



## **Mission Statement**

Citrus Political Action Committee is dedicated to making the political process more accessible to young Americans. We will support young candidates early in their political careers, give young voters a presence in political debates through issue and candidate campaigns, and offer students the opportunity to run their own ongoing campaign. We do this because we believe that future generations must build a stronger progressive coalition if we are to ever attain social justice, protect personal freedom, and embrace responsible global citizenship in America.

We will support young candidates early in their political careers. Citrus PAC will aggressively seek out and indefatigably support young candidates who meet several criteria. A Citrus PAC candidate should have few years and fresh ideas. We want to support candidates who are unafraid to forward progressive values and who focus on issues that will affect America for years to come. Citrus PAC candidates should also demonstrate a willingness to experiment with innovative campaign techniques designed to mobilize a new generation of voters. Finally, a Citrus PAC candidate should have potential to achieve higher office in the future.

We will give young voters a presence in political debates through issue and candidate campaigns. Many young people have strong feelings about the policies of their government and the direction of their nation, but are unsure how to effectively marshal their resources to achieve change. Citrus PAC will function as a conduit between young activists and campaigns to make America a better place. Citrus PAC will connect young people to issue and candidate campaigns through volunteering, exposure to public officials, and grassroots organization and lobbying. These are experiences that will energize young people to continue volunteer activism throughout their lives.

We will offer students the opportunity to run their own ongoing campaign. In order to forward the progressive agenda, we must first clearly articulate that agenda to voters and win elections with that platform. Therefore, progressives must make significant advances in training their next generation of political operatives. Citrus PAC will give America's most promising political minds the opportunity to test their theories and hone their skills in an environment that encourages experimentation, fosters professionalism, and accepts the challenges of balancing academics and activism. Therefore, Citrus PAC will be staffed by students who are seriously considering a career in public service.

We believe that Citrus PAC's mission is one that should be shared with all of America's young people. Therefore, we will strive to expand to other parts of the country until all aspiring progressive activists have the opportunities we enjoy.

Citrus PAC of Syracuse, New York

## **Establishment**

Citrus PAC of Syracuse, New York was established as a facilitating organization for College Democrats at Syracuse University. Citrus PAC provides the staffing and financial means to accomplish our joint goals, consistent with the mission statements of both organizations.

## **Financing**

Citrus PAC of Syracuse, New York does not accept funds from Syracuse University, or any other non-profit organization, nor does it solicit funds using the University name or insignia, or any materials provided by the University. Citrus PAC will raise funds from the general public, in accordance with all legal and ethical standards.

## **Structure**

Citrus PAC has a five member directorate.

### *Executive Director*

The Executive Director is the highest authority in Citrus PAC and is ultimately responsible for all actions taken by the PAC and its staff members. The Executive Director sets the general direction for the PAC, consistent with goals and directives offered by the leadership and membership of College Democrats at Syracuse University. The Executive Director has veto power over all PAC decisions, but should not be the exclusive or primary source for initiatives, strategic planning, or creative campaigning techniques. The Executive Director should also be a collaborative partner in any and all ongoing PAC projects.

### *Finance Director*

The Finance Director is the PAC Treasurer and chief financial officer. The Finance Director has veto power over all expenditures and can veto any other action which may have questionable legal or ethical implications. The Finance Director is responsible for filing and general compliance with Federal Election Commission requirements. The Finance Director is also responsible for maintaining a realistic and fiscally responsible budget and for setting and meeting attainable fundraising goals.

### *Field Director*

The Field Director is responsible for overseeing all canvassing, volunteer, and general events sponsored by the PAC. The Field Director should maintain a reasonable but aggressive campaign calendar and mobilize and maintain a constantly growing volunteer network. The Field Director should also gather voter information and take the lead in designing Get Out The Vote campaigns. The Field Director will work closely with the College Democrats at Syracuse University Dorm District Council to accomplish these goals.

### *Communications Director*

The Communications Director crafts the Citrus PAC message. The Communications Director oversees all internal and external communications generated by the PAC through direct and indirect media. The Communications Director will also facilitate PAC campaigns by providing the necessary communications materials. The Communications Director is the primary spokesperson for the PAC to news media outlets.

### *Coordinated Campaign Director*

The Coordinated Campaign Director works closely with other progressive campaigns around the country to facilitate a working relationship between those campaigns and Citrus PAC. The Coordinated Campaign Director designs and oversees issue campaigns and seeks out candidates for PAC endorsement. The Coordinated Campaign Director also looks for new and innovative campaign techniques to support endorsed candidates and works with College Democrats of America chapters across the country to mobilize support for distant candidates.

Citrus PAC will also be staffed by coordinators and interns. These positions will be created and filled at the discretion of the directorate. However, positions should not be created or eliminated to address concerns regarding any individual, but rather, should reflect the changing needs of the campaign.

### **Selecting Directors**

The Executive Director will send a letter to the Chair of College Democrats at Syracuse University recommending a candidate to fill an empty directorship. The Chair of College Democrats can choose to accept or reject this recommendation.

If the Chair accepts the recommendation, the Chair will forward the letter of recommendation and write a letter of nomination to the Dorm District Council. The Dorm District Council will hold a hearing for the nominee, over which the Vice-Chair will preside and all members of College Democrats at Syracuse University will be invited to attend. If a simple majority of the Dorm District Council confirms the nominee, then the nominee will assume the directorship. If a simple majority of the Dorm District Council does not confirm the nominee, then the Executive Director must recommend a new candidate and restart the process.

If the Chair does not accept the Executive Director's recommendation, then the Chair will forward the letter of recommendation and a letter detailing the Chair's objections to the candidate to the Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair will then form a nomination Committee with the State Representative and the Secretary that will accept applications for the open position and select a candidate to nominate. The Committee will then send a letter of nomination to the Dorm District Council. The Dorm District Council will hold a hearing for the nominee, over which the Chair will preside and all members of College Democrats at Syracuse University will be invited to attend. If a two-thirds majority of the Dorm District Council confirms the nominee, then the nominee will assume the directorship. If a two-thirds majority of the Dorm District Council does not confirm the nominee, then the Committee must recommend a new candidate and restart the process.

The Executive Director must resign at the end of each semester, but may recommend him or herself to retain the position. All other Directors will hold their directorships until resignation or a removal from campus.

In cases of gross incompetence or severe misconduct, the Executive Director can request the resignation of any other Director. The Director can appeal the dismissal to the Dorm District Council at a hearing that is open or closed at the discretion of the appealing party. The Chair can request the resignation of the Executive Director. The Executive Director can appeal the dismissal to the Dorm District Council at a hearing over which the Vice-Chair will preside and to which the membership of College Democrats at Syracuse University will be invited. Appeals require a two-thirds majority to achieve reinstatement.

**Selecting Candidates**

All Citrus PAC endorsed candidates will be approved by the membership of College Democrats at Syracuse University. Citrus PAC will nominate candidates who meet the previously stated criteria and present information on these candidates at College Democrats meetings. The full membership will be afforded an electronic up or down vote on each candidate. Candidates receiving a simple majority of approving votes will be endorsed.

**Selecting Issue Campaigns**

Issue Campaigns will be selected in conjunction with College Democrats at Syracuse University. Possible campaigns will be discussed at College Democrats meetings. Members will be given the opportunity to vote on which issue campaigns to pursue.