is There Wasteful Spending In The Coronavirus Stimulus Bill?

574,810 views | Published: March 26, 2020



### Why Are U.S. Taxpayers Providing Public Pensions To Millionaire Members Of Congress?

488,641 views | Published: June 30, 2020



### Trump's Leaner White House 2020 Payroll Saved Taxpayers \$23.5 Million Since 2017

474,856 views | Published: June 30, 2020

**TOP 10 SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT COMPENSATION (FY2019)**

RON MORGAN WILLIS	OFFICER	\$414,543
WILLIAM EDWARDS JR.	SERGEANT	\$380,277
STEVEN KIM	OFFICER	\$332,274
ERIC JERR	SERGEANT	\$331,413
BRIAN MILES	SERGEANT	\$328,338
MICHAEL CHIN	OFFICER	\$324,253
JOHN BROOKS	LIEUTENANT	\$318,140
TAD WILLOUGHBY	OFFICER	\$310,466
SINA FEINBERG	LIEUTENANT	\$305,975
SAMUEL DRABY	OFFICER	\$304,417

### Why The City Of Seattle And Their Police Department Is In Trouble

228,856 views | Published: June 23, 2020

**UNION POWER - TOP 10 REPRESENTING SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

UNION NAME	EMPLOYEE MEMBERSHIP COUNT	TOTAL COMPENSATION (\$M)
SEIU, Local 1021, Misc	17,321	\$1,575,630,868
Prof & Tech Ed., Local 91	8,416	\$965,519,148
Police Officers Association (POA)	2,456	\$318,117,168
SEIU, Local 1021, RN	3,472	\$448,891,840
Firefighters, Local 798, Unit 1	1,795	\$383,258,720
TWU, Local 290-A, Transportation	3,323	\$208,653,796
Unionized Care Assoc., Misc	1,374	\$200,851,128
Electrical Workers, Local 8	931	\$88,298,052
County Sheriffs' Assn (CSA)	756	\$58,573,788
Librarians, Local 708	1,553	\$129,242,591
TOTALS	29,030	\$3 BILLION

### Why San Francisco Is In Trouble

19,000 Highly Compensated City Employees Earned \$150,000+ In Pay & Perks  
190,778 views | Published: September 1, 2020

**TOP 10 NEW YORK PUBLIC SCHOOL SALARIES**

BUCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT	MICHAEL RING	\$547,050
CENTRAL ISIP UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT	LOUIS CELINZA	\$514,934
HARRISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	LOUIS WIGG	\$443,444
LOCHIST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	JANNA HUNTERFUND	\$385,806
FREEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS	KISHORE KUNSHAM	\$380,149
NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	RICHARDO CASARANO	\$357,973
JERICHO UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT	HEINRY GROSSMAN	\$354,891
ROCKVILLE CENTRE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT	WILLIAM JOHNSON	\$349,789
BROOKHAVEN-COMSEWOGUE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT	JOSEPH PELLA	\$348,528
THREE VILLAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	CHELYE PERSICCI	\$334,875

### Why New York Is In Trouble

290,304 Public Employees With \$100,000+ Paychecks Cost Taxpayers \$38 Billion  
190,005 views | Published: May 26, 2020



### Trump's New War On Wasteful Spending

An Advance Draft Of The President's Budget To Congress FY2021  
171,785 views | Published: February 6, 2020



### Reps Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez And Jerry Nadler Want \$4 Billion In Coronavirus Funding For Museums

126,614 views | Published: April 21, 2020

**TOP 10 TEXAS CITY MANAGERS COMPENSATION**

NAME	CITY	ANNUAL WAGES
RODRIGO DE LEON	LAREDO	\$680,486
SHERYL SCULLEY	SAN ANTONIO	\$574,594
PETER VARGAS	ALLEN	\$433,842
T.C. BROADNAX	DALLAS	\$406,850
SPENCER CROOK	AUSTIN	\$378,071
BRUCE GLASSCOCK	PLANO	\$374,537
DANIEL JOHNSON	RICHARDSON	\$357,744
GRAIG COOK	FORT WORTH	\$346,720
TOMAS GONZALEZ	EL PASO	\$340,740
ROBERT WOOD	WEST LAKE HILLS	\$279,940

### Why Texas Is In Trouble

78,064 Public Employees With \$100,000+ Paychecks Cost Taxpayers \$12 Billion  
114,681 views | Published: July 29, 2020



