



[Progressive University Student Hub for Ways to Advance and Renew Democracy]

Transatlantic. The EU and the US (the historical and most powerful democratic alliance on the planet) are currently facing the same political challenges and opportunities in the policy areas of economics, immigration, climate change, social welfare, DEI, housing, energy, security and defense, social media and misinformation, Big Tech, AI and digital platforms (etc.). Illiberal political movements have been rising (from South/North America to the EU) and are very well organized in terms of discourse and strategy. Major efforts such as the [CPAC](#) (Conservative Political Action Conference) – and other lesser-funded / lesser-mediatic conferences – have been underway for the past several years now and the gains have been unprecedented at the ballot boxes throughout western democracies. All this, without much of a strong, unified, collective response from progressive political parties and movements.

It is time for that to end. And time for students to step up, identify shared challenges, seek common ground, think outside of the box and *advance* and *renew* democracy on both sides of the Atlantic. As **youth political consultants**, students will focus on best practices, common policy objectives and the common (not *divisive*) desires of democratic citizens interested in not only safeguarding but strengthening democracy – now and into the future. It is time to renew democratic aims (and consequently) effective policies for citizens throughout our western democratic society. Policies in favor of sustainable and inclusive societies, in favor of the rule of law, in favor of enhanced equality, in favor of fair and empowering digital landscapes, in favor of social, tax and environmental justice.

Illiberal forces have been very organized and hitting their stride throughout the west. Progressive forces must do the same, starting with EU (CIVIS), US and Canadian students.

It is time to push back on the new negative trends that have taken hold in western democratic societies in recent years. Or perhaps, from a more positive and proactive perspective:

It is time to **PUSH 4WARD.**

WHO?

CIVIS, US and Canadian students – who want to learn more about the transatlantic political and social realities and **strengthen democracy** – will act as **youth political consultants** and **interact in transatlantic fashion**.

Policy issues. *Elections, immigration, voting rights, rule of law, economics, housing, DEI, climate change, energy, the media and social media, AI and digital platforms / Big Tech, taxes, social welfare, LGBTQI+, abortion, security & defense, etc. (TBA)*

Institutions. Institutions. EU member state or Brussels-level (European Parliament, European Commission, European Economic and Social Committee, European External Action Service, diplomatic missions to the EU, etc.), political foundations, think tanks, policy centers, etc. in addition to local / state / federal-level in the US and Canada, depending on policy area that youth political consultants are researching together.

US / Canadian partner universities. Youth political consultants from diverse locations (similar to the CIVIS alliance - geographic diversity among 11 European countries and 6 African partner universities):

- swing states
- battleground states
- urban / rural areas
- north / south / east / west (geographic diversity)

VIRTUAL COMPONENT. Youth political consultants work on policy areas and:

- identify common voting interests of democratic citizens (EU, US and Canada).
- identify common challenges (current / future) and opportunities (EU, US and Canada).
- identify existing best practices / policy area convergences for promotion.
- identify EU and US politicians (local/state/federal) and NGOs / non-profits to be contacted / interviewed and propose collaboration.
- identify non-profit activist organizations (ex. www.avaaz.org, Change.org, MoveOn.org, [Our Revolution](http://OurRevolution.org), etc.) for the creation of online petitions and proactive engagement, based on policy issues being researched.
- identify NGOs / non-profits (*working on a list of policy issues, see above*) in order to follow / get involved in their work *and / or* propose NEW ideas.
- meet with [CIVIS](#) and US / Canadian university professors to receive updates on student research, invite guest speakers (policy-based – political, academic, civil society) via video conference.

PHYSICAL COMPONENT. Youth political consultants bring their research / proposals:

- to Brussels to meet, dialogue, collaborate, listen to and share ideas with other students. To present ideas to academics, members / staff of European institutions, journalism federations, decision-makers and NGOs/non-profits, etc. (with Brussels representation) and engage in an exchange of ideas, proposals, etc.