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College Democrats of Illinois Forms New Political Action Committee Ahead of 2018 Elections

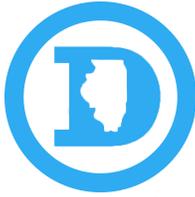
CHICAGO, IL – Today College Democrats of Illinois (CDIL) announced the formation of a new Political Action Committee (PAC) and filed the required paperwork with the Illinois State Board of Elections. Illinois College Democrats PAC will be the primary committee of the College Democrats of Illinois, the official Illinois chapter of the College Democrats of America.

“This is a long time coming, but opening a new PAC will allow us to be a major force in 2018. The opening of this PAC, along with a stable financial council of party activists to go along with it, will allow a real investment in our ground game in targeted races and the growth of our twenty-seven current chapters—we plan on chartering eight more by November. We’re also thankful to our new finance advisory council for dedicating themselves to the idea that young people are not only the future, but also an important part of the party right now. We’re ready to win big in 2018 and take our democracy back,” said **Jack McNeil, CDIL President (DePaul ’19)**.

Elections across the country – including recent contests in Virginia and Alabama – have demonstrated that turnout of younger voters is above traditional levels. Their makeup of the 2018 midterm electorate will be a crucial factor in deciding races, especially at the local level.

“Illinois College Democrats PAC will be a game-changer in the upcoming elections. Now campaigns and progressive organizations can direct funds to activate young people at college campuses across Illinois. We’re confident that students will make a critical impact in dozens of races,” said **Victoria Koffsky, CDIL Finance Director (University of Chicago ’19)**.

CDIL created this new organization after amending their bylaws and forming an advisory council to oversee PAC operations and to provide continuity as students finish their education.



The 2017-2019 CDIL Financial Advisory Board is as follows:

- **Ben Head**, Political Director, Schakowsky for Congress
- **Annie Kehler**, Finance Director, Hassan for NH, and former CDIL Communications Director
- **Magen Ryan**, District Director, Rep. Brad Schneider, and former ISU Democrats member
- **Jen McMillin**, Giving Officer, Lincoln College
- **Craig Colbrook**, attorney and former Sangamon Young Dems member
- **Zach Koutsky** (member emeritus), Political Director, Local 881, UFCW, and former CDIL President

Each member serves for a two-year term.

“We know that students are the lifeblood of political organizations in Illinois,” said **Magen Ryan, former campaign manager of Congressman Brad Schneider (Illinois State University College Democrats ’08)**. *“This new organization will inspire and activate even more students in 2018 and I am thrilled to watch them grow into leadership positions in the Democratic Party,”* she concluded.