### Perks Members Of Congress Give To Themselves - The Selfie Report

108,397 views | Published: May 29, 2020

# KEY MEDIA



**Real Clear Politics published our announcement "Suing California to Produce a State Checkbook"**

January 23, 2020



**Hillsdale College National Leadership Seminar presentation by CEO/Founder, Adam Andrzejewski**

Naples Florida - Audience: 900 attendees  
2 million YouTube views | February 20, 2020



**Fox News' "Tucker Carlson Tonight"**

Highlighted our data oversight on Centers for Disease Control (CDC) spending.  
Audience: 3.6 million  
February 27, 2020



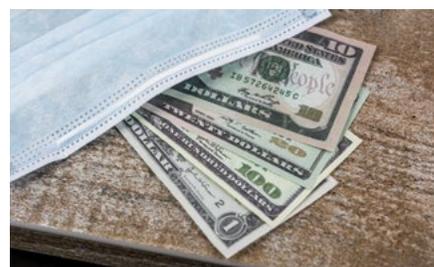
**Drudge Report Featured our CARES Act Investigation**

Originally published by Forbes  
536,731 views | March 26, 2020



**USA TODAY: "Rich hospitals, poor safety plans leading up to coronavirus: Should rules change for them now?"**

Circulation: 1.4 million | May 15, 2020



**Wall Street Journal featured our interactive map of PPP mega-loans made to "small" businesses**

Circulation: 2.83 million | July 8, 2020



**Real Clear Politics: HEROES ACT – Democrats Wasteful Bailout**

By Thomas W. Smith & Adam Andrzejewski  
August 28, 2020



**CSPAN hosted our CEO for a prime-time 45-minute interview**

Launched our "Use-It-Or-Lose-It Spending Spree" oversight report.  
Available in 50 million U.S. homes.  
August 31, 2020



**New York Post: "Hospitals gave Gov. Andrew Cuomo a campaign booster shot New York"**

New York Post is the fourth largest newspaper in U.S. | October 26, 2020



**ABC News Atlanta and NBC News Pittsburgh featured our oversight report, "Improper Payments"**

November 23, 2020



**ABC News Atlanta and NBC News Washington, D.C.**

Featured our oversight "Checks To Dead People"  
December 18, 2020



**The Boston Globe cited our "Congressional Membership Has It's Privileges" oversight report in its "The Arguable" newsletter**

December 21, 2020

# LEGISLATION

## OPENTHEBOOKS HELPED INSPIRE FOUR BILLS IN CONGRESS.

### Legislation H.R. 2612

#### Federal Employee Disclosure Transparency Act

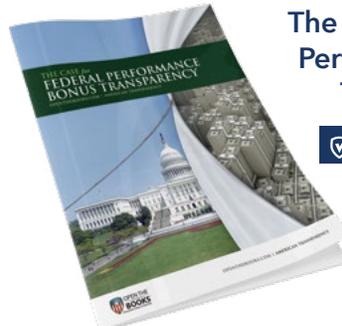
Moody's estimates that the unfunded federal pension liability is \$3.5 trillion. Yet, pension data is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Furthermore, in FY2018, there were one million federal bureaucrats who received a "performance bonus." Yet, none of those bonuses were disclosed.

We worked closely with U.S. Rep. Jody Hice (R-GA) and Freedom Works, Washington D.C., to introduce [this bill](#) designed to open the books on federal pensions and reveal how \$1.1 billion was spent on one million performance bonuses.



#### The Case For Federal Pension Transparency

[READ THE REPORT](#)



#### The Case For Federal Performance Bonus Transparency

[READ THE REPORT](#)

### Legislation S.1238

#### End-of-Year Fiscal Responsibility Act

In FY2019, U.S. Senator Joni Ernst introduced [this bill](#) to stop the wasteful practice of "Use-It-Or-Lose-It" year-end spending. This bill used data collected in our oversight report showing that nearly \$100 billion in federal contracts were spent in the last month of the fiscal year. In other words, federal agencies spent 20% their annual budgets in the final 8% of the year in order to avoid having their budgets cut the next fiscal year.

