



Frequently Asked Questions

MORE ABOUT CRI

The Caesar Rodney Institute (CRI) is a non-profit, non-partisan research and educational organization. The Institute's mission is to develop and publicize voluntary, market-oriented ideas that strengthen Delaware's economy, support personal responsibility and secure individual freedom.

Through its work, CRI acts to reduce governmental intrusion in the personal and business affairs of Delawareans. The vision is a society of free and responsible individuals. To accomplish our goals, CRI publishes studies, organizes public forums and publicizes data reflecting government and economic performance in Delaware, among other activities.

The principles of classical liberalism guide the Caesar Rodney Institute's work. Among these principles are: the recognition of inalienable individual rights and the dignity and worth of each individual; protection of those rights through the institutions of private property, contract, and the rule of law; and the advocacy of personal responsibility, property rights and the ideal of volunteerism in all human relations, including support for the virtues of the market economy.

For maximum impact, CRI targets its educational and marketing efforts at businesses, education and community leaders, the media and top-level appointed and elected government officials. These are the individuals influencing and shaping public opinion. CRI's many supporters, who span the political spectrum, help spread the word about our efforts on a grassroots level. In a general sense, CRI does not "serve" any particular special interest group – we serve only the residents of the state of Delaware by providing well-researched and pragmatic alternative solutions to public policy issues.

In accordance with its institutional philosophy, and to maintain independence, ***The Caesar Rodney Institute neither solicits nor accepts government funding.*** The Institute relies solely on **voluntary contributions** from individuals, corporations and foundations. ***Those who make a tax-deductible contribution of \$25 or more to help CRI continue its work will be among the first to receive all Institute reports.***

GENERAL INFORMATION

When was CRI founded?

The Caesar Rodney Institute was founded in 2008 by a group of concerned Delawareans.

Where does CRI get its funding?

CRI is funded entirely from the voluntary contributions of individuals, foundations and corporations. ***CRI neither solicits nor accepts government funding.*** CRI does not make public the names of individual donors without their prior consent.

Who supports CRI?

Individuals who support the Caesar Rodney Institute span the political spectrum from neo-liberal to conservative, populist to libertarian and independent. What CRI supporters have in common is an interest in an accountable and efficient government.

Are there other groups in Delaware that do what the Caesar Rodney Institute does?

No, CRI is unique. It is the only Delaware organization that covers a broad range of public policy issues and promotes solutions based on a framework of individual liberty, property rights, free markets and limited government, with a focus on Delaware state and local government. Other single issue organizations do exist in Delaware that share an overlapping philosophy.

Are there groups similar to CRI in other states?

Yes. CRI is a member of the State Policy Network (SPN). SPN is a coalition of some 50 other state-level, free-market institutes across the country.

Are there any groups on the national level that are similar to CRI?

Yes, the Cato Institute and the Competitive Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC, and the National Center for Policy Analysis in Dallas, Texas.

Is CRI affiliated with any political party?

No. The Caesar Rodney Institute is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan public policy research institute, commonly referred to as a "think tank." It is not affiliated with any political party, political organization, or political action committee (PAC).

What is the smallest contribution that one can make to get Institute reports and studies?

CRI gladly accepts contributions of any size. However, a \$25 minimum contribution is suggested if a person or organization wishes to receive every Institute publication, report, book, and study, as well as invitations to CRI events. Individuals who contribute less than \$25 will be placed on our mailing list, but they will only receive selected publications.

Individuals can also do general volunteer work in the Institute's office or help coordinate specific events. In-kind contributions are also welcome, i.e. donations in the forms of goods (computers, printers, filing cabinets, etc.) or services (printing, editing, writing, etc.).

Does CRI have a board of Board of Scholars?

Yes, CRI has a board of Board of Scholars in addition to a Board of Directors. The Board of Scholars drafts, reviews and edits Institute publications for accuracy and clarity. They also suggest possible topics to be studied.

Is a free-market institute necessarily conservative?

No. To paraphrase the late Joseph Overton, former executive vice president of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, to call a person a conservative because they support a free-market economy and property rights is like calling someone a vegetarian because they like green beans. The same is true of institutes that support free-markets over command and control economies. There are many varieties of conservatism; one of those varieties is people who are fiscally conservative and socially liberal. They are libertarians.

CRI's philosophical roots can be traced to Henry David Thoreau, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, Rose Wilder Lane, John Locke, James Madison, George Mason, Ayn Rand, and Adam Smith. Contemporary equivalents include Milton Friedman, Friedrich A. Hayek, Ludwig von Mises, Charles Murray, P.J. O'Rourke, Thomas Sowell, and Walter Williams.

On what topic areas does CRI direct its efforts?

CRI concentrates on five main areas: education, tax and budget issues, health care, open government and the environment/energy.

Does CRI do research on non-economic issues?

Yes. However, CRI focuses almost solely on the economic, taxation and budgetary aspects of any issue that it researches. CRI also concentrates on property rights in its work. CRI's research on non-economic issues is grounded in individual liberty and personal responsibility.

Do CRI policy analysts and staff members do public speaking?

Yes. CRI policy analysts and staff members routinely appear on radio and television programs, as guests on public forum panels and they talk before civic groups and organizations. Inquiries about speakers are welcomed.

How does CRI get its message out? Who are the primary recipients of its publications?

The Caesar Rodney Institute distributes its studies to its database of supporters and contributors, legislators, top-level government officials, the media--electronic and print, educators and select audiences. CRI policy analysts and staff members routinely appear on radio and television programs, as guests on public forum panels and give presentation before a variety of civic groups and organizations.

What can an intern or volunteer expect from CRI?

Undying gratitude! As is the case with every organization, there exists more work than resources. CRI is truly grateful for those who give their time to help the Institute fulfill its mission. Volunteers can expect: help in obtaining university, college or high school credit for their efforts if desired; assistance with research related to public policy issues; invitations to CRI's public functions; the opportunity to write and receive credit for radio commentaries; to learn about private, voluntary solutions to public policy problems; to sharpen their event organizing skills; to occasionally do research; to help with light administrative tasks; and, assist with the editing of CRI publications.

What does CRI expect from volunteers?

We expect volunteers to complete their tasks in a responsible, thorough, and timely manner, as well as act in a professional manner while performing them. We ask that volunteers contact the office when they are unable to work at a scheduled time. We encourage volunteers to ask questions and to make suggestions as to how things can be done better, be it the layout of a publication, the organization of an event, or the performance of a routine task. We expect volunteers to offer their honest opinions and stand behind them. Finally, we expect that volunteers will display independence and initiative.

Teamwork at the Caesar Rodney Institute

The Caesar Rodney Institute operates on a team basis, if you see a team member fumbling, help him or her. This helps ensure that you'll be helped. If you think that there is a better way, an easier way, a more effective way to do something, speak up! Good ideas are always appreciated. Even if your idea can't be used now it may spark another idea that can be, or it will be adopted down the road.

Finally, if you have a question, ask it. Even in a small office it is easy to lose track of the many things that are going on, or for things to get misplaced. The more you know, the better we can all do our job. Again, if you have a question, ask it.