



UNIFIED DEMOCRACY

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Teens for Teens Political Action Committee (PAC) changes its name to Unified Democracy PAC Run Entirely by Students Under the Age of Eighteen

Miami Beach, FL (UDPAC) August 1, 2016 – Teens for Teens, a political action committee founded and run entirely by students, is happy to announce a name change to Unified Democracy. This shift comes in conjunction with the PAC's push to become a national organization. Established originally by then fifteen-year-old Benjamin Burstein to create more representation for teens in the political process, the organization has developed a new broader platform focused on increasing civic involvement.

Unified Democracy aims to increase voter participation and representation at all levels of government. Its specific policy goals include improving political literacy through greater K-12 civic education, making every vote count through redistricting reform, and making it easier for citizens to vote by simplifying voter registration and establishing a national holiday on Election Day.

Benjamin Burstein, the president of the PAC, hopes that Unified Democracy can not only directly impact and educate voters, but also establish and influence nationwide political discourse.

“We’re setting the scene for a new political landscape – one where everyone has a voice in American politics,” said Burstein, a resident of Miami Beach, Florida.

Since it was founded in February 2015, Unified Democracy has already proven its commitment in the political arena. Under its previous name of Teens for Teens, the PAC facilitated the donation of over 8,000 volunteer hours to local and state campaigns and conducted political fundraising for numerous candidates in municipal, county, and statewide elections.

Through its lobbying efforts, Teens for Teens was also able to successfully establish a Miami Beach Youth Commission to give the youth of Miami Beach a voice in local government decisions. In addition, Burstein and Teens for Teens held candidate debates for Miami Beach commission and mayor candidates, hoping to give voters a chance to learn more about local candidates. Unified Democracy will host debates for Florida's Senate candidates later in August.

At its core, Unified Democracy hopes to combat civic disengagement, and every action of the PAC is directed towards solving that problem. For the students who now run Unified Democracy alongside Burstein, this issue is one to feel passionate about.

Victoria Bevard, vice president of the PAC and a resident of Alexandria, Virginia, puts it best, “In every recent election, neither the Republicans nor the Democrats have had a majority. Those that abstain from voting have outnumbered those voting for any single candidate. Our PAC is working toward an American democracy determined by what people believe, not by who chooses to vote.”

Over the next year, Unified Democracy hopes to expand to each of the fifty states. Already, the national board of the PAC includes representatives of eleven different states, all of them under the age of eighteen. As students, they understand that the future of democracy in America is in the hands of youth, and together, they have devoted Unified Democracy to that future.

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