### Legislation S.1333

#### Stopping Improper Payments to Deceased People Act

A [bi-partisan bill](#) co-sponsored by U.S. Sens. Kennedy (R-LA) and Carper (D-DE) would stop improper payments to dead people. The bill relied on data compiled from inspector general reports and from our federal improper payments investigation published in Forbes. We found nearly \$1 billion in annual payments to people who are deceased.

### Legislation S.2722

#### SWAG Act - Stop Wasteful Advertising By The Government Act

Sponsored by Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA), [this bill](#) would stop all federal advertising unless specifically mandated by law. The legislation was built on our 2015 oversight report, The Department of Self-Promotion, How The Feds Spent \$4.5 Billion On Public Relations.



 **AS SEEN ON YOUTUBE**

2 MILLION VIEWS   55,000 LIKES   7,415 COMMENTS

# THE DEPTH OF THE SWAMP



**BY ADAM ANDRZEJEWSKI, CEO OF OPENTHEBOOKS.COM**  
HILLSDALE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP SEMINAR  
NAPLES, FLORIDA | FEBRUARY 20, 2020

PORK, CORRUPTION, WASTE, FRAUD, SAN FRANCISCO POOP,  
NEW YORK RATS, IVY LEAGUE, INC. AND MORE

**"THE SWAMP IS DEEPER  
THAN ANY OF US DARED  
TO IMAGINE..."**

 **WATCH ON YOUTUBE**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS & KEY PEOPLE



### **Thomas W. Smith | Chairman of the Board**

New York, NY. Mr. Smith is the founding partner of Prescott Investors. He was the managing partner of Whitcom Investment Company in New York and a partner with Reynolds and Company. Mr. Smith is currently a trustee of the Manhattan Institute. He has served on a number of corporate boards. He is the past Chairman of the National Center for Policy Analysis and the past Chairman of St. Ann School in New York City. He was a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. He received his Master's Degree in Economics from the University of California - Berkeley and his Bachelor's Degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.



### **Adam Andrzejewski | Founder, Board Secretary & Chief Executive Officer**

Adam Andrzejewski is the CEO and Founder of OpenTheBooks.com. Adam is an entrepreneur - and before founding OpenTheBooks, he co-founded HomePages Directories, a \$20 million publishing company (1997-2007). Most recently, Adam has spoken at Harvard Law School and the Columbia School of Journalism. In 2020, Adam's findings through OpenTheBooks.com were featured in the President's Budget to Congress. As a contributor at Forbes, Adam's editorials have received 11+ million views. His works have been featured on Good Morning America, ABC World News Tonight, the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Chicago Tribune, FOX News, and CNN. In 2010, Adam ran for Governor of Illinois. He's a graduate of Northern Illinois University. Adam has run the Chicago Marathon seven times. He's married to Kerry with three daughters and lives in Hinsdale, Illinois.



### **Bruno Behrend, J.D. | Board Member**

River Forest, IL. Mr. Behrend, J.D., is the past Chairman of American Transparency. Just prior to helping found American Transparency, he was the director of the Center for Transforming Education at The Heartland Institute, where he remains a Senior Fellow on education issues. Behrend is a graduate of the University of Illinois (1983) with a degree in finance and a graduate of IIT-Kent College of Law (1990). He is licensed to practice law in Illinois. In 2008, Behrend coauthored Illinois Deserves Better - The Ironclad Case for an Illinois Constitutional Convention, the release of which coincided with a campaign to pass a referendum calling for a Constitutional Convention in Illinois.



### **Jameson G. Campaigne | Treasurer**

Ottawa, IL. Mr. Campaigne co-founded (1960) and later was a long term board member of Young Americans for Freedom, the first nationwide conservative youth group. After college, Jameson rose to managing editor at the Henry Regnery Company, and published works by Frank Meyer, William F. Buckley, Jr., Russell Kirk, and many others. In 1975, he founded Green Hill Publishers and Jameson Books (1986) producing more than fifteen million copies of conservative books. Jameson serves the American Conservative Union board (since 1974), and the National Humanities Institute, Mont Pelerin Society member (1971), and helped found or served on the board of the National Tax Limitation Committee, The Media Institute, and The Philadelphia Society.



### **Chuck Chokel | Board Member**

Born and raised in Shaker Heights, Ohio. Graduated from Williams College (1975) and from the University of Chicago (1977) with a MBA degree. Worked at Chubb Corp while going to night school. In 1978, joined Progressive Corp. and held 14 different positions with steadily increasing responsibilities. During 23 years, Chuck rose to be Co-CEO, Chief Investment and Capital Officer. He managed Progressive's \$10+ billion portfolio and was a member of Progressive's Board of Directors. In 2001, Chuck was the CFO of Conesco Financial for eleven months. Between 2002-2008, Chuck was Senior Partner of White Mountains Insurance Group and served as Chief Claims Officer at One Beacon; Co-CEO at One Beacon; Head of Internal Audit for White Mountains Group; CFO for White Mountains Reinsurance Group; and on the board of Esurance for five years. He has completed 300 triathlons including forty half ironman distance events and eleven full ironman distance events. Competed in Hawaii Ironman World Championships in 2005 and 2006 and finished both years. In 2019, Chuck won his age group in the Senior Olympic triathlon.



**Lisa Markham | Board Member**

Sarasota, FL. Ms. Markham has been a lifelong Libertarian since reading Hayek’s The Road to Serfdom at age 15. She attended Smith College where she read Medieval History, French and Italian. A former vice president with Citibank, she has a Master’s of Business Administration from Kellogg at Northwestern and a Master’s Degree in the Fine and Decorative Arts from the University of Glasgow in Scotland. She participates in the promoting of transparency, accountability, and honest government through her leadership role at American Transparency.



**Craig Mijares | Chief Operating Officer**

Boca Raton, FL. Craig Mijares is the Chief Operating Officer for American Transparency. Mr. Mijares has a B.A. in Computer Information Systems from DeVry University. He has worked in executive compensation and benefits administration for over 20 years with an industry leading firm where he has lead teams of over 100 associates. Mijares is responsible for our overall technology direction, and is the chief designer of the OpenTheBooks.com portal. Mijares is the prime driver of our award winning Open The Books mobile application, widget, interactive mapping features, proprietary data capture tools, spending clocks, and SNAPSHOT™ Transparency Reports.



**Courtenay Lyons | Development Director**

New York, NY. Courtenay Lyons is the Director of Development for American Transparency. Mrs. Lyons joined OpenTheBooks in 2020 with nearly 10 years of experience in philanthropy. Most recently, she served as a consultant at CCS Fundraising where she worked with several leading nonprofit institutions in the greater New York area. Prior to CCS, she spearheaded donor strategy and communications for the Thomas Jefferson Foundation (Monticello). Courtenay graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.A. in American Politics in 2012 and is a graduate of The Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership. She resides in Manhattan with her husband, John, and their dog, Gracie.



**Sejjelle Erastus-Obilo | Media Associate & Graphic Designer**

Since Sejjelle’s journey with OpenTheBooks began in 2019, she has spearheaded the organization’s design and marketing, refining its brand image. This includes designing oversight reports and graphics for social media, Forbes, and more. Prior to OpenTheBooks Sejjelle freelanced for 7 years - clients included Chevrolet and The Arrivals Group Immigration Law. Sejjelle is a Benedictine University alumna, with a BBA in Marketing. She was born in England and has lived in Aurora, IL for 15 years.



**Matthew Tyrmand | Deputy Director at Large**

Matthew joined founder Adam Andrzejewski in 2013 and helped launch OpenTheBooks nationally. Previously, Tyrmand spent a decade plus running healthcare and telecommunications portfolios for top hedge funds on Wall Street. He is a graduate of the Think Tank MBA of the Atlas Leadership Academy, a Claremont Lincoln Fellow, and a member of the Philadelphia Society. He graduated from University of Chicago in 2003. He is also an engaged Polish dual citizen and active in the Polish and European-wide civil, political, and economic debates and is published widely in Poland as an editorialist and analyst and the author of two books.

# SUMMER INTERNS

Sponsored by Chuck Chokel, Board Member

**Brett Abbott**

University of Indiana,  
Kelley School of Business,  
Bloomington, Indiana

**John Gerald**

Colgate University,  
Hamilton, New York

**Eric Gough**

Hillsdale College,  
Hillsdale, Michigan

**Tyler Guerriero**

University of Pittsburgh,  
Joseph M. Katz Graduate  
School of Business,  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Anita Kinney**

Northwestern University  
Law School,  
Evanston, Illinois

**Craig Smith**

Amherst College,  
Amherst, Massachusetts

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- Reducing tax consequences of unused retirement savings